

# The Chanticleer

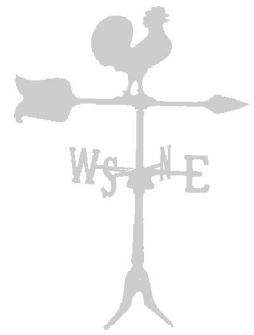
The Newsletter of



**Holy Incarnation Orthodox Church**

A Western Rite Vicariate mission in the Diocese of Toledo & the Midwest  
The Self-ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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+ November & December 2009 +

## Priestly Considerations

**A**DVENT IS ANNOUNCED EACH YEAR with optimistic joy and eager anticipation when the cantor intones the first Psalm by singing: “In that day the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk and honey, alleluia.” Clearly these words indicate that we begin the new liturgical year glad with hope, full of expectation, and looking forward to holy joy.

So that we might attain what we fervently desire and keenly await, we must prepare ourselves bodily as well as spiritually, in what we do as well as in how we pray. Advent is a season of preparation—preparation for Our Lord’s coming; not only for the celebration of His first coming in His holy nativity, but also preparation for Our Lord’s second coming in merciful Judgment. And so throughout Advent, we beseech Our Lord to stir up our hearts, so that we might be rightly and fully prepared.

To help us in our preparation, the Church in her liturgy urges us especially to meditate upon the prophecy of Isaiah and to contemplate both the preaching and the life of St John the Baptist. And during the Ember Days in the third week, the Church invites us to ponder with the Holy Virgin the mystery and wonder of her virginal conception and her Son’s nativity.

Our preparation is aided by the discipline of fasting, which gently reminds us that too often we are wrapped up in the things of this world rather than looking forward to the life of the world to come. Fasting, with prayer, increases our hunger for God’s grace.

As the Blessed Virgin shows us, God does not force His grace and kindness upon those who believe they are full; rather, “He fills the hungry with good things, and the rich He sends empty away.” So, to ready us for the

grace of redemption which Our Lord brings, holy Mother Church urges us to experience physical hunger for a few days, so that we might also see and experience the true spiritual hunger which longs for God’s superabundant mercy in Christ.

The Advent services lead us to anticipate Our Lord’s coming in two ways. During the first two weeks, in various ways, we hail Christ as the King who is to come. From the third Sunday onward, the Church excites us by stating time and again that the Lord is nigh.

Just as we should embrace and make normative through the year the preparatory discipline of fasting so that we do not lose our focus nor the goal, in the same way we must retain within our heart and mind the hope that Christ is coming and the faith that Our Lord and His salvation is nearer than we think.

Let this, then, be our Advent prayer: that we strive to adopt throughout the coming year the spirit and behavior of continual preparation so that, with all our heart and mind, we may joyfully proclaim, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

### Holy Days of Obligation & Special Devotion

#### November

- 1 All Saints’ Day
- 2 All Souls’ Day
- 21 Presentation of the B.V.M.
- 30 St Andrew

#### December

- 8 Conception of the B.V.M.
- 21 St Thomas
- 25 Nativity of Our Lord (Christ Mass)
- 26 St Stephen
- 27 St John
- 28 Holy Innocent, Martyrs
- 31 St Sylvester

#### Days of Self-Denial

- Abstain on all Fridays in November
- Fast & Abstain on the Fridays in Advent (Dec 4, 11)
- Abstain on the Wednesdays in Advent (Dec 2, 9, 23)
- Fast & Abstain on the Ember Days (December 16, 18, 19)
- Fast & Abstain on the Vigil of Christ Mass (December 24)

## For Your Prayers

### Birthdays

#### November

- 5 Jonathon Shann  
9 Jacob Fenton  
13 Jacqueline Fenton

#### December

- 6 Johannah Fenton  
31 Ilyssa Lichtenstein

### Name Days

#### November

- 5 Isabelle (Elizabeth) Lichtenstein  
Ilyssa (Elizabeth) Lichtenstein  
25 Katherine DuCharme

#### December

- 26 Steven Borkowski  
27 Fr. John Fenton  
29 David Lichtenstein

#### **About Holy Incarnation**

Holy Incarnation is a parish within the Diocese of Toledo of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. It is one of 26 parishes in the Western Rite Vicariate which follow the ancient Western liturgical tradition while maintaining the faith of the Orthodox Church.

Holy Incarnation is committed to Christianity as a way of life. Faithfulness to the ancient faith, reverence in worship and holiness in life are the hallmarks of the parish.

#### **Regular Service Schedule**

##### Sundays

- 9:00a Lauds  
9:30a Mass

##### Wednesdays

- 5:30p Vespers  
6:00p Mass

##### Saturdays

- 9:00a Rosary  
9:30a Mass  
6:00p Vespers  
6:00p Private Confession

*Mass on Holy Days as announced in the Parish Calendar*

#### **Clergy & Officers**

Father John W. Fenton, *Priest*  
Rdr. David Lichtenstein, *Parish Council Chairman*  
Johannah Fenton, *Choir Director*  
Jacqueline Fenton, *Chanter*  
Ashley DuCharme, *Teen SOYO President*

## Mass Readings

### November

#### All Saints' Day

*Sunday, 1 November*  
Revelation 7.2-12  
St Matthew 5.1-12

#### All Souls' Day

*Monday, 2 November*  
1 Corinthians 15.51-57  
St John 5.25-29

#### Pentecost XXII

*Sunday, 8 November*  
Philippians 1.6-11  
St Matthew 22.15-21

#### Pentecost XXIII

*Sunday, 15 November*  
Philippians 3.17-21; 4.1-3  
St Matthew 9.18-26

#### Presentation of the B.V.M.

*Saturday, 21 November*  
Ecclesiasticus 24.14-16  
St Luke 11.27-28

#### Pentecost XXIV

*Sunday, 22 November*  
Colossians 1.9-14  
St Matthew 24.15-35

#### First Sunday in Advent

*Sunday, 29 November*  
Romans 13.11-14  
St Luke 21.25-33

#### St Andrew, Apostle

*Monday, 30 November*  
Romans 10.10-18  
St Matthew 4.18-22

### December

#### Second Sunday in Advent

*Sunday, 6 December*  
Romans 15.4-13  
St Matthew 11.2-10

#### Conception of the B.V.M.

*Tuesday, 8 December*  
Proverbs 8.23-35  
St Matthew 1.1-16

#### Third Sunday in Advent

*Sunday, 13 December*  
Philippians 4.4-7  
St John 1.19-28

#### Fourth Sunday in Advent

*Sunday, 20 December*  
1 Corinthians 4.1-5  
St Luke 3.1-6

#### Vigil of Christ Mass

*Thursday, 24 December*  
Romans 1.1-6  
St Matthew 1.18-21

#### Christ Mass at Midnight

*Thursday, 24 December 2009*  
Titus 2.11-15  
St Luke 2.1-14

#### Christ Mass at Dawn

*Friday, 25 December 2009*  
Titus 3.4-7  
St Luke 2.15-20

#### Christ Mass during the Day

*Friday, 25 December 2009*  
Hebrews 1.1-12  
St John 1.1-14

#### Feast of St Stephen, Martyr

*Saturday, 26 December 2009*  
Acts 6.8-10; 7.54-60  
St Matthew 23.34-39

#### Feast of St John the Evangelist

*Sunday, 27 December 2009*  
Ecclesiasticus 15.1-6  
St John 21.19-24

#### Feast of the Holy Innocent, Martyrs

*Monday, 28 December 2009*  
Revelation 14.1-5  
St Matthew 2.13-18


#### Feast of St Sylvester


*Thursday, 31 December 2009*  
2 Timothy 4.1-8  
St Luke 12.35-40


#### The Circumcision of Our Lord


*Friday, 1 January 2009*  
Titus 2.11-15  
St Luke 2.21


## News and Notes


 On the Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King (Pentecost XX; 25 October), Jonathon Carlson was *received as a catechumens* in the Orthodox Faith. We welcome him as an Orthodox Christian, and eagerly await the day when he will receive the Sacrament of Chrismation, and so partake with us of the Holy Eucharist.


 Holy Incarnation has *six catechumens* in various stages in the catechumenate: Gary Frischkorn, the Shann family and Jon Carlson. Please remember our catechumens in your prayers.

 God willing, on Saturday, 7 November, Luke Shann and James Shann, sons of Jonathon and Jennifer Shann, will be *received into the Orthodox Church* through the Sacraments of Baptism, Chrismation and Holy Eucharist. The Sacraments will be administered at [St George Orthodox Church in Flint, Michigan](#) shortly after the Divine Liturgy commemorating St Raphael of Brooklyn. The Divine Liturgy begins at 10 a.m. St George is located at 5191 Lennon Rd. in Flint, MI, 48507-1050.


 Fr. Fenton will be one of the presenters at [Living the Christian Faith in the Orthodox Western Tradition](#). This conference will occur on November 13 & 14 at All Saints Orthodox Church near St. Louis, Missouri. It is for those interested in Orthodoxy, and particularly the Western Orthodox tradition.


 On Wednesday, 25 November, Mass will include petitions commemorating *The National Day of Thanksgiving*. Join us for this annual celebration, and feel free to *bring an unchurched relative or friend*.


 On Wednesdays in Advent, *the Rorate Mass*, a special Advent candlelight Mass, will be celebrated. This candlelight Mass has been a regular feature in German churches since the Middle Ages. You are encouraged to attend this Mass as part of your Advent devotion.


 The *2010 Western Rite wall calendar* and the *Saint Ambrose Prayer Book* are available. The wall calendar contains various devotional aids, including the list of saints for day of the year and designations for fasts and major feasts. The Saint Ambrose Prayer Book contains the essential prayers and devotions for an Orthodox Christian who wishes to follow the Western tradition. Included are a rule of life, Morning and Evening prayers and other daily prayers, Prayers before and after Mass, the Mass according to the rites of St Gregory & St Tikhon, Preparation for Private Confes-


sion, the Sacrament of Penance (Private Confession), the Penitential Psalms, the Stations of the Cross, and various litanies and devotions. You may purchase your copy (or copies) of the 2010 calendar (\$10) and the Prayer Book (\$30) at the church.


 *The Advent Fast* is observed this year from November 29 until December 25. As with all of the Church's fasts, the Advent fast is something every Orthodox Christian should diligently keep. In addition to fasting from certain foods, *one should also refrain from premature celebrations of Christ Mass*. Given the world's penchant for feasting during the fasts, this can prove difficult, but also provides a God-pleasing witness to the Faith as well as a personal reminder of "the real reason for the season."


 We depend upon your generous donation to *decorate our church and to give a gift to our musicians*. Please put your donation in an envelope and either place in the offering plate or mail it to the Parish Office. Checks should be made payable to Holy Incarnation Orthodox Church. *All memorials will be duly acknowledged* in the December 27 Sunday bulletin, and those memorialized will be included in the intentions at the Nativity Masses. To receive proper notification in time for Christ Mass, please submit your donation no later than Sunday, December 20.

 Thanks to all who have generously contributed to the *Sanctuary Icon Project*. The iconographer informs us that work is progressing as planned. We hope to receive the first icons before Christ Mass.

 Before Christ Mass, all parishioners of Holy Incarnation are expected to attend *Private Confession*. This Sacrament is offered on Saturdays or by appointment

 Candlelight Midnight Mass *The First Christ Mass* (Mass at Midnight) will be celebrated in candlelight. Be sure to join us for Vespers at 11:30 p.m. Mass begins immediately after Vespers.

 Christ Mass Eucharist Parishioners are reminded that they *may receive the Eucharist at all three Christ Masses*. Parishioners are also urged to celebrate Christ Mass by attending at least two Christ Masses.

 *Bishop MARK will be visiting Holy Incarnation for the Solemn Liturgy on Good Friday* in 2010. His Grace has also indicated a desire to visit the parish to inspect and bless the icons when they are received.

## Things to Ponder

**I**N THAT NIGHT when all sound, all activity of men shall be silent, when the voices of all men and of all nations are still, may my soul, through its good works, shine out in you. O Jesus, light of the just. In that hour when darkness like a cloak shall be spread over all things, may your grace, O Lord, shine on us in place of the earthly sun. In that night which brings to an end the course of this world and all its activities, may our souls behold your wonders in that quiet which is more than silence. In that hour, refreshing the weary through the sleep that lies on all men, may our minds be inebriated with your delights. O delight of all the Saints! In that time of dark night, may a new sun arise for us. Then let us take wing in that hope which was laid up for us in your resurrection.

Grant us, O Lord, to imitate the watchfulness of those who wait for Your Resurrection, so that day and night our souls may be turned towards Thee. In that hour when we shall be separated from men and from the traffic of men, be to us, O Lord, a Giver of good things, bringing joy to our sadness. When confiding in Thy grace we have gone forth from this world, so that we are alone, may we behold, O Lord, clearly and in deed the power of Thy aid. Pour Thy peace into our hearts, and give Thy rest to all our striving, that the darkness of that night may be to us as the day.

In that day when we have been deprived of life, and night has hidden us in its darkness, and we have been separated from the rest of men, may our consolation in Thee, O Lord, increase. In that place that is empty of all things, where the voice of comfort is no more heard, awaken in our souls a watchfulness free of all distract-

tion. In that time when men lie in the sleep of final rest, may our minds not be sunk in the sleep of evil desires.

Grant us by Thy grace, O Lord, that like the wise virgins who were ready by their good works, our way of life shall also be watchful, that we shall not sit in darkness, with darkened souls, in darkness of mind, but that through prayer we may look forever on the shining splendor of Thy grace. Expel, O Lord, by the daily light of Thy knowledge the darkness of our mind, that being enlightened it may serve Thee in the purity of its regeneration.

Grant us with the just to watch by night in prayer, that in Thy revelation our lamps may burn brightly before Thy sun. In that time of night give consolation to our need, for the gloom of the night darkens us: through Thee may we be comforted in our sadness. Grant that our minds may labor in the remembrance of Thy holy revelations, while our souls burn in the fire of Thy love. In that hour when the saints were wont to give themselves to prayer, grant us, O Lord, to share in their watchfulness.

*Saint Ephrem († 373), a deacon and a hermit, wrote hundreds of hymns in honor of the Blessed Trinity, the Incarnation, and the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

## From the Fathers

We do not preach only one coming of Christ, but a second as well, much more glorious than the first. The first coming was marked by patience; the second will bring the crown of a divine kingdom.

In general, whatever relates to our Lord Jesus Christ has two aspects. There is a birth from God before the ages, and a birth from a virgin at the fullness of time. There is a hidden coming, like that of rain on fleece, and a coming before all eyes, still in the future.

At the first coming he was wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger. At his second coming he will be clothed in light as in a garment. In the first coming he endured the cross, despising the shame; in the second coming he will be in glory, escorted by an army of angels.

We look then beyond the first coming and await the second.

*St Cyril of Jerusalem*