

ПАНТЕЛЕИМОНСКИЙ ЛИСТОК

A Newsletter for the Russian Orthodox Parish of Saint Panteleimon, Gosford

~ Number 37, 21 November 2004 ~

DECEMBER 2004 SERVICES

~ IMPORTANT NOTE ~

Please note that Gosford services in December will be on the 1st and 4th weekends of the month, and NOT on the 1st and 3rd. This is because the 3rd Sunday of the month is December 19th, one of the feasts of Saint Nicholas, and Father James will be serving at the church of Saint Nicholas in Newcastle on that day. Other services in December are Matins & Divine Liturgy for the Holy Great-Martyr Katherine on December 6th & 7th, and an akathist to the Mother of God on Friday December 10th, the commemoration of the wonder-working Kursk-Root Icon of the Mother of God. The akathist to Saint Ioasaph of Belgorod scheduled for December 23rd and the evening service on December 25th have been CANCELLED, as Father James will be in Canberra for the Diocesan Youth Conference from Monday 20th until Saturday 25th.

РОЖДЕСТВЕНСКИЙ ПОСТ

Чувство благоговения перед тайной Рождества Спасителя в Вифлееме заставляет христианина задуматься о том, как достойно себя подготовить к этому великому празднику. В молитвенной жизни Церкви тайна воплощения равняется тайне воскресения из мертвых, а церковный календарь указывает границы и содержание Рождественского Поста, напоминающего содержание Великого Поста.

Рождественский Пост длится сорок дней. Начинается он 15-го /28-го ноября и кончается в ночь под Рождество 24-го декабря /6-го января. За этот период наблюдается восхождение напряженности, нарастание ожидания праздника: за пять дней до него, т.е. 20-го декабря /2-го января, начинается пятидневное "предпразднство" наподобие Страстной седмицы, со своими богослужебными особенностями, а канун праздника, "Сочельник", 24-е декабря /6-е января, полностью обособляется по примеру Великой пятницы. Этот день в просторечии называется "Сочельник", а вернее - "Сочевник", от слова "сочиво", что значит - отварная пшеница, которую вкушают в знак строгого поста пред этим великим праздником.

Согласно Уставу в пост не полагается есть мяса. Рыбу можно есть по воскресениям и субботам, в день Введения Божией Матери в Храм (21-го ноября/4-го декабря) и по вторникам и четвергам в дни прославляемого святого; а в понедельник, среду и пятницу - только в том случае, если полагается в этот день всеобщее бдение,

например - в престольный праздник. Если в какие дни нет особого праздника, то надо готовить пищу на растительном масле во вторник и четверг, и без него в понедельник, среду и пятницу.

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КАК БЫЛ УСТАНОВЛЕН РОЖДЕСТВЕНСКИЙ ПОСТ

Установление Рождественского поста, как и других многодневных постов, относится к древним временам христианства. Уже с четвертого века св. Амвросий Медиодоланский, Филастрий, блаженный Августин упоминают в своих творениях Рождественский пост. В пятом веке о древности Рождественского поста писал Лев Великий.

Первоначально Рождественский пост длился у одних христиан семь дней, у других - несколько больше. На соборе 1166 года бывшем при константинопольском патриархе Луке и византийском императоре Мануиле всем христианам было положено хранить пост пред великим праздником Рождества Христова сорок дней.

Антиохийский патриарх Вальсамон писал, что "сам святейший патриарх сказал, что, хотя дни этих постов (Успенского и Рождественского. - Ред.) не определены правилом, понуждаемся, однако, последовать неписаному церковному преданию и долженствуем поститься... от 15 дня ноября".

Рождественский пост - последний многодневный пост в году. Он начинается 15 (28 - по новому стилю) ноября и продолжается до 25 декабря (7 января), длится сорок дней и потому именуется в Церковном уставе Четырнадцатидневным, так же, как и Великий пост. Так как заговенье на пост приходится в день памяти св. апостола Филиппа (14 ноября старого стиля), то этот пост называют Филипповым.

<http://www.zavet.ru/kalendar/post-r.htm>

PARISH LIFE: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NEWS

On Sunday November 7th we held our second Annual General Meeting. Proceeding for around two hours, the AGM heard reports from Father James and the various office-bearers concerning the parish's activities over the last 12 months. All reports were well received, and showed the extraordinary progress made by the parish as a whole and the hard work of the parish council. The AGM decided to leave the position of Warden (Starosta) vacant for the coming 12 months, adding another position to the parish council instead. A new parish council and auditing committee were elected. Subject to Archbishop Hilarion's ratification, the parish councillors are now: Nina Golovin, Don Kobeleff, George Fomin, Bill Reid, Rick Golovin, and Kate Marcotrigiano, all of whom are serving for a second term; and Paul Pereboeff and Sophia Kfoury, both newly-elected, having served last year on the auditing committee. Olga Petroff continues on the parish

council in her capacity as Head Sister. The new auditing committee consists of Nestor Petroff, serving a second term; and Victor Bendevski and Andrew Kfoury, young and energetic members of the parish holding a parish office for the first time. Congratulations to all new and continuing council and auditing committee members on their election! May God help you to labour steadfastly in the service of His Holy Orthodox Church! The new parish council meets for the first time on December 7th at 7.00pm.

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ARE ASKED FOR:

The sick & suffering: Metropolitan Vitaly, our parishioners Fyodor & Antonina Tialshinsky and Vladimir; Newcastle parishioners Vasili, Alexander, Antonina, Vladimir, Nina, Alexandra; and others known to us: child Ksenia, Ioann

Special needs: Katherine, David, Paraskeva, Vera, Matthew, Tamara, Andrew

Prisoners: Dmitri, Irina, Elena & Timothy

Newly-reposed: Tanya Borodin's son & Nina Golovin's brother **Victor**

Newly-baptised: The child **Jacob**, baptised here in West Gosford yesterday.

PARISH LIFE: THE READING OF THE EPISTLE AND GOSPEL IN CHURCH

From the very first service here in Gosford, it has been the practice of this parish to have the reading of the Epistle and Gospel in both languages. Generally this works well, but can become a little unwieldy if there are two or three readings appointed on a Sunday. Read in both languages, this can mean a total of eight or even twelve readings. To avoid drawing the readings out too much, Father James has decided on the following approach:

- When only one reading is appointed, both will be done in Slavonic and in English
- When two readings are appointed, the first will be done in Slavonic and the second in English. Those who do not understand Slavonic can follow the reading in the Sunday bulletins prepared by Father Christopher's Holy Cross Australian Orthodox Mission;
- When three readings are appointed, the first and second will be in Slavonic and the third in English. This happens very rarely; once or twice a year at most.

Please see Father James if you have any questions.

CHURCH LIFE: 40TH ANNUAL RUSSIAN ORTHODOX YOUTH CONFERENCE

As mentioned in previous newsletters, the 40th Annual Youth Conference of the Australian and New Zealand Diocese will be held from Sunday the 19th of December 2004 to Saturday the 25th of December 2004 at the Sundown Village, Jerrabomberra Avenue, Narrabundah (Canberra) ACT. This will be the first time that our youth conference has been held in Canberra.

This year's theme is "Shelter us with Thy most precious Protection. Most Holy Theotokos, help us." The keynote speakers will be Father David Moser from the USA and Mother Evfrosinis (Molchanov) of the Lesna Convent, France.

We hope to have a good contingent of young people from our parish; those aged 14 and over may attend. For further information check out the syezd website:

<http://www.rocor.org.au/syezd2004>. Registration forms are available from Father James. Those wishing to secure the "early-bird" registration price of \$200 need to register before November 26th.

DIOCESAN LIFE: CELEBRATION OF 20th ANNIVERSARY OF ARCHBISOP HILARION'S EPISCOPATE

It was mentioned in a previous newsletter that on 7th November this year there would be a festive lunch at the Russian Club in Sydney to mark the 20th anniversary of Vladika Hilarion's consecration as bishop. Unfortunately our AGM had already been scheduled for that day, and we were therefore unable to attend. The parish council and sisterhood nevertheless sent warm greetings and congratulations to Vladika, together with a gift. Vladika wrote the following note to Father James in response:

"Dear Father James: I want to thank you and all the parishioners of your church for the warmest greetings and best wishes which you sent on the occasion of my 20th anniversary as bishop. Likewise, for the gift from both the Saint Panteleimon community and the Ladies Auxiliary. I am very moved by your love and kindness. I ask for your continued prayers and pray that God will richly bless and strengthen the Saint Panteleimon parish and grant you, your family and parishioners good health, peace and tranquility. With love in Christ, Archbishop Hilarion".

An account of the festive lunch and the text of various speeches given on the day can be found on the Synod's website at www.russianorthodoxchurch.ws.

IN BRIEF

Katya Rubbo has advised that she recently successfully transmitted an amount of money to the Children's Fund that she works with in Russia, & thanks all parishioners who contributed. ~ There will be no service in Gosford on Christmas Eve (January 6th) or on the morning of Christmas Day 2005 (January 7th), as Father James will be serving in Newcastle. There will be a service at 7.00pm on Christmas Day, followed by Divine Liturgy and a Christmas get-together ("Yolka") on Saturday January 8th, the second day of the feast. ~ A new schedule of services covering the period from January to April 2005 should be available in church on Sunday December 5th, and also on the website.

Father James tries to prepare this newsletter to coincide with each Sunday service at Gosford. You can call him about it on 0428-639156 or email him at rev.james.carles@gosfordrussianchurch.org.