



**Holy Virgin Mary**

**Russian Orthodox Cathedral**

650 Micheltorena Street ✧ Los Angeles, CA 90026

Tel. (323) 666-4977 ✧ Website: hvmla.org

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**June 2016**

**№653**

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**A Pilgrimage to a Holy Land  
Anatolia (Turkey)**



“If Israel, Syria and Jordan are the *first* Holy Land, then Anatolia (modern day Turkey) is the *second*,” began Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky, our group leader, as we began our two-week pilgrimage: “In the Footsteps of the Apostles and the Byzantine saints”.

Our journey took us back in time to Byzantium which disappeared from the map in 1453 with the fall of Constantinople. It was replaced by the Ottoman Empire, present day Turkey. Throughout the pilgrimage, Fr. Ilya and our local guide Tulu referred to the New Testament, the “Acts of the Apostles” and

the “Book of Revelations” as illustrations.

We began with Cappadocia. It is a region created 20 - 30 million years ago by volcanic activity, which covered a huge area with a thick layer of ash - tufa. Weather shaped the tufa into a land of cones and pyramids with hard basalt caps. Tufa is porous: hollows were formed which became the abode of animals and man, who carved out abodes and eventually churches.

By the time of the conquest, Cappadocia had about 600 churches. In 1924, the Greeks were evicted from Turkey, and the churches became prey to weather and vandals, until the government stepped in, and put them under its protection. In 1984 UNESCO created the *Göreme Open Air Museum* to preserve the finest and largest cave churches in the world.

Eskigumus Monastery was discovered accidentally in 1964. Its XI-XII<sup>th</sup> centuries frescoes are in excellent condition thanks to modern conservation methods. The colors are somber and the white design on the black columns creates an unusual shimmering effect, as if the columns shine from within.

*Karabash* or *Black Head* has been badly damaged by weather, vandals, and fires lit for warmth, as the caves served as a place of refuge. Soot from fires covered the paintings, and it cannot be removed without damaging the pigment. Hence the name “Black Head”. But it did not touch the wonderful face of Pantocrator on the ceiling, painted in vibrant ochre with dark brown contour lines.

There are several “Snake” churches. The Turkish “snake” refers to the “dragon” slain by St. George, who was Cappadocian. Thus, the Turks have named all the churches with St. George – “Snake churches”. In one of them the snake stretches along the entire wall. In another it is huge and coiled being slain by the two warrior saints – St. George on a white charger and St. Theodore (who slew a crocodile) on a roan. In this church there is a fresco of St. Helena and St. Constantine holding the true cross. Opposite to them are three saints – two in long robes, and the third - V. Onuphrius with a long beard and concentric circles on his chest, denoting well-developed muscles. His only cover is a huge fig leaf. V. Onuphrius was an ascetic, who lived in the desert, and covered his body only with his hair and beard.



The Church of Santa Barbara has the most naive drawings made with red contour lines, painted directly on the tufa. The design separating the pictures is a series of triangles and eight-pointed stars emulating cut stone. Here too one can see Saints George and Theodore with a snake under their horses’ hooves. Above them is a creature that looks like a beetle with a broom-like tail and four legs. No one has been able to identify it, as it symbolises evil one.

The second part of our pilgrimage included visiting the sites of the seven churches of *Revelations*, and those cities which played a leading role in the development of Christianity. Judging by the remains of columns, beams, and various ruins these were beautiful, imposing cities. The most impressive ones are probably Aspendos and Demre.

**Aspendos** of Pamphylia, site of the bishopric of Pamphylia. Four of its bishops attended the four Ecumenical Councils. Apostle Paul visited Aspendos twice.

**Demre** – the modern name for Myra in the province of Lycia is the home of Christianity’s favorite and best known saints revered by Moslems as well. In the West he has become Santa Claus, and in Turkey he is “Noel Baba”. They borrowed the French *Noel* for Nativity and added “baba” means “father”. Thus “Father Christmas” (*Pere Noel*).

(To be continued)

Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky is planning to lead several tours this year. The one to Turkey will take place October 25 – November 6, 2016. His Eminence Archbishop Benjamin of San Francisco and the West intends to join this tour. For details, you may contact Fr. Ilya directly at: 53 Baxter St, Binghamton NY, 13905-2029

Tel: 607-797-1058      <http://orthodoxtours.com>

*Anastasia Aristov*

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## PARISH LIFE:

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### Important dates:

June 9<sup>th</sup> – ASCENSION OF OUR LORD  
June 11<sup>th</sup> – Saturday School Commencement ceremony  
June 19<sup>th</sup> – HOLY PENTECOST  
June 20<sup>th</sup> – Sisterhood Patronal Feastday  
July 3<sup>rd</sup> – July 9<sup>th</sup> – Summer Camp

### From the Desk of Fr. Nazari.

Dear brothers and sisters. Christ is Risen!

Once again I send you my cordial greetings with the feast of the Holy Pascha and taking the opportunity, I would like to express my gratitude to all of you for your greetings and generous gifts on the occasion of my birthday. God save you for your kindness and love to me, a sinner.

I would like to thank all who helped to clean our Temple in preparation for Pascha, for your hard work and time that you were able to devote, for your love not only towards our Temple but first of all towards Our Risen Lord, God and Our Saviour Jesus Christ.

I would like to express my gratitude to all of you who donated and helped to prepare our Paschal breakfast. Pascha celebration was a great success!

I also want to draw your attention to our parish wish list and to thank all who generously responded to our necessity to renew our holy vessels and furniture. Though the donations have been given for the majority of items, we still need donations for the following liturgical items:

- 1) From a set of festal icons (\$1000.00 each):  
Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple, Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem, the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 2) Veneration Holy Cross for the Sunday Holy Cross and Feast of the Exaltation
- 3) Lampadas for the temple icons (28 items) - \$170.00 each
- 4) Lenten lampadas (30 items) - \$150.00 each
- 5) Censer (2 items) - \$300.00 each
- 6) Crosier holder - \$100.00
- 7) Donation box (3 items) - \$300.00 each
- 8) Baptismal font - \$3000.00
- 9) Censer stand - \$1000.00

I want to remind you that all your donations will serve as a gift in the memory of your family members, and tax receipts will be given for all donations.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that this year's Orthodox children's summer camp will be held July 3rd - July 9th, 2016. Registration forms are now available in the church office. Please keep in mind that applications will be due by June 8<sup>th</sup>. Applications for financial aid are also available for those in need and cannot afford to send their children.

Please feel free to contact me via my cell phone and the church office, or via e-mail. God save you all!

E-mail: [fnazaripolataiko@gmail.com](mailto:fnazaripolataiko@gmail.com)

Cell: (818) 213-7176

Office: (323) 666-4977

*Archpriest Nazari Polataiko.*

### From the Treasurer:

Dear parishioners, Christ is Risen!

Thank you for your generosity during the past month. The net loss for April was only (\$3,464).

Please continue to give, especially during the coming summer months when you might be away. We are close to taking credit cards, you can also give through PayPal on the parish website ([www.hvmla.org](http://www.hvmla.org)).

Please continue to keep the Church, your fellow parishioners and the clergy in your prayers.

*Many thanks to the wonderful Flower Ladies (and Man) who continually delight us with their lovely flowers. Pascha 2016 was absolutely one of the best yet!*

*Margaret Dascalu*

### Sisterhood News.

This past month was very busy for the Sisterhood. We made 170 verba bouquets and sold all of them. We enjoyed the many people including, Archbishop Benjamin, who attended our Palm Sunday Lunch. The flowers decorating the Church for Easter were lovely thanks to Margaret Dascalu and her group of workers. All the kulicn we purchased was sold, We also welcomed two new members, Elena Davidson and Nataliya Ostrovska.

We had our beautiful Church Resurrection icon restored in time for Pascha. We also had to repair and install a new drain and faucet in the Parish Hall kitchen.

We are still waiting for the new blue alter server robes to come from Russia.

**Our Patronal Feastday**, the second day of Pentecost, will be **Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm** with a Moleben and a dinner following in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. The charge for dinner will be \$10.00 per person. Please let us know in advance if you plan to attend so enough food is ordered. Call or see Irene Gregory or Tamara Krupenkin on any Sunday previous to the event.

*Irene Gregory*

### Starosta Report

A big thank you to everyone who participated in the Paschal procession, worked selling candles, collecting offerings, and keeping order in the garden. Everything was done with care and love.

The past few months, the Church had many expensive repairs. We re-roofed the south side of the Parish Hall and installed new gutters. This was due to unexpected wind damage.

We had the gutters cleaned in the school building and several downspouts repaired. Serious plumbing issues arose in the men's bathroom and kitchen which needed our immediate attention.

As you may have already noticed, the Parish Hall was soundproofed. Thanks goes to Chris Plourde and his crew for installing the fabric panels on the walls. The amount spent on all these various projects was \$9,916.00.

If any parishioner would like to help towards any of these repairs, just earmark your donation to "Special Projects". Many of you have complained about the noise in the Hall, and this is the time to show your appreciation.

We plan on having work parties on Saturdays after June 11, when the Saturday School ends. We hope you will be able to come and help out. Many hands are needed to keep this property in good condition.

*Leo Gregory*

**Concert and fundraiser dedicated to Sergei Rachmaninoff**

Concert and fundraiser for the benefit of our Parish held on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 was a great success! Many thanks to organizers, sponsors, volunteers and helpers for your support and hard work. To all the performers deep gratitude for giving generously your time and talent. A job well done!

*Fundraising committee*

**Saturday school**

Teachers and parents of our Saturday School will participate in the preparation of the concert dedicated to S.V. Rachmaninoff. Our participation in this event, both in the concert program, as well as in the preparation of drinks and

buffet and the design of the hall will be replaced by regular dinner, which Saturday school prepares every month for the parishioners during the school year.

On June 11<sup>th</sup> at 10 am, after Moleben at the end of the school year, Commencement ceremony will take place in our Parish hall. This year, our students and teachers have prepared a performance dedicated to the feast of the Holy Trinity. The program also includes rewarding of the best students of the school, food and drinks for all participants and guests. We invite all parents, parishioners and everybody who wants to be familiarized with school and its activities!

*Head of Studies, Irina Usova*

**Sunday School.**

Dear parents and families, we will end our Sunday School year with classes on June 12 and June 26. Classes will resume in September after the summer break. Thank you as always for your prayers and support.

*Marie McEntire, Coordinator*

**Summer Camp**

We are looking for lifeguards and male counselors. Anyone interested please see me. Deadline for applications on these positions is June 1<sup>st</sup>. We are accepting applications for campers. Their applications are due no later than June 8th. Thank you

*Marina Burgmeier, Camp Coordinator*

<b><u>BAPTISMS:</u></b>	Taylor Evons Dark .....	April 30
	Jesse Samuel Ehrlich.....	April 30

**Many years!**

**Prayer Request list:**

Tatiana Simakova (in need of a donor kidney)  
 Marina Dobis (in need of a donor kidney)  
 Christopher Apostol, Mary Kokayko, Alexander  
 Maria, Elena, Theodore, Ann Brown

**The Parish Council Would Like to Thank the Following Persons  
 for their BUILDING Fund Contributions**

Bill and Joycelynn Kuyanov .....	200
Natalie Orlov in memory of mother Antonina .....	100
Dr James and Elena Gibbons in memory of parents .....	50

## JUNE 2016

4	Sat	5:00 pm	Vigil	
5	<u>Sun</u>	<u>10:00 am</u>	Liturgy	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Paschal-tide <b>Blindman Week</b>
7	Tue	7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Akathist to Theotokos <i>Meeting of FORUM</i>	
8	Wed	10.00 am <b>7:00 pm</b>	Liturgy <b>Vigil</b>	Leave of Pascha
9	Thu	<b>10.00 pm</b>	<b>Liturgy</b>	<b>ASCENSION OF OUR LORD</b>
11	Sat	<b>10:00 am</b>  5.00 pm	<b>Moleben at the end of the school year; Russian Saturday school Commencement ceremony</b> Vigil	
12	<u>Sun</u>	<u>10.00 pm</u>	<u>Liturgy</u>	7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Paschal-tide Week of Holy Fathers of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council
14	Tue	7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Akathist to Theotokos <i>Meeting of FORUM</i>	
15	Wed	10.00 am	Liturgy	Great Martyr John of Sochava (old calendar)
18	Sat	10:00 am <b>5:00 pm</b>	Liturgy, panikhida <b>Vigil</b>	Soul Saturday
19	<u>Sun</u>	<u>10:00 am</u>	<b>Divine Liturgy with kneeling Vespers</b>	<b>HOLY PENTECOST</b> <b>Holy Trinity</b>
20	Mon	10:00 am <b>6:30 pm</b>	Liturgy, panikhida <b>Moleben on Sisterhood patronal Feastday</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> day of Pentecost – Holy Spirit Day
21	Tue	7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Akathist to Theotokos <i>Meeting of FORUM; Iconography Presentation by Father Nazari</i>	
24	Fr	10:00 am	Liturgy	<b>Nativity of St. John the Baptist</b>
25	Sat	5:00 pm	Vigil	
26	<u>Sun</u>	<u>10:00 am</u>	<u>Liturgy</u>	Week of All Saints
SS. Peter and Paul Fast: June 27-29				
28	Tue	7:00 pm	Vigil	<b>HOLY APOSTLES PETER AND PAUL</b>
29	Wed	10:00 am	Liturgy	

## JULY 2016

2	Sat	5:00 pm	Vigil	
3	<u>Sun</u>	<u>10:00 am</u>	Liturgy	2 <sup>nd</sup> week after Pentecost <b>All Saints of North America and Russia</b>
5	Tue	7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Akathist to Theotokos <i>Meeting of FORUM</i>	
9	Sat	5:00 pm	Vigil	
10	<u>Sun</u>	<u>10:00 am</u>	Liturgy	Ven. Anthony Kiev Cave
12	Tue	7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Akathist to Theotokos <i>Meeting of FORUM</i>	
15	Fr	10:00 am	Liturgy	<b>Gt. Prince Vladimir, Equal-to-the-Apostles</b>
16	Sat	5:00 pm	Vigil	
17	<u>Sun</u>	<u>10:00 am</u>	Liturgy	Great Martyr Marina, St. Lazarus relics
19	Tue	7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Akathist to Theotokos <i>Meeting of FORUM</i>	
20	Wed	10:00 am	Liturgy	<b>Holy Prophet Elias</b>
23	Sat	5:00 pm	Vigil	
24	<u>Sun</u>	<u>10:00 pm</u>	Liturgy	Martyrs Boris and Gleb Great Martyr Christina
26	Tue	7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Akathist to Theotokos <i>Meeting of FORUM</i>	
27	Wed	10:00 am	Liturgy	<b>Great Martyr Panteleimon</b>
30	Sat	5:00 pm	Vigil	App. Silas and Silvanus (70) Martyr John the Warrior
31	<u>Sun</u>	<u>10:00 am</u>	Liturgy	Righteous Eudocimus