

Winter 2022— Number 3



LET GOD ARISE

Journal of Holy Resurrection Monastery in Niangua, Missouri



Let God Arise is written and published by Holy Resurrection Monastery and is free of charge. Please go to the web page, write or call to be added to the email list.

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"The Altar is a Microcosm"



The altar is a microcosm of the Orthodox Christian. As in the Old Testament times, a lamp burns night and day to signify God's presence. In those days, the presence of God was in one place: first in the Meeting Tent and then in the Temple. Wonderfully in the mystery of the Holy Eucharist, Our Lord resides not only on the altar in all of our Churches but also within each of us. Does our light so shine day and night?¹

The Theotokos is the first example of a living tabernacle. Unlike the warning "Don't try this at home," we are commanded to follow her example of the womb unburnt by the Divine fire. We are tabernacles varying in beauty, some gold, others silver, and distinctly ornate yet fashioned for holiness – that is, set aside for a divine purpose. "Eat my body" and "Drink my blood" are not suggestions, neither is the warning concerning rejection of the Holy Eucharist: "Unless you eat my body and drink my blood, you have no life in you."² Have you ever thought of yourself as a living tabernacle? What does "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood, abides in me, and I in him" mean in daily life?³



In the front center of the altar is the folded *antimens*, meaning "instead of or in place of the table." This a cloth that has the burial scene of Jesus depicted on it and the signature of the bishop, meaning his blessing for the priest to serve the Divine Liturgy. During Holy Week a larger burial cloth called a *plashchanitsa* or *epitaphion* is processed around the Church, we pass under it, it is brought into the Church, placed with the Holy Gospels resting on top, and adorned for veneration. Prior to the Paschal Liturgy, this cloth is transferred to the altar and remains there unfolded with the Holy Gospels on top until the Feast of the Ascension.

As baptized Orthodox we could say that we have an internal *antimens*. In between

¹ Lev 24.1-4; Mt 5.14-16

² Jn 6.53

³ Jn 6.57

Divine Liturgies, the *antimens* is folded and the Holy Gospels are placed on top. Nothing is coincidence in Orthodoxy. The words of Jesus Christ, the Word of God, are placed where He becomes invisibly present during the Divine Liturgy. Is this where our *antimens* is placed – under the Holy Gospels? As the Holy Gospels leave the altar in procession, does the Word of God travel with us and guard our lips and senses, keep the door of our heart so that it is untouched, truly holy – set apart for one purpose? Do we prepare daily for the moment during the Divine Liturgy when we will unfold our interior *antimens* as the priest unfolds the *antimens* upon the altar? Remember the prayer at Divine Liturgy: “May the Holy Spirit descend upon us and these gifts here present” and that we are intimately involved with the action taking place upon the altar.



Photo taken before the angelic hymn of “Holy, Holy, Holy...” The Holy Gospels are standing, the antimens has been unfolded, and the diskos with prosphora and the chalice with wine have been placed thereon.

When we “In the fear of God, with faith and love, draw near” there are servers holding a red cloth to protect and preserve the Holy Gifts in the case that they do not make it to their intended destination. In our daily lives, we must do likewise. Holy Confession, the pre-communion prayers, and fasting aid us by assuring that the Holy Gifts reach their intended destination.



As we continue our journey through the Nativity Fast, may we make ready a place for Emmanuel, God with us. At Vespers for the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, we will chant the following verses twice:

“What shall we offer Thee, O Christ, who for our sakes hast appeared on earth as man? Every creature made by Thee offer Thee thanks. The angels offer Thee a hymn; the heavens a star; the Magi, gifts; the shepherds, their wonder; the earth, its cave. The wilderness, the manger; and we offer Thee a Virgin Mother. O pre-eternal God, have mercy upon us.”⁴

The Maker of all the cosmos allows us to offer to Him the humanity of the Theotokos to become incarnate, and she to become the first living Tabernacle of the Son of God. May God grant you all good strength during the Fast and a blessed Nativity.

⁴ The Festal Menaion, translated by Mother Mary and Kallistos Ware, St. Tikhon’s Monastery Press, South Canaan, PA, 1998.

Monastery News

A few highlights since the last publication:

- + This publication was originally scheduled for Pentecost, but it didn't happen. Thank you for your patience. Hopefully, this list and photos will explain.
- + Mother traveled to Chicago to visit with Archbishop Paul in the hospital.
- + The first Holy Pascha with a Divine Liturgy at the monastery was well attended.
- + There have been many guests at the monastery. For example, Mother hosted guests 25 out of 31 days in May.



- + St Luke's in Palos Hills, IL sent a Mission Team in May. Someone from WI tagged along with them and a few from MO and AR helped out, too. They painted the bathroom and hall downstairs, did more repairs to stabilize the stairs, widened the ramp, and many smaller repairs. In between the rain, they also stripped some of the front porch and back rails plus planted some roses.



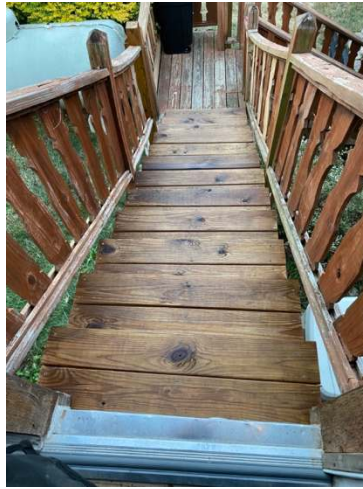
- + Local Youth arrived in the Spring to clean out the gardens.
- + Repairs continue downstairs. Two bedrooms are being furnished. The liturgical closet was painted and is functional. One room has been converted into a much needed workroom for sewing and candle packaging and shipping. The utility room was painted and is currently being repopulated and organized.
- + Mother attended the Kansas City Deanery gathering hosted by Holy Trinity in Overland Park from June 15-16.
- + The driveway was repaired.



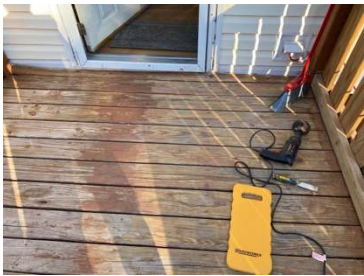
- + The monastery sponsored a Youth Day on July 16 from 10am to 3pm. Parents and children from St Thomas the Apostle in Springfield and Unexpected Joy in Ash Grove enjoyed working, praying, and learning together. Mother had the best assistants leading the Akathist. The project was the cleaning and renewal of a garden area, now known as the children's garden.



- + Thanks to a generous benefactor, the Candle Shop has an efficient mini split. This means that candle dipping is not determined by the weather and candle quality is better maintained.
- + The back steps, stringers, and the new portion of the deck in front of the Chapel entrance was sealed and stained.



- + The entry is finished.



- + More dead trees were removed.
- + Gift Shop offerings were expanded.
- + Thanks to a donation of books, there is a lending library located in the Gift Shop.
- + Mother visits local parishes as she is able. The rising cost of gas will make this more difficult. Consider that 2 parishes are an hour away. Two others are 1 hour and 40 minutes, and another 3 hours.
- + Mother traveled to Chicago to attend the Enthronement of Archbishop Daniel. Many Years, Master!
- + Thank you again to all who have donated their time, talents, and funds for the furtherance of good things at Holy Resurrection Monastery. An up to date needs list is maintained on the monastery website.
- + Please continue prayers for the Diocese of the Midwest: Our Archbishop Daniel, the Diocesan Council, vocations to the priesthood, vocations to Holy Resurrection Monastery, the health of the Fr Peter who serves at the Monastery, and the furtherance of all good things.



- + Please keep those candle orders coming! Many thanks to all the parishes who order. Orders are received by phone, email, text, or the website. holyresurrectionmonastery.org Thank you in advance for supporting the monastery!
- + The Monastery's Donation page now has an option for a one-time or a monthly gift. In addition to your prayers, please consider supporting the monastery in this manner.

<https://holyresurrectionmonastery.org/donate/>



Service Schedule

Also see the Calendar online via the website.

Daily

Except Thursday

5:30am Matins, 1st Hour

4:30pm 9th Hour, Vespers

Sunday Divine Liturgy at the Monastery is canceled while Fr Peter is recovering.

Everyone is asked to use common sense. If you think that you are sick, please stay home and get well.

Use snail mail or submit prayer lists via the website.

Prayer List

(first names only, no nicknames)

Living

Departed



Mail to:
Holy Resurrection Monastery
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