



# First Sunday

November, 2008  
Volume 2, Issue 11

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

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## **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

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## **Community Synod has Begun - Continues November 30th**

First meeting of our community synod is now finished and we are anticipating the next meeting on Sunday, November 30th, 2008 again in the afternoon. This will be our formal annual meeting and will start at 1:00 and end around 5:00 also. We will have a pot luck dinner that evening as well. Please save this date on your calendar and join us for the synod. The November 30th meeting will be a time to develop goals and strategies for the near future of our community.

There will be no Liturgy at Redwood Chapel on November 30th since the South Community has decided to come to Auburn to celebrate Liturgy there followed by a breakfast outing somewhere in Auburn.

## **Consecration of Bishops at Auburn Chapel November 22nd**

You can read in the next section of First Sunday about the Bishops' Synod for OCCA which was held in Indianapolis on the weekend of October 12th. The important news for us at this moment is that we now have a new bishop-elect among us. Fr. Bob Zahrt, who has served as our local vicar for the past several years, was elected bishop by the synod of bishops. He was among four bishops elected during their recent meeting. Fr. Bob will serve the archdiocese as the communications coordinator, a role in which this editor expects him to do an exemplary job. The other four bishops elected by the bishops' synod include Fr. James Gleeson of California who will serve the Diocese of the Pacific Coast, Fr. David Kotajarvi of Wisconsin who will serve the Diocese of the Western Great Lakes and Mother Lynn Walker of New York, who will serve the Diocese of the Atlantic Coast. Mother Lynn also has the distinction of being OCCA's first woman bishop.

On November 22, 2008 at 2:00 in the afternoon in the Chapel of St. Mary Magdalen in Auburn, Fr. Bob, Fr. David and Fr. Jim will be consecrated bishops. Mother Lynn's consecration will take place later this year in New York. The consecration of a bishop is something that many of us have never witnessed before and should be a solemn and festive occasion for all. Please join us for this event and welcome Fr. Bob especially into his new role. I'm sure your community pastors will give more information as the date approaches.

**Editor's note:** Sorry for the lateness of the First Sunday. It's been a hectic week for your editor and luckily we were able to spend several hours babysitting with our 16 month old grandson this weekend and so the bulletin was put on the back burner.

## **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 the elections. There are strong feelings on both sides and most of all we want a united country as we face some difficult challenges ahead.*

## **Time for Thanksgiving**

*November starts with the feast of All Saints which was Saturday and today, the Feast of All Souls (Sunday). It culminates with the Feast of Christ the King on November 23 followed closely with Thanksgiving. On November 30th, we will begin a new church year with the first Sunday of Advent.*

*One of those things I give thanks for is this community of which I am a part. The wonderful, open, and encouraging people who are a part of the Community of the Cross, are an example of the Spirit alive and well. May God continue to bless us.*

## **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.

## **The October Bishops Synod sets a Course for the Future of the Church**

You remember that earlier in October, Bishop Skip, Bishop Vince, Fr Cliff and Father Bob went off to Indianapolis for a meeting of what in Orthodoxy is called the Holy Synod. This is the gathering of OCCA Bishops and Vicars (regional representatives). Quite a bit was accomplished at that brief meeting.

### **A New OCCA Publication**

In a few months, you will see a new publication from the national church. It will be called "The Orthodox American." This new publication has an ambitious agenda. The Bishops want all OCCA clergy and seminarians to have a regular continuing education and information resource. So it will go to them. But it will also have information for you, a parishioner in an OCCA parish! Now let it be said that such a full spectrum plan is fairly challenging, but the editor of this publication will be putting together a staff that will be able to address many issues. The publication will come out every other month. The editor will be Bob Zahrt.

### **The 2010 General Synod**

Looking ahead to 2010, the Bishops anticipate that the next General Synod will be held at Crosswood Centre. You remember that the last one was also at Crosswood in 2006—and most of the OCCA priests, deacons, and candidates attended. A committee of Bishops will be formed by Archbishop Skip to do the planning—and if the economy is still in tatters in 2010, the Synod may be postponed. But for now—look for a flurry of activity at the Center in 2010.

The Orthodox Catholic Church of America continues to grow under the able leadership of Archbishop Skip. When I joined in 1999, I was the 33<sup>rd</sup> active priest. Just 9 years later, our number is pushing toward 90 members. Many of the new people come to us by way of meeting Skip via our internet presence, and dialoguing with him. But the New Seminary in New York, where an OCCA priest is the Dean, and individual bishops and priests, also are active in helping people discern whether this jurisdiction is the right one for them.

### **Church Support**

Like any church group, the Bishops addressed the "cathedraticum," the tax paid each month by clergy to the Chancery. The money is used to support activities of the national church—events like synods, or publications like service books. OCCA clergy are expected to pay \$1.00 per day to the Chancery; if they are unable due to financial circumstances to do that amount, they are encouraged to speak with Skip. Of course, more generous donations are also accepted. At the Synod, the bishops authorized local communities served by OCCA clergy to assist clergy with the payment of the cathedraticum.

### 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

### Church Leadership

Who are the OCCA bishops? At the start of the meeting, the bishops were:

Archbishop Skip Carsten, Metropolitan Archbishop; Archbishop Alfred Lankenau, Patriarch of Honor and Metropolitan Archbishop Emeritus; Bishop Doug Wright of Maine (Bishop of New England); Bishop Elwood Cromwell of Ohio (Diocese of the Eastern Great Lakes and the South); Bishop Edmund Kubiak of Illinois (Bishop of the Great Plains and Western States); Bishop Chezlaw Stachewicz of New Mexico (Bishop of Albuquerque); Bishop Vince Cuestas of Fort Wayne (Vicar General); Bishop Jerry Heggarty (Bishop Emeritus of California); Bishop David Dunbar of Ohio (Bishop Emeritus). The Vicars, or representatives of the Metropolitan in certain areas are Father Kevin Kearney (Toledo); Father James Gleeson (California); Father Donn Mielke (Chicago); Ken Waibel (Kentucky); Lynn Lynn Walker (The Atlantic Seaboard), and Father Bob Zahrt (Northeastern Indiana). Toward the end of the meeting, though, four new bishops were elected by the Bishops, from the priests who were present. They are: Father James Gleeson, Father David Kotajarvi, Mother Lynn Walker, and Father Bob Zahrt.

### The Ordination of New Bishops

The ordination of three of the new bishops—Fathers Gleeson, Kotajarvi, and Zahrt—will be at Crosswood Centre on Saturday, November 22. Mother Lynn will be ordained in the spring in New York City.

It was agreed that more bishops are needed, so that the priest to bishop ratio is fairly low. The Metropolitan was authorized to begin a search and discernment process.

### A Respectful, Caring, Loving Gathering

One of the goals to which many leadership organizations aspire is "Unity in Diversity." It was the sense of those present at the Bishops Synod that it was achieved during the deliberations. Our Church leadership is quite diverse, and yet an amazing spirit of cooperation, good listening, and acting for the overall good of the Church was shot throughout the meetings. Even with one or two painful and difficult deliberations and decisions, the leaders maintained a spirit of charity and care.

Fr. Bob Zahrt

### 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. Please join us November 15 at 2:00 in the Chapel if you are able. Pray with us at home if you can't make it to the Chapel.*

### Leadership Team Meets the 15th of November at 12:00 with Panikhida at 2:00

The Leadership Team will meet on Saturday November 15th at the chapel gathering space in Auburn at noon. Topics will include final preparations for the Community Synod, financial review and an update on events since the last meeting.

Following the Meeting at 2:00, we will have our first 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.

## READINGS FOR SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER

<b><u>All Saints Day</u></b>				
November 1, 2008 (Sometimes observed on Proper 26)	Revelation 7:9-17	Psalm 34:1-10, 22	I John 3:1-3	Matthew 5:1-12
<b><u>Proper 26 (31)</u></b>				
November 2, 2008 (If All Saints not observed on this day)	Joshua 3:7-17 or Micah 3:5-12	Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37 or Psalm 43	I Thessalonians 2:9-13	Matthew 23:1-12
<b><u>Proper 27 (32)</u></b>				
November 9, 2008	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 or <i>Wisdom of Solomon</i> 6:12-16 & <i>Amos</i> 5:18-24 Judges 4:1-7	Psalm 78:1-7 or <i>Wisdom of Solomon</i> 6:17-20 & <i>Psalms</i> 70 Psalm 123	I Thessalonians 4:13-18	Matthew 25:1-13
<b><u>Proper 28 (33)</u></b>				
November 16, 2008	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18	Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12 Psalm 100	I Thessalonians 5:1-11	Matthew 25:14-30
<b><u>Reign of Christ</u></b>				
November 23, 2008	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	Psalm 95:1-7a	Ephesians 1:15-23	Matthew 25:31-46
<b><u>Thanksgiving Day</u></b>				
November 27, 2008	Deuteronomy 8:7-18	Psalm 65	II Corinthians 9:6-15	Luke 17:11-19
<b><u>First Sunday of Advent</u></b>				
November 30, 2008	Isaiah 64:1-9	Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37

### Clergy Schedule for November

November				
Date	Com of the Cross Angola	Magdaline Chapel Auburn	Redwood Chapel FW	Open Door Chapel
2	Joan	Skip	John	Maria Maria
9	Bob	Skip	Cliff	Maria Cliff
16	Joan	Skip	Vince	Maria Josh
23	John	Skip	Cliff	Maria Maria
30	Joan	Skip	Vince	
December				
7	Joan	Skip	Bob	Maria Bob