



**HOLY FOREFATHERS OF CHRIST**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>**

**Holy Forefathers of Christ**

8:40a.m. Hours  
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy  
Coffee Hour

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>**

7:00p.m. Orthodoxy 101  
8:00p.m. Compline

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>**

5:00p.m. Bible Study  
6:00p.m. Great Vespers

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>**

**Sunday Before Nativity**

8:40a.m. Hours  
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy  
Coffee Hour

**Looking Ahead**

- Dec. 25: Nativity of the Lord
- Jan. 1-2: Visit of Met. Jonah
- Jan. 6: Theophany
- Jan. 8: Blessing of Atlantic

**READER SCHEDULE**

**Sunday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>**

Gabriela Jones

**Sunday, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>**

Jodi McElwee



**CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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orthodoxdelmarva.org / frjohn@orthodoxdelmarva.org

**BULLETIN OF DECEMBER 12, 2010**

**Please Remember in Prayer**

Melvin Woodell, Michelle Wilson, Howard Peters, Irene Clenney, Denise Royal, Gabriela Jones, Scott and Maryann, Roman Szwec, Mat. Dunia, Patti Lease, Garrett Cuppels, Bill & Kathy Parrish, Frs Michael & Andrew, Monk Christian, Jane Koshutko, Robert Evanusa, Nicholas & Linda, Nicholas, Anna, Nina Gordon, Mirela & Chris, Jaroslav, Troy, Frank & Mary Miranda, Kathy T., Bruce, Julia Plisko & family, Stella.

**Schedule of services for Christmas**

- Friday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, 11:00pm – 1:15am:
  - Midnight Service (Matins / Divine Liturgy)
- Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 noon:
  - Vespers (instead of normal Saturday time at 6pm)

**Choir Practice**

will be held this Sunday, the 12<sup>th</sup>, and next Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup>. These practices will be offered during the coffee hour. We will go over hymns in preparation for Christmas and the visit of Metropolitan Jonah.



**Helping a Needy Family**

This Sunday and next, you are invited to make a donation to help buy Christmas presents for the family we have adopted this year. If you would like to make a donation, please do so via the special collection basket or by seeing Mike McFarland.



**Bookstore**

Looking to buy someone a Christmas gift? How about a book from our newly stocked bookstore.

**About Confession and Holy Communion**

As a reminder, confession can be heard before or after any service or class, or at any other time by appointment. Frequent communicants should make a good confession during the Nativity Fast. Those who do not approach the Chalice regularly should seek to avail themselves of Confession and Holy Communion during the Nativity season. If you made your confession in the presence of another Orthodox priest, please just let Fr. John know so he will not worry.



**Are You Interested?**

in becoming an official member of Christ the Savior? Are you curious if you are already listed as a member of the parish? Do you have questions about becoming an Orthodox Christian or joining our parish? If so, please speak with Fr. John about it. All are welcome here at Christ the Savior Orthodox Church!

## CHURCH LEFT OUT OF 9/11 RENEWAL

By Martha T. Moore, USA TODAY

NEW YORK — Towers are rising again at the site of the World Trade Center, a place of devastation turned into a construction hub. But the cross-topped belfry of St. Nicholas Church isn't among them.

Nine years after it was destroyed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the little Greek Orthodox church that stood across the street from the twin towers is farther away than ever from being rebuilt.

Slow progress toward a new home halted last year when the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which controls the Ground Zero site, broke off discussions with the church over where and how a new church would be built.

On Sunday, the eve of St. Nicholas Day, 70 families of the congregation gathered near the site to light candles and pray for a way to rebuild their spiritual

home amid the office towers and memorial plaza taking shape. "It's not a political statement. This is our place, and we belong there," says Mark Arey, a priest and director of inter-faith relations for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

Before the Port Authority pulled the plug in March 2009, the agency and the church had spent several years working on a plan for the church to be rebuilt a block from its original location. Each side says the other refused to come to terms. The Port Authority says the church wanted too much say in the design of a vehicle screening center underneath the new building. The church says the agency wouldn't finalize the swap of its original property for the new site.

"After nine months of negotiations in which the demands of the Orthodox Church continued to increase over and above what we originally agreed to, we had to make a practical decision," says John Kelly, a Port Authority spokesman.

To work on the vehicle screening center, the Port Authority has begun ripping up the 1,200-square-foot plot where the old church stood, though the agency has not bought the rights from the church to do so.

### 'Back to the table'

The stalemate is emblematic of the complexity of plans for rebuilding Ground Zero and shows the intense pressure to move forward on a project that has taken years longer than anticipated.

The Port Authority says it sent a letter last month to the church, seeking to resume discussions to set a value on the church's land.

"We really want to go back to the table with the Port Authority ... because I just don't think it's reasonable that the only house of worship destroyed on 9/11 would not be rebuilt," Arey says.

When the twin towers were standing, they dwarfed little St. Nicholas. Founded in 1916, the

church's home was a whitewashed 19th-century building that had once been a tavern. It sat across the street from the south tower of the Trade Center. It had a tiny congregation and was open only on Sundays and Wednesdays, when workers from the financial district sometimes stopped to light a candle or sit in peace.



**A prayer service is held at the World Trade Center site by priests and congregation of St. Nicholas Church.**

In the years after it was destroyed, a plan emerged for St. Nicholas to be rebuilt a block east of its original site in a park the Port Authority is building on top of its underground vehicle screening center, through which all traffic into the Trade Center complex will have to pass.

In a preliminary deal announced in the summer of 2008, the Port Authority said it would cover the \$40 million cost of the platform on which the church would be built and contribute \$20 million to the cost of the church, in exchange for the church's original lot. In March 2009, the Port Authority cut off talks. The church will have to rebuild on its original site, the agency says, when the vehicle center is finished in 2013.

The church says that's impossible, partly because the construction of the underground center is raising the church's site by 30 feet. "They're saying, 'Go



back to your old space,' knowing full well that without years of planning, it's not feasible," says John Couloucoundis, president of the St. Nicholas congregation.

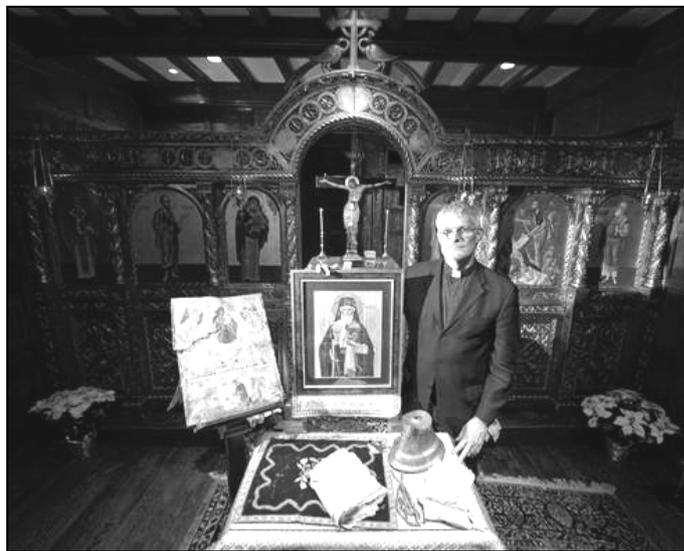
In August, the church got a flurry of attention during the controversy over a proposal to build an Islamic center near the Trade Center site. When New York Gov. David Paterson, a Democrat, offered to help the developer find a site farther away, elected officials such as state Sen. Dean Skelos, a Republican, asked why there was no equivalent effort to help St. Nicholas.

### **An odyssey**

The church has raised "a couple million" for a new building, though Arey says it has not launched a fundraising campaign. "It's hard to fundraise for something you don't have a design for."

While worshipping at a Greek Orthodox cathedral in Brooklyn, the members continue to pay their dues, have meetings and gather annually at Ground Zero to celebrate St. Nicholas' feast day.

The travails of St. Nicholas are — fittingly for a Greek church — an "odyssey," Couloucoundis says. "I hope, just like the original Odyssey, we end up where we're supposed to."



**Priest Mark Arey stands among items rescued from St. Nicholas Church when it was destroyed by the collapse of the World Trade Center.**

### **More Information / Support the Church**

For more information or to support the rebuilding of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church by making a donation, please see the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America's website:

<http://goarch.org>

### **CHRISTMAS TREE TRADITIONS**

*From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*

Traditionally, Christmas trees were not brought in and decorated until Christmas Eve (24 December), and then removed the day after twelfth night (i.e., 6 January); to have a tree up before or after these dates was even considered bad luck. Modern commercialization of Christmas has resulted in trees being put up much earlier; in shops often as early as late October (in the UK, Selfridge's Christmas department is up by early September, complete with Christmas trees). A common tradition in U.S. homes is to put the tree up right after Thanksgiving (the fourth

Thursday in November) and to take it down right after the New Year. Some households in the U.S. do not put up the tree until the second week of December, and leave it

up until the 6th of January (Epiphany). In Germany, traditionally the tree is put up 24th of December and taken down 7th of January, though many start one or two weeks earlier. In Australia, the Christmas tree is usually put up on the 1st of December, which occurs about a week before the school summer holidays; except for South Australia, where most people put up their tree after the Adelaide Credit Union Christmas Pageant, which is in early November. Some traditions suggest that Christmas trees may be kept up until no later than the 2nd of February, the feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple (Candlemas), when the Christmas season effectively closes. Superstitions warn of negative consequences if Christmas greenery is not removed by Candlemas Eve.





## ORTHODOX CHAPLAINS TO CELEBRATE NATIVITY, THEOPHANY IN AFGHANISTAN

From OCA.org

SYOSSET, NY [OCA] -- Two Orthodox Christian chaplains will provide services for the Great Feasts of Nativity and Theophany in Afghanistan this year.

Archpriest Jerome Cwiklinski, US Navy Chaplain and priest of the Orthodox Church in America, will conduct a circuit through the southwestern region of Afghanistan in December and January. Priest Christopher Moody, a National Guard chaplain and priest of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, will provide coverage in the country's northeastern region. Father Christopher is currently deployed to Afghanistan.

"Please alert Orthodox service members you know who are serving in Afghanistan and advise them to contact their own unit chaplain to make arrangements," asks Father Jerome who, in addition to celebrating services for the feasts and on all Sundays will provide the Divine liturgy on any day he is requested.

### SAINT JOHN OF SAN FRANCISCO ON MATTHEW 1:25

***And [Joseph] knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called His name JESUS.***

The word "until" does not signify that Mary remained a virgin only until a certain time. In the Bible, the word "until" and words similar to it often signify eternity. It is said of Christ: "In His days shall shine forth righteousness and an abundance of peace, *until* the moon be taken away" (Psalm 71:7), but this does not mean that when there shall no longer be a moon at the end of the world, God's righteousness shall no longer be; precisely then, rather, will it triumph. And what does it mean when it says: "For He must reign, *until* He hath put all enemies under His feet?" (1 Cor. 15:25). Is the Lord to reign only for a time until His enemies shall be put under His feet?! The Savior in the Gospel says to the Apostles (Matt: 28:20): "Lo, I am with you always, even *until* the end of the world." Are we to believe that the Lord will no longer be with the disciples in the age to come? While there are plenty more such examples of the use of the word "until", the above are sufficient to prove that Matt 1:25 does not argue against the life-long virginity of the Mother of God.



### METROPOLITAN JONAH TO LEAD ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN MARCHERS AT JANUARY 24 MARCH FOR LIFE

From OCA.org

WASHINGTON, DC [OCA] -- Orthodox Christians everywhere -- especially those within driving distance of the US capital -- are being encouraged to bear witness to their faith at the annual March for Life on Monday, January 24, 2011.

As in years past, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah expressed his desire to see as many youth and young adults as possible to join him in proclaiming that all life is indeed a gift from God.

The faithful are asked to gather by 12:30 p.m. under the "Orthodox Christians for Life" banner to the left of the stage at the Ellipse, between the Washington Monument and the national Mall. Metropolitan Jonah will be one of several speakers to address the public at the pre-March program. At the conclusion of the March, Metropolitan Jonah will offer prayers for the victims of abortion.

On Sunday, January 23, the eve of the March, the faithful are encouraged to join Metropolitan Jonah for Vespers at Saint Nicholas Cathedral, 3500 Massachusetts Ave. NW, at 6:00 p.m. A reception will follow.

On the morning of the March, Metropolitan Jonah will preside at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at the cathedral at 8:00 a.m. Following the March, Metropolitan Jonah will attend the annual Rose Dinner at DC's Hyatt Regency Hotel. While additional details concerning the Orthodox Christian witness at the March will be forthcoming, general information on the March may be found at [www.marchforlife.org](http://www.marchforlife.org).

