



EASTERN ORTHODOX  
**CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION**  
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## AWAITING THE HARVEST

from the Harvest Festival Committee

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*“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is  
for brethren to dwell together in unity!”*

- Psalm 133.1 -

2018 marks our *fourth* Annual Harvest Festival for our wonderful Annunciation community. If you haven't attended before, mark your calendar for this one, **Sunday, September 30**, right after liturgy. This year we are changing things up a tad with a new menu and schedule. We'll have our long tables beautifully decorated and ready for our Harvest Meal at 12:30 pm but don't leave then, because you'd miss

the games, the songs, the stories, the Russian Tea House, and the Dessert and Pie Winners! Of course, you don't want to miss the saint story at the end of the day.

Fr. Matthew always says that the Harvest Festival is like a day spent *out of time*, a day like the Lord would intend for his followers. Come and enjoy the festivities ~ it's a day to slow down and enjoy one another and our beautiful grounds. If everyone helps out a little bit, we'll all have the time to spend with others. (*cont. pg. 2*)

On the wooden table in the fellowship hall are sign-up sheets for short stints of time, namely for set-up, for both Saturday and Sunday, and clean up.

We can't mention enough how important one part of the day is, the Dessert Contest. There's already a buzz built up from the last 3 years, but this year might prove to be the toughest for our judges. So dust off those prize-winning dessert and pie recipes and enter! Also, we have lots of musicians in our midst, so form a group and offer yourselves in song. Stories and skits are fun ways to get others involved. Please drop Matushka Molly a line at [mollyshw@gmail.com](mailto:mollyshw@gmail.com) to get on the list.

If you are not going to enter the contest, all families need to bring a regular dessert or a salad. Sign up sheets are downstairs. We also need 25 medium or small crock pot inserts and lids that will go on the tables, so help us out. Label your inserts with your family name.

Thank you all!

### Schedule for the Day

12:30 | Harvest Meal  
1:15-2:15 | Music Entertainment  
2:15-3:15 | Games for All  
3:15-4:00 | Russian Tea House and  
Pie & Dessert Contest Judging  
4:00 | Pie & Dessert Prize  
Announcement  
4:15-5:00 | Music, Stories, Skits  
5:30 | Fr. Nicholas / Guest speaker  
5:45 | Clean Up

### Menu

| New Orleans Gumbo |  
| Red Beans and Rice |  
| Roasted Ears of Corn |  
| Potluck Salad |  
| Potluck Desserts |



# ON CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

from Jessalynn Gale

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*Classes for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd began at Annunciation September 9th. The program is for 3-6 yr. olds and is held both on Wednesday mornings (10:00 - 12:00) and Sundays (nearing the end of Liturgy).*

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For a week in June, twenty people from around the country gathered at Annunciation to be trained in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program. Shelley Finkler, from St. John's in Alaska, led the group in learning about the Montessori method and how it can be used to introduce young children into a fuller relationship with God and the church.

One of the principles of Montessori education, as well as of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, is that the environment, not the adult, teaches the child - but the adult is part of the environment. This was a new way of thinking for many of us, and a lot of the work of the training was learning how to best become part of the environment and guide the children to have their own experiences of God.

We completed the first level of training, which focuses on 3-6 year old children, who are drawn to the beauty and joy in the message of Christ. The atrium, or classroom, is set up to meet their need for order, movement, sensory perception, and learning through their senses. We learned to do many presentations for the children, from practical life skills, to parables, to stories from the life of Christ.

One of the unexpected joys of the training was how powerful the atrium and the presentations are for adults, as well as children. We were busy learning to be catechists, but we were also having profound spiritual experiences ourselves as we practiced preparing our prayer table for feasts and participated in presentations on the Good Shepherd. We all left the training eager to begin our work and present these mysteries to the church's young children.

## AROUND THE PARISH

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### *- The Warila Wedding -*

Annunciation was delighted in July to see the marriage of Noah and Emily Warila. It was a true celebration of the church, as food, music, and hospitality were all provided by parishioners for the lovely new bride and groom.

**St. John Chrysostom** said of the power of marriage, “The love of husband and wife is the force that welds society together. Men will take up arms and even sacrifice their lives for the sake of this love. St. Paul would not speak so earnestly about this subject without serious reason; why else would he say, “Wives, be subject to your husbands, as to the Lord?” Because when harmony prevails, the children are raised well, the household is kept in order, and neighbors, friends, and relatives praise the result. Great benefits, both of families and states, are thus produced. When it is otherwise, however, everything is thrown into confusion and turned upside-down.”



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### *- New Catechumen -*

In early August, Annunciation gained a new catechumen in Terry Daniels (pictured left). Terry has been attending Annunciation for a year and is considering being baptized James (Brother of the Lord). When a person is initiated into the catechumenate, the priest prays that the new catechumen would be freed from his/her

former delusions. Surely that freedom does not come from a single prayer, but as **Elder Joseph the Hesychast** noted, “The only hope of the salvation from the delusions and the heresies, the innovations and the traps of wicked people and of the devil, is *prayer, repentance, and humility.*” May Christ have mercy on the catechumen and baptized alike to follow such a path!

*If you have submissions for the newsletter,  
please contact Evan Ziegenfus  
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