



“Joy of All Who Sorrow”

No. 86 January 2016



Christmas Epistle of His Eminence Metropolitan Hilarion of Eastern America and New York, First Hierarch of the Russian Church Outside Russia.

Eminent brother-archpastors, father-concelebrants, God-loving monastics, beloved in the Lord brothers and sisters, parishioners and worshippers of our churches, scattered throughout the world:

I extend to you my heartfelt greetings on this grace-filled feast day of the Nativity of Christ, when the Omnipotent God, Creator and Master of the heavens and the earth, became a living Person, One of us, born a helpless Infant in the small Judean village of Bethlehem!

Why did God descend from Heaven to earth and become a man, incarnate of the Most-Blessed Virgin Mary? In order to restore and renew our fallen, profoundly damaged human nature, which was distorted by sin.

From the moment of the Incarnation of the Son of God, Who became man, mankind must no longer despair of achieving eternal salvation, no matter how gravely sinful it has been before God, no matter how disgraced by lawless acts and sinfulness. Through repentance, through active striving for the Kingdom of Heaven, and through deep faith in the mercy of God, each of us returns to the embrace of our Heavenly Father, Who will console and grant us tranquillity through His own grace and peace.

Our sorrows have multiplied, complicating our lives on earth, but it is obvious that we are also offered consolation, for there is joy even amid troubles. This Divine consolation is a quiet, serene joy which abounds in every believing soul, a joy that no one and nothing can take away from us, which no sorrow can darken, for *“great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh”* (I Tim. 3:16).

“Where is there peace on earth?” asked the Righteous John of Kronstadt. He answers the question himself: *“The Divine peace proclaimed by the angels is present in the Church and was given to it by the Prince of Peace, Christ.”* Let us heed the compunctionate angelic song, sung on the eve of the Nativity of Christ above Bethlehem: *“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men”* (Luke 2:14). This angelic song must embolden and console us. It declares to us the joy of God’s love, the blessed union of Heaven and earth, emergent holiness and deliverance from the oppression of sin with its anger and hatred. How can we not rejoice and find consolation in our spirit as we ponder the eternal mercy of God, which we are granted within the Church? It is no wonder that the Heavenly Hosts declared glory to Heaven and peace to earth and to man, the blessed hope of receiving endless salvation, uncorrupted joy and bliss.

Actively striving for this blessedness, let us give ourselves over to the service of God and neighbour during these festive days, attending the churches of God and undertaking deeds of love and mercy, reading Holy Scripture and spiritually beneficial literature. Let our parishes joyfully celebrate these holy days as a family and as friends, receiving edification in the Church, strengthening and supporting each other in our service to God, the Church and mankind!

I wish you all a joyous holiday and happy New Year!

With love in the Lord,

+HILARION

*Metropolitan of Eastern America & New York
First Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad
Nativity of Christ 2015/2016*



IMPORTANT NOTICE!

E-mailing Us at Joy of All Who Sorrow

It has come to our attention that some people have been trying to contact us at info@joyofallwhosorrow.org.uk. Please note that we cannot currently receive e-mails at this address, and do not try to contact us this way. To be sure that we pick up your queries, please e-mail us at churchmettingham@aol.com. Thank you for your co-operation!

Notes & Jottings

NEW BOOK AND CALENDARS

On the Providence of God by St John Chrysostom was written at the end of his life when he was in exile. In it he seeks to reassure the faithful people of Constantinople. The book is a paperback, 158pp. It retails at £8.50 and copies have been ordered for stock. Also, copies of St Herman Calendar 2016 (Lectionary in book form, 113pp) are selling fast. These retail at £6.50 each. Order now to avoid disappointment.

COLLEGE GROUNDS

Work is currently in progress refreshing the drive, parking areas and paths where the shingle had become rather sparse leaving puddles and muddy patches. Also we are looking into the possibility of extending the car park.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas Liturgy, on Thursday 7 January, will be followed by the traditional party at which there will be a puppet show to entertain the children. The party will begin at about 1pm.

HALIFAX

Our Serbian friends in Yorkshire invite all Orthodox Christians to join them in the Golden Jubilee anniversary celebrations of the St John the Baptist Parish, Heap Street, Halifax. On Saturday 16 January the Hierarchal Liturgy will be concelebrated by their own superior, Bishop Dositej, together with Archbishop Gregorios of Thyateira and Archbishop Elisey of Sourozh. We send Fr Aleksandar Ilic our congratulations and wish him and his parish Many Years!

NAMEDAYS

We send congratulations to all who are celebrating a nameday at this time and wish them:

MANY YEARS!

9 January – **St Stephen the Protomartyr** – Stephen Masterson

10 January – **Sunday after Christmas (St Joseph)** – Joseph Meyer

15 January – **St Seraphim of Sarov** – Seraphim Collins, Serafima Hopper,
Seraphima Dembri

27 January – **St Nina, Enlightener of Georgia** - Nina Vinogradova

29 January – **St Anthony the Great** - Priest Antony Bardsley



COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF THE MOTHER OF GOD
JOY OF ALL WHO SORROW

JANUARY 2015

Saturday 2 January

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 3 January

10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (Sunday of the Holy Fathers)

Wednesday 6 January

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Thursday 7 January

10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (Nativity of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ)

Saturday 9 January

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 10 January

10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen)

Saturday 16 January

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 17 January

10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (Synaxis of the Seventy Apostles)

Monday 18 January

7.30am ~ Vigil

Tuesday 19 January

10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (The Holy Theophany of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ)

Saturday 23 January

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 24 January

10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (St Theodosius the Great)

Saturday 30 January

7.30pm ~ Vigil

Sunday 31 January

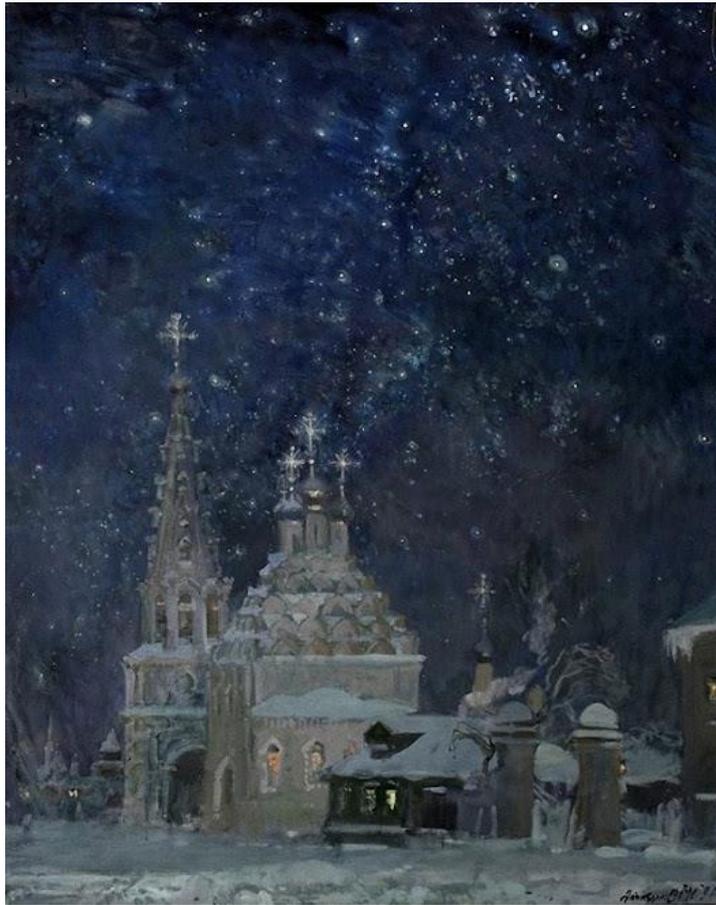
10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy (Sts Athanasius the Great and Cyril)

Christmas at Mettingham:

Nativity Vigil Service ~ Wednesday 6 Jan, 7.30pm

Nativity Liturgy ~ Thursday 7 Jan, 10.30am

Christmas Party ~ Thursday 7 Jan, 1pm



Prior to the Incarnation of the Word of God, the Kingdom of heaven was as far from us as the sky is from the earth; but when the King of heaven came to dwell amongst us and chose to unite Himself with us, the Kingdom of heaven drew near to us all.

St Gregory Palamas

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