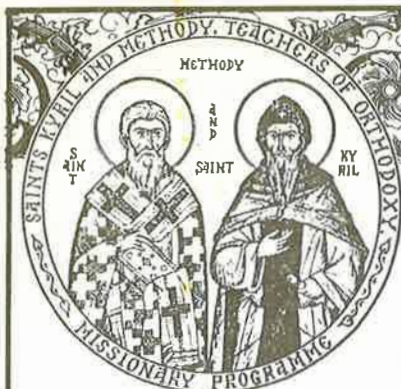




THE TLINKET HERALD

A JOURNAL FOR RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA

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FIFTY CENTS.

PARISH LEADERS VISIT SEATTLE.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Nikolai Kunz of the Juneau parish of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia visited Seattle, Wash. and Vancouver, Canada from the 1st to the 5th of January. The Kunz were the guests of Fr. Nektas and the St. Nektarios parish in Seattle, and of the Sts. Kyril and Methody Society in Canada.

During their stay in Seattle, Mr. and Mrs. Kunz discussed the future of the St. Nicholas parish in Juneau, Alaska. They were warmly received by members of the St. Nektarios parish in Seattle, and wish to express especial thanks to Constantine and Vasilisa Danilchik for their hospitality and to Sister Nina Seco for her assistance.

It is hoped that a special warm relationship will grow up between these two active missionary parishes which have so much in common. The St. Nektarios has already given much moral and material support to the Juneau parish.

PIONEER PARISHIONER REPOSES.

On 28 November, 1973, Mrs. Lillie Barbara Edwards fell asleep in the Lord. Mrs. Edwards was born in the village of Douglas on 25 October, 1899 and baptized in the St. Nicholas Church in Juneau that same year, just five years after the founding of the parish. We have hope that she is now nearer to the throne of our Saviour.

ABOUT OUR CHURCH CALENDAR

Jesus Christ said, "My Kingdom is not of this world." Another time, He told His followers, "You are not of this world."

Our Saviour tells us many times in the Bible that His Church is different from the rest of the world. Those who want to be members of His Church must struggle to be different from the rest of the world also.

Because the True Church of Christ — the Orthodox Church — is different from the rest of the world, it even has a different calendar than the rest of the world uses.

Why does our Orthodox Church have such a different calendar? It is a gift from God to help teach us which Church is loyal to Him and to teach us that Christ's Kingdom really is different.

One way that our Church calendar is different from the worldly calendar is that the Church calendar uses the sun and the moon in unity and harmony. This teaches us that the Orthodox Church was created by Jesus Christ to bring man into harmony with God.

Jesus Christ our God is like the sun. All spiritual light and warmth comes from Him. The strength to grow spiritually and bear Christian fruit comes from Jesus — the Spiritual Sun — just as plants and trees get their energy from the ordinary sun.

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We people are like the moon. The moon does not have its own light. It receives light from the sun and reflects it. We people do not have our own spiritual light either. We receive all our spiritual light from Jesus Christ — the spiritual Sun.

So our Church Calendar uses the sun and moon in harmony to teach us that the Orthodox Church brings man into harmony with God.

Some people call our Church Calendar "Julian", but that is not really correct. We do not use the Julian Calendar, but a special calendar which the Holy Spirit taught the Church to use. It is only based on the Julian Calendar. Other people call our calendar the "Old Calendar" because it is the one used in the ancient Church. This is not right either. The Church Calendar cannot be either "Old" or "New". God does not give us one thing today and something different tomorrow. The Church Calendar will never be old or new, it will always be the same. Our Orthodox Christian Church is always the same. It never changes. People who try to change our Church Calendar are some of the false prophets which the bible warns us about.

The Church Calendar teaches us many things, and we will tell you about them in each issue of this newspaper.

THE FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY (Baptism of our Lord.)

On 6 January of the Church Calendar (19 January on the secular calendar), the Holy Church celebrates a great holy day called Theophany. This holy day commemorates the Baptism of Jesus Christ our True God.

The word Theophany means that "God has revealed Himself to us."

In the Bible we are told that when Jesus Christ was thirty years old, He went down to the River Jordan to be baptized. He went to the holy prophet John the Baptizer and told him, "I have come to you to be baptized."

But St. John bowed down to Jesus and said, "No! I should be baptized by You." St. John knew that Jesus Christ is the Saviour. How can a mere man, even a holy man baptise our Saviour and God?

But God loves us so much that He lowered Himself in order to teach us how to be saved. Christ allowed Himself to be baptised by a man in order to teach us humility and meekness. He also wanted to teach us that everyone must be baptized if they want to be saved. Baptism is the door into the Holy Church — God's Kingdom.

So St. John took Jesus Christ ~~our~~ into the deep water and baptized Him. This teaches us something too. "Baptize" means to put someone completely under the water,

(even if they are 30 years old as Jesus was) and then raise them up again. This action teaches us that baptism is an image of Christ's death on the Cross and Resurrection from the grave to save us.

Christ was buried and then raised up again. Baptism is just like that. We are buried under the water three times — because Christ was in the grave for three days — and we are raised up out of the water.

In order to baptize us, our priest brings us to water which is deep enough to completely cover us. Then there is a Church service during which the priest presses us down under water three times. The first time, he says, "In the name of the Father," and the second time he says, "and of the Son". The third time, he says, "and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." Then we are brought up out of the water.

This is very important. Remember what the Bible tells us? When St. John baptized Jesus, a wonderful thing happened. Jesus was standing in the water and the Holy Spirit appeared over His head. Then the voice of the Father was heard above, "This My beloved Son..." You see God revealed Himself to us and showed that He is One God in Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is what "Theophany" means.

On the next page, you will find the hymns for the Theophany feast.

HYMNS FOR THE HOLY THEOPHANY
(6/19 January)

TROPAR, tone 1:

When Thou was baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness of Thee when He called Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of the word.

O Christ our God Who hast appeared and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

KONDAK, tone 4:

Today Thou hast appeared to the world, O Lord, and Thy Light has shone a sign upon us who with knowledge chant to Thee. Thou hast come, Thou hast appeared, O unapproachable Light.

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THE LIFE OF ST. XENIA OF ROME

In ancient times, when the people of Rome were still Orthodox Christians, a certain very rich man and his wife lived there. They had many servants, much gold and several big houses. But they only had one child — a girl named Eusevia.

When Eusevia grew up, her parents decided to marry her to a rich young chief called a "nobleman". The date of the wedding had already been set.

But Eusevia did not want to get married. She had read in the Bible that it is best not to marry, but to give one's whole life over to Christ and serve Him — as a nun.

Eusevia's parents were not happy about this. They told her, "It also says in the Bible that marriage is a good thing." Eusevia answered, "I do not want to do what is just good. I want to do what is best. I love our Saviour and want to serve only Him."

Eusevia's parents still tried to force her to get married. So she decided to run away from home to a convent. First she gave away all her gold and most of her money to poor people. Two of Eusevia's servants also wanted to serve Christ and they too gave away their money to the poor. Then the three young maidens disguised themselves and sneaked out of the house at night. As they went through the gate, Eusevia crossed herself and said, "Jesus Christ, Son of God, we are leaving our home in order to serve You and to endure sorrow for Your sake. Be with us and lead us on the right path."

The young maidens walked along the road weeping and rejoicing. They were sorry to hurt the parents' feelings and they were a little bit frightened. But they were filled with joy because they were going to serve Jesus Christ and give their whole lives to Him.

Soon they reached the sea. There they found a ship that was going to the great city of Alexandria in Egypt, many, many miles away — as far as Kenai is from Juneau. From Alexandria, the three women took a boat to a Greek island. Here, they decided to form a convent. At this time, Eusevia took a new Church name. She decided to call herself Xenia so that her parents would not be able to find her.

There was one thing missing. The three women could not start a convent unless they could find an elder — some wise old priest with

special Grace from God to teach people about monastic life. Xenia believed that God would help. She began to pray that God would send them an elder to teach them and bless them to be nuns.

While St. Xenia was still praying, her two friends came to her and said, "Sister Xenia, we just stepped out of the house and we met a holy elder. His name is Father Paul. He lives in the St. Andrew Monastery and he is going to teach us how to please God."

The elder took the three maidens to a village called Milassa. St. Xenia had saved a little bit of her money to use in building a women's convent. Now, she took this money and built a little church named for St. Stephen the First Martyr. Next to it she built a tiny house for the nuns to live in. The elder taught them how to live a monastic life, how to please God and how to be saved. The three nuns thanked God for leading them and for giving them what they needed.

St. Xenia was a great ascetic. All the rest of her life, she ate nothing but a little bread. She gave all her other food away to poor people. She would stand up all night long praying to God. Xenia was meek and humble and she loved everyone. St. Xenia used to pray with tears for all the people in the world.

All her life, St. Xenia dressed only in rags. If anyone gave her any clothes, she would give them away to the poor right away.

Finally, St. Xenia felt her time for death coming close. She called in all her friends and sisters and said goodbye. Then she went into the church, lay down with her face on the floor and prayed for a long time. Suddenly, the whole church became filled with a wonderful light and a beautiful heavenly smell. St. Xenia's soul had left her body and gone to be with Jesus, whom she had loved and served.

As a special gift to the people and in order to reveal that Xenia is a Saint, the Lord gave a special sign. At the very moment when Xenia reposed, a shining crown of stars appeared over the church. Later, when the sacred relics of St. Xenia were being carried to the graveyard, this vision of the shining crown appeared over the coffin. As another special revelation, God healed many sick people who touched the coffin of the Saint.

St. Xenia is still in the same Church as we are in, and she loves us and prays for us.

The Holy Church celebrates the memory of St. Xenia on 24 January of the Church Calendar (6 February of the secular calendar).

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FAITH?

If you have any questions you would like to ask about the Orthodox Christian Faith or about the Holy Scripture, write to the editor. Questions and answers will appear in this newspaper.

The magazine The Orthodox Word is available in the Juneau Public Library periodical section. Back issues are available in the State Historical Library in the capital building. This is a very good magazine, published by the St. Herman of Alaska Brotherhood of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

- *More about our Church Calendar.
- *Beginning of a series on Great Lent.
- *Which translation of the Bible should we use?
- *What is our Church Liturgy all about?
- *Feast of the Meeting of our Saviour in the Temple.
- *Life of St. Prokhor of the Kiev Caves.
- *And other articles.