

The **"It is Truly Meet" Icon of the Mother of God** is in the high place of the altar of the cathedral church of the Karyes monastery on Mount Athos.

One Saturday night an Elder went to Karyes for the all-night Vigil. He left, instructing his disciple to remain behind and read the service in their cell. As it grew dark, the disciple heard a knock on the door. When he opened the door, he saw an unknown monk who called himself Gabriel, and he invited him to come in. They stood before the icon of the Mother of God and read the service together with reverence and compunction.

During the Ninth Ode of the Canon, the disciple began to sing "My soul magnifies the Lord..." with the Irmos of St Cosmas the Hymnographer (October 14), "More honorable than the Cherubim..."

The stranger sang the next verse, "For He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden...." Then he chanted something the disciple had never heard before, "It is truly meet to bless Thee, O Theotokos, ever-blessed and most pure, and the Mother of our God..." Then he continued with, "More honorable than the Cherubim..."

While the hymn was being sung, the icon of the Theotokos shone with a heavenly light. The disciple was moved by the new version of the familiar hymn, and asked his guest to write the words down for him. When the stranger asked for paper and ink, the disciple said that they did not have any.

The stranger took a roof tile and wrote the words of the hymn on its surface with his finger. The disciple knew then that this was no ordinary monk, but the Archangel Gabriel. The angel said, "Sing in this manner, and all the Orthodox as well." Then he disappeared, and the icon of the Mother of God continued to radiate light for some time afterward.

The Eleousa Icon of the Mother of God, before which the hymn "It Is Truly Meet" was first sung, was transferred to the katholikon at Karyes. The tile, with the hymn written on it by the Archangel Gabriel, was taken to Constantinople when St Nicholas Chrysoberges (December 16) was Patriarch.

Numerous copies of the "It Is Truly Meet" Icon are revered in Russian churches. At the Galerna Harbor of Peterburg a church with five cupolas was built in honor of the Merciful Mother of God, and into it they put a grace-bearing copy of the "It Is Truly Meet" icon sent from Athos.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**County Fair Food Booth**

**AppleFest**

**Beefsteak Dinner**

**Holy Spirit Orthodox Church - Wantage, NJ**

**Archpriest Samuel Kedala, Rector**

**Joanne Patrick, Choir Director**

#### **Parish Council**

**Timothy Kachur, Sr. Warden**

**Mark Benda, Jr. Warden**

**Michael Olsen, Treasurer**

**Doris Livanos/Susan Matthews, Co/Recording Secretary**

#### **Council members**

**Edward Engelsman • Michael Chwan**

**Anna Seniw • Louis Matthews**

**[www.holyspiritorthodox.org](http://www.holyspiritorthodox.org)**

# **HOLY SPIRIT ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**Wantage, New Jersey**

**July 13, 2008**



**"It is Truly Meet" Icon of the Mother of God**

# ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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**Sunday, July 13, 2008**

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND EVENTS

**Monday** ..... 9:30 am Clean-up at Food Booth-Fairgrounds-**please help**  
**Saturday** ..... 6:00 P.M.. Vespers/Confessions  
**Sunday** ..... 9:35 AM Hours, 10 AM Divine Liturgy  
**July 20, Picnic @ Christ the Savior Church, Paramus, NJ**

**Today's commemorated feasts and saints... 4th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—Tone 3. Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils.** Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel. Ven. Stephen of St. Sabbas Monastery (794). St. Julian, Bishop of Cenomanis (Le Mans) in Gaul (1st c.). Mar

**Romans 6:18-23 (Epistle) Hebrews 13:7-16 (Epistle, Fathers)  
Matthew 8:5-13 (Gospel) John 17:1-13 (Gospel, Fathers)**

## BULLETIN

Holy Spirit Church has committed itself to work at the **New Jersey State Fair** again this year. The Fair runs from Friday, **August 1, 2008 through Sunday, August 10th**, 2008. At our Annual Parish Meeting we had chosen to do this and the funds received from of this event were planned to be used to balance our budget. In order to meet our budget we **must** participate in this event. There will be a sign up sheet downstairs so that you can help us in working at the fair. On **Monday, July 14th @ 9:30 am there will be a clean up at the food booth. On Tuesday and Wednesday July 22nd and July 23rd, stuff cabbage making will take place.** 9:00 am - 6:00 pm. at our church. Please plan to participate in this event. There will be a sign up sheet downstairs with times to work at the fair. Please sign up for at least one, if not more time slots. We do not have that many people to do the work necessary to complete this event. Try to set apart sometime in your busy schedules in any way that you can, especially by working at the fair. Contact, Nadine Olsen, or Mark Benda to help.

**There is a sign-up sheet for Lawn mowing and Church Cleaning** downstairs. Please sign-up to help at least one time.

**Traveling this Summer?** Be sure to visit the "Orthodoxy in America" website to find an Orthodox Church wherever you are heading, be it in the United States, Canada, or Mexico. All the canonical Orthodox jurisdictions (OCA, Greek, Romanian, Antiochian, Serbian, etc.) are listed together on this one helpful site: [www.orthodoxyinamerica.org](http://www.orthodoxyinamerica.org)- Check it out! Also,

Father can contact a priest ahead of time for you to inform him that you would like to come to the Chalice at the Liturgy. If you do travel, also please remember to not take a vacation from your support of our parish! We are here even when you are not! Thank you, God bless your travels and come back safe and sound!

**Thank you to Olga Maio** who will host the **Coffee Social** today. The **Marion & Lucy Ion** will host next week. Check the Coffee Social Assignment Sheet for your assigned Sunday.

**PLEASE PURCHASE** gift cards for shopping at ShopRite and A & P stores. They are working out wonderfully. Very convenient for shopping. No cash, no checks, just a little card. They are great, and our church benefits by your using them.

**WE HAVE SHOP RITE AND A&P GIFT CARDS-STOCK UP ON GIFT CARDS FOR YOUR REGULAR SHOPPING & AS GIFTS TO OTHERS**

Please place a **food donation in the Sussex Help Center Basket** downstairs. The food is distributed to the needy in our community.

Please place a small donation in the basket at Coffee Social to help pay for the paper products.

Please **keep the following people in your prayers:** Catherine Schwed, Thelma Macheska, Alyssa Karakos, Mary Kwak, Matushka Evelyn Kreta, Christopher, Corinne Matthews, infant Nicholai, Dan Taylor, Stephen Kachur, Pighi Mardaloescu, Archimandrite Joachim (Parr), Frank Higginbotham, Joanne Patrick, Feodora Apanasow, Alexander, Archpriest Joseph Chupeck, the infant Logan Eugene, Jennifer, Matushka Vera Yuschak, Christine Molbury and her children, Catherine Matthews, Jean Holowach, Despena Eptamenitis, Matushka JoAnne, Samuel Nicholas Kedala, Louis Vagias and the infant Ella Jane.

## Seven Day Vigil Candles

By **Engelsman family** for the health Salvation of their grandson **Alexander Buccieri** as he enters the Marine Corps in Basic training

By the **Livanos Family** in Blessed Memory of **+Joan Humbert**

**Seven day vigil candles** are available for the faithful to sponsor in memory of their departed, the sick, or for the general intentions (anniversaries, birthdays, weddings, baptisms, etc.). They will remain lit on the altar and table of oblation. The suggested donation is \$10.00 each and will burn for seven days. The intentions and those who offered them will be announced in the weekly bulletins. You may purchase your offering at the Parish Council office.

If you would like to have something published in the weekly bulletin, e-mail or bring typed copy to Father Samuel by Wednesday of the week prior to the Sunday you would like it published. If you would like something in the monthly bulletin have it e-mailed or brought to Fr. Samuel two weeks prior to the first of the month it is to be published in.