



First Sunday

December, 2008
Volume 2, Issue 12

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**Morning & Evening Prayer at
Magdalene Chapel**
9:00 AM and 9:00 PM daily

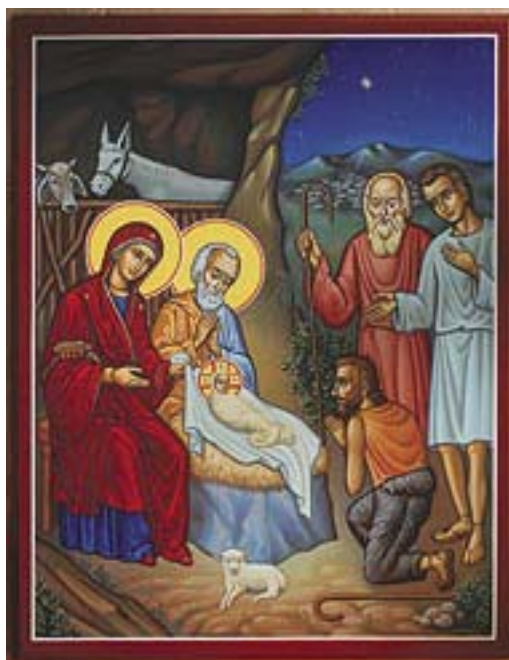
Christmas Eve - 7:30 Auburn
*Christmas Day - regular time in
local chapels*
New Years Day - 10:00 Auburn

Liturgy Schedule

10:00 SUNDAY
Crosswood Centre
Chapel of Mary Magdalene
5355 Co. Rd. 35
Auburn, IN 46706-9717

10:00 AM SUNDAY
Redwood Chapel
2425 Redwood Avenue
Fort Wayne, IN 46803
(Thanks to Rose and Stan)

9:00 AM SUNDAY
Angola Crosswood
3472 North Wayne St.
Angola, IN 46703



Advent & Christmas

It's that time of year again when we are called back to that very fundamental idea about Christianity - we have a God who lives with us. Not a distant god who is "out there" but one who lives among us, who knows our pain and our sorrow, our joy and gladness.

While there are many volumes of books written on the idea of the Nativity - of God becoming man, we could sit and read about it and wonder how it was possible. Was Mary really a virgin? Does it matter? What about that original sin stuff?

How could Christ be a man and God at the same time. All kinds of mind-befuddling questions that in the end tend to divide us more than unite us when we think about them too long. While the gospel of Luke and Mathew have some nice stories about the birth of Christ, it is best to think of them as stories rather than history. John's gospel is perhaps the most succinct and to the point here:

1:10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 1:11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 1:12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 1:13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 1:14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This Christmas, let's make sure we don't miss him. He/She is here among us. Wake up! Look around! Be watchful!

Editor's note: This edition doesn't have a lot of news - but does have the schedule for liturgies during the Holiday Season. Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!!!

Remember in your prayers

Those among us who are sick and in need of prayer. Remember also those who are unemployed or underemployed and those who are alone and lonely.

We ask your prayers especially for Isabelle, Ramona, Fr. Jim and Emma Spink, Vicki Groves, +Skip,

Pray especially for our country at this time of transition and difficulty. We face some difficult challenges ahead.

Please remember His Holiness, Patriarch Alexy II, in your prayers this weekend. Alexy II was Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, who died this past week. He was 79 at the time of his repose. He was the son of a priest, and he chose monastic living in 1947, being ordained in 1950. He was elected to the Patriarchial throne in 1990. Some researchers have indicated that as a young priest he cooperated with the KGB, but Orthodox sources have always denied that story.

The Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church will gather on Saturday to elect a Locum Tenens and finalize the funeral and internment plans. The funeral will probably be on Tuesday next, with burial in one of the cathedrals of Moscow. Memory eternal!

Monday School Takes A Break

It's that busy time of the year with the holidays coming, and Bishop Skip being rather busy with archdiocesan affairs and so we are taking a break from classes on Monday and Wednesday evenings until after the New Year. +Skip is looking for some input as to what we would like to study so if you have some ideas on topics or authors that you would like to focus on for the next few months, please talk to him or drop him an email - yes, he reads email - EBC7695@aol.com is his address. Monday & Wednesday School are wonderful opportunities to discuss significant religious topics and answer challenging questions.

Leadership Team Meeting Notes from November

1. In Fort Wayne, efforts are underway or planned for improvements in the yard at the Chapel. Some bulbs have been planted in a bed near the house. New cement steps will be installed in the spring. The porch railing will be painted. Yard work will be done, and there is a discussion about increasing the available parking in front.
2. Skip said that there may be a potential resident to live and pay rent at Redwood Chapel. He asked that the Cliff and the community discuss it among themselves and see if that is okay. The person is expected to live there 2-3 months.
3. The Community in Angola has a carry-in on the second Sunday of the month. They have painted, carpeted, and furnished the store room, changing it into a waiting room for use during the week. On weekends, it can be used for meals or other kinds of parish events. Clients have been asked to use the kitchen door, rather than enter the building through the front door (directly into the chapel). The open house for the new building will probably be postponed to the springtime. Dean and Gayle have yet to send a utility bill to the community, so Skip inquired and was told it will be forthcoming. The Angola community has about \$1700 in the bank.
4. In Auburn, work progresses on the details of the Loft. Frames are being installed around the doorways. A little paint detailing needs to be done. As Cliff finishes bookshelves, the units are delivered to Auburn, and are stored in the garage. Those will be moved into the Loft, where they will be painted. A painting day (or days) needs to be scheduled (John will work on this). The wiring was checked by a professional, who found the problem was with some of the grounding. It has been fixed.
5. At Auburn, there are three residents still at the house: Mark, Gary, and Doyle. Doyle has been doing a lot of the detailing up stairs. Isabel now requires oxygen all the time. Dick is doing poorly, and Maria inquired and has information for Stella about water therapy for Dick.
6. The Chapel & Loft is sufficiently toward finishing that Skip reports that we may be able to do an open house in the spring. He has a friend who knows celebrities, and he is thinking that perhaps we can get a well known person to perform at the Centre.
7. The new stoves are installed and working. The one in the chapel seems to have a fault and may need to have the heat sensing device replaced.

Leadership Team Meets the 13th of December at 12:00 with Panikhida following

The Leadership Team will meet on Saturday December 13th at the chapel gathering space in Auburn at noon. Topics will include review of the recommendations of the parish synod and meeting held last Sunday, November 30. There were many good ideas that came out of the meeting and the leadership team has to now sort through them and figure out how to implement them over the next year.

As we did in November, we will pray the Panikhida, a memorial service for the dead, which will be celebrated monthly at the Chapel of St. Mary Magdalen. Anyone wishing to have their family or friends remembered in our monthly prayers, please contact one of our clergy. Eventually we will have a memorial book to write their names in for continued prayers of our community.

All are welcome at our leadership meeting and at the Panikhida.

Community of the Cross Leadership Committee

5535 CR 35

Auburn, Indiana 46709-9717

If you need to contact the Leadership Committee, here are their numbers:

Fr. Skip Carsten*, 260-927-6040 (numeric pager)

Fr. Vince Cuestas, 426-8885

Mother Kris'ta Cuestas, 426-8885

Mr. Ken Erlenbaugh, Core Team North, 833-1313

Mr. Stan Gephart, Core Team South

Cyndi Smith, Core Team North, 483-9278

Br. Richard Lounsbury & Stella 260-336-2276

Fr. John Newbauer, 615-0156

Email: jfn3253@comcast.net

Mother Joan North, 833-3412

Fr./Dcn Tom North, 833-3412

Fr. Cliff Polubinsky, 493-4223

Mr. Scott Rutsey, Crosswood Treasurer

Fr. James Spink

Mother Maria van Valkenburg 260-385-3707

Fr. Robert Zahrt, 471-6573

Leadership Team Minutes November - Continued from p. 2

Both stoves heat the spaces very well. We have 10 tons of pellets (Skip went shopping before the hoarders arrived), paying \$3600.00 for them. He has purchased corn seed and will plant it in the back 3 acres. Corn mixed with pellets burns even more efficiently than pellets alone.

8. The organ donated to the Centre has been relocated in the Gathering Room. The audio system will be checked in the chapel. Skip reports the supply of wine is running low, and was authorized to order another case from the winery in Indianapolis.
9. At the Centre, morning and evening prayer is now celebrated at 9 AM and 9 PM Friday through Sunday.
10. Maria reported that this coming Sunday, November 23, is the open Door Thanksgiving celebration. All are invited. Dinner is at 5:30; worship at 7:00 PM.
11. On Thanksgiving Day at Auburn, Skip will celebrate the Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM.
12. The Christmas schedule will be as last year. A Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 7:30 PM, with Christmas Day Liturgies celebrated in the parishes in Angola and Fort Wayne. It was reported that this is what was scheduled last year.
13. The second session of the Parish Synod is Sunday, November 30. Maria reviewed the program for the day. Redwood parish will come to Auburn for the Divine Liturgy, go to breakfast in Auburn, and return for the start of the synod at 1:00 PM. The Angola community will celebrate at 9:00 at their location, and come after breakfast there to the synod.
14. The Annual Meeting will be the last activity during the synod. Resolutions before the assembly may come up during the synod sessions.
15. The day will be concluded with a carry-in meal at the Residence.
16. Monday School for both Angola and Fort Wayne will resume in the new year.
17. Maria recommended two books for pastoral use: "Simply Waiting," and "Come to the Manger."
18. Next Saturday, November 22, is the ordination of three bishops. The community will have guests, including two or three bishops. A reception for after the ceremony was discussed, and Skip and Maria offered to obtain the necessary items for that event. A rehearsal for the ordinands, MC, and Skip is scheduled for 11:00 at the Chapel.

Respectfully submitted
Fr. Robert Zahrt

READINGS FOR SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER

<u>First Sunday of Advent</u> November 30, 2008	Isaiah 64:1-9	Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37
<u>Second Sunday of Advent</u> December 7, 2008	Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	II Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8
<u>Third Sunday of Advent</u> December 14, 2008	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Psalm 126 or Luke 1:47-55	I Thess. 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
<u>Fourth Sunday of Advent</u> December 21, 2008	II Sam. 7:1-11, 16	Luke 1:47-55 or Ps. 89:1-4, 19-26	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38
<u>Nativity of the Lord</u> Christmas Eve & Day December 24 & 25, 2008	Isaiah 9:2-7 or Isaiah 62:6-12 or Isaiah 52:7-10	Psalm 96 or Psalm 97 or Psalm 98	Titus 2:11-14 or Titus 3:4-7 or Heb 1:1-12	Luke 2:1-20 or John 1:1-14
<u>First Sunday</u> <u>after Christmas Day</u> December 28, 2008	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Psalm 148	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:22-40
<u>Holy Name of Jesus</u> (Mary, Mother of God) January 1, 2009	Numbers 6:22-27	Psalm 8	Galatians 4:4-7 or Philippians 2:5-13	Luke 2:15-21
<u>New Year's Day</u> January 1, 2009	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13	Psalm 8	Revelation 21:1-6a	Matthew 25:31-46
<u>Second Sunday</u> <u>after Christmas Day</u> January 4, 2009	Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12	Psalm 147:12-20 or Wis.of Sol.10:15-21	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1:(1-9), 10-18

The Panikhida Service

Our panikhida service is a Western Orthodox adaptation of an Eastern Orthodox memorial service for the dead. There are several purposes a panikhida serves including praying for those who have gone before us, to comfort the living, to remind those who remain behind of our mortality and the mercy of our God whose love and affection for us goes beyond our days here on earth. The service is composed of psalms and litanies as well as special prayers for the dead. Pray with us at home if you can't make it to the Chapel.

Clergy Schedule for November

December					
DATE	Ordo	Angola	Auburn	Redwood	Open Door
7	Advent 2	Joan	Skip	Bob	Maria Bob
14	Advent 3	Bob	Skip	Cliff	Maria John
21	Advent 4	John	Skip	Vince	Maria
24	Christmas Eve(Wed.)	Skip Auburn at 7:30 PM			
25	Christmas (Thursday)	Joan	Skip	Cliff	Maria
28	Sunday after Christmas	Joan	Maria	Cliff	Maria
January					
1	New Year's	Schedules to be determined. 10:00 at Auburn with Skip			
4	2 nd Sunday after Christmas	Joan	Skip	John	Maria