

Holy Transfiguration Cathedral Newsletter

349 E 47th Ave., Denver, Colorado, 80216

Holy Week, Holy Pascha & Pentecost, 2003

Archpriest Joseph Hirsch- Dean Archpriest Eugene Tarris- Associate Fr. Averky Davis-Deacon

Phone & Fax- (303) 294 0938 / Email- Jhirsch@sprintmail.com

Web page-www.transfigcathedral.org

Russian Program Follow-up

Anatoly and Kyra Rubtsov visited the St. Nicholas Monastery in Kaluga and delivered our gift of \$3,000 for the care of the young girls. The Matushka Egumena of the Monastery expressed her continued appreciation for the support over the past seven years, by our people and sent back copies of the wonderworking Icon of Our Lady of Kaluga which were distributed to all of those who venerated the Holy Cross at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

Anatoly is now back while Kyra and little Vladimir remain in Russia until Holy Pascha.

Great & Holy Week Schedule

The service schedule for Great & Holy Week is included with this Newsletter along with our Calendars for May and June. Please post these in a convenient place and reference them from time to time as they are provided for your convenience and spiritual edification.

Lazarus Saturday Work Day

Following the Divine Liturgy on Lazarus Saturday, we will, again, gather in the Parish Hall to tie up palms and willows for distribution at the Matins on the Sunday of Palms. We will also decorate the Church for Great and Holy Week. This is a great joy when many hands are involved and can be a burden when a few of us are forced to handle it alone. The work is not expected to take more than an hour and a half or two hours.

Holy Myrrhbearers

When our women (and men) gather to decorate the Temple after the Royal Hours on Holy Friday, they act in the place of the Holy Myrrhbearers. Please Help!

Bright Week Events

Two Holy Days: Great Martyr George and Holy Apostle and Evangelist, St. Mark, fall in Holy Week. We will transfer these Feasts to Bright Monday and Bright Tuesday, respectively. On Monday, following the celebration of St. George, we are invited to visit the St. George Monastery in Denver to share Paschal Joy and the joy of their nameday with Archimandrite Christodulas and the Monastery Brotherhood.

Metropolitan Isaiah Visits the Cathedral

His Eminence, Archbishop Isaiah, Greek Orthodox Archbishop of Denver, visited our Parish on 23 March, the Second Sunday of Great Lent, to preside at the Metro Denver area Pan-Orthodox Vespers. It was a wonderful evening with responses sung by our choir and a wonderful reception following the service. It is planned to make this a regular Lenten event in the Denver area.

Palm & Paschal Flower Fund

Please remember that your donations toward the purchase of Palms, Willows and Paschal Flowers help the sisterhood to provide these important items without having to take money from their charity budget to pay the bills. Baskets for donations will be available through Pascha.

Colored Eggs

Many of our people who were raised in formerly Communist lands, will tell you of the profound symbolic value which red and colored eggs had for believers. Each year, we bless and distribute colored eggs at the conclusion of the Paschal Liturgy. Since we have so many guests at this service, we ask that each of our ladies contribute a dozen red or so

colored eggs for this purpose. These are also distributed at Agape Vespers and taken to shut-ins. Eggs that remain are used to decorate graves on St. Thomas' Sunday.

Kids Candy Hunt

Also, we will have our 19th annual children's candy hunt after the midnight Liturgy. Please bring wrapped candy to the church for distribution. "Easter" candy is often on sale on Monday after the Western Holiday.

Basket Blessings

Pascha baskets will be blessed in the Parish Hall following the Midnight Matins and Liturgy and just before the Paschal Breakfast. We will also bless baskets on the Church Porch following the Vespers Liturgy on Holy Saturday Morning as well as at the conclusion of Agape Vespers at Noon on Pascha. Please remember that flesh meat should never be brought into the Temple!

Tomb Watch

The schedule for the all night "Tomb Watch" from the end of Matins on Great & Holy Friday night till the Vespers Liturgy on Saturday Morning is posted on the Church Porch. We can use several people for each hour. Those who sign up for the early watches are requested to help Father Joseph to prepare the Temple for Holy Pascha.

Holy Week Candles

We need several sets of Candles for each day during Great and Holy Week and, especially for the all night Tomb Watch. The candle list is also posted in the back of the Church. Candles are \$16.00 per set.

Please Remember your donations to the holy week and pascha palm and flower fund !

Churchschool Painting Project

The Parish Council is planning a couple of work days following Holy Pascha. We will be repairing plaster, painting the walls and spraying the ceilings. Help is welcome. See Ben Hirsch to volunteer.

Katherine Milosovich

Returns From Guatemala

Katie Milosovich has brought back many pictures from her IOCC "Mini Mission" in Guatemala. She has sent a letter to the Parish, expressing her appreciation for our support. She hopes to put together a group to return this summer or early fall to extend further assistance to the nuns who operate an orphanage there.

Seminarian News

Alex and Masha continue to do well at St. Tikhon's Seminary. We have had some scheduling conflicts in taking our "First Sunday of the month" collection for seminarians. We have budgeted \$100 a month from the Parish budget for Alex and Masha and are continuing to send this but your designated gifts to the Seminnarian Fund will be greatly appreciated. You can find regular letters from "The Kids" on the Church Bulletin Board. We are hoping to have Alex back to help with camp and to do some computer upgrades for the Church Office, this summer.

We are also very proud of Michael Tarris who will receive his B.A. degree from Regis University and his MDiv. from St. Tikhon's Orthodox Seminary on two consecutive weekends in May.

Also, Tom Lynch has applied for admission to St. Tikhon's next fall. Tom and Kristin and their kids, all of whom are now Orthodox Christians, have been missionaries for most of their adult life and hope to be able to continue service, only now, within the True Holy Orthodox Catholic and Apostolic Church. Please pray for them. Meanwhile, they have both been of great assistance with projects around the Church.

Shift to Bees Wax Candles

It looks as though we will be able to make the shift entirely to beeswax tapers by Holy Pascha. Fr. Nicholas Dotson has guaranteed us a reliable and affordable supply of two or three sizes of 100% beeswax candles and Tom Lynch has upgraded our two large candle stands to hold sand for the more convenient burning and cleanup of these tapers. Many positive comments have been heard about the sweet natural odor and clean burning of the beeswax which is now becoming almost ubiquitous in our Colorado Orthodox Churches of all jurisdictions. Still, you are asked to remember that, for the sake of our carpet and of our Church cleaning crews plastic cups should always be held beneath the flame of tapers when they are being held in the hand for a service.

Sisterhood News

CLEANING CREWS

We have experienced the permanent or temporary loss of some of our cleaning crew members. Church cleaning is a great honor and a most blessed kind of service but we don't like for anyone to have to carry an unfair share of the work. For this reason, we like to have five or six crews to rotate on a weekly basis and to have them all fully staffed. Please see Becky to volunteer. Also, all cleaning crew members are reminded that the Church will require cleaning at least once every day during Great and Holy Week. Please step forward and help.

THANKS

We are grateful to Diana Seurer for making Piroghi for sale on two Sundays in Great Lent. Proceeds are for the funding of Sisterhood projects.

We also thank Sandie Kennedy for all of the pre-Pascha brass polishing.

A REMINDER

The Altar Society reminds you that, before you do your Pascha shopping, you need to purchase your Safeway / King Soopers / Albertsons certificates. You pay face value for the completely negotiable certificates and the Sisterhood makes 5%.

Softball

There is an effort underway to launch a Pan-Orthodox youth softball tournament. It would be co-ed and would involve teams from several area parishes. Those who are interested should contact Katie Milosovich.

Pascha Dinners

After our Midnight Matins and Liturgy on Holy Pascha, we will gather at the Hall for our traditional AGAPE BREAKFAST. Everyone should bring something in their basket to share and we will have two roasted lambs in honor of the feast.

We will also gather for an hour or two on Holy Pascha afternoon, following the noon Agape Vespers to share whatever we bring. Anyone who is willing to read the Gospel in another language at this Service should bring the reading from St. John's Gospel, Chapter 20: verses 19-25 in that language.

Grave Blessings

Again this year, we will make a Cross Procession following Divine Liturgy on St. Thomas Sunday. We will go to the large Troitza where we will bless water, serve a Paschal Parastas and distribute the Artos. We will bless the graves at Riverside Cemetery at 2:00 p.m. and those at Crown Hill at about 3:30 p.m.

On Tuesday of that week 6 May (Radonitza) we will serve the Memorial Liturgy at 9:30 a.m. and then bless the graves at Fairmont at 12:00 Noon. Graves at Mount Olivet will be blessed at Noon on Thursday, 8 May and at Fort Logan National Cemetery on a day convenient to those whose loved ones are buried there. Fort Logan families should talk to Gloria Rogozik to make arrangements.

Many Years!

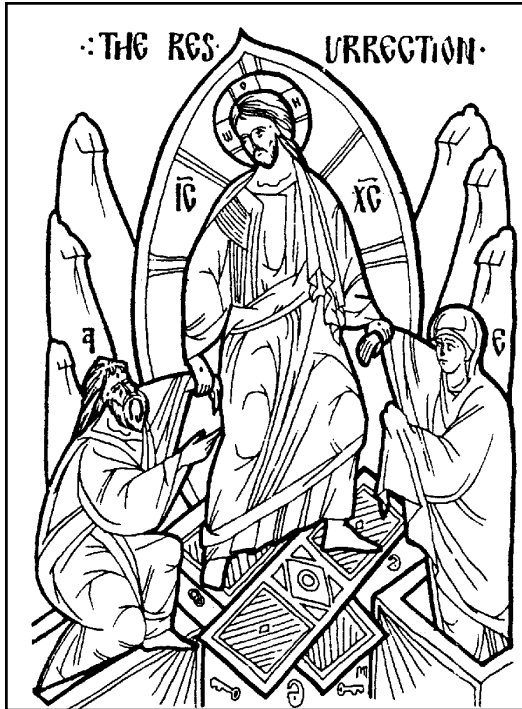
...to Daroah and Tracey Marie Powell upon the Baprism of their daughter Katherine Rose.

...to Reader Anthony and Michelle Dyl upon the Baptism of their daughter, Victoria.

...to Katherine Milosovich and Michael Tarris who are receiving their Bachelors Degrees from Regis University this May.

...to Kenneth and Anita Sarles upon the Crowning of their civil marriage.

...to Berndt (Roman) Myhr and Angela upon their upcoming marriage on 18 May.



Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Cathedral

349 East 47th Ave.

Denver, Colorado, 80216

Archpriest Josrph Hirsch-Dean
Archpriest Eugene Tarris-Assistant
Fr. Averky Davis-Deacon

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

A Blessed Holy Week and Beautiful Pascha to each of
you and to your families.

As we once more prepare to participate in the Mystery of Our Lord's Passion and Resurrection, our thoughts are drawn to our suffering Orthodox Christian Brethren throughout the world. We remember those in Palestine and in the Islamic Near East who live every day either under Israeli occupation or, alternately the tyranny of Muslim marginalization, oppression and persecution. We recall our Brethren in Cyprus, Bosnia and Kosovo whose homes and land have been seised by Turks or their descendents. We ponder the newly liberated Churches of Romania, Albania, Serbia, Macedonia and those in the Former Soviet Republics and Satelite States. We also are drawn to thoughts of the rapidly expanding Orthodox Churches in third world lands where the beauty of The Holy Church contrasts starkly with the stifeling poverty which marks the ordinary lives of the newly converted.

Were these circumstances the whole story or even its major theme, we could easily be brought to despair just as the events of Holy Week could easily crush us if we did not already see past the scourging and Cross to the Empty Tomb and the Upper Room where the Risen Lord appeared through sealed doors to announce the ensuance of Everlasting Peace.

Far from being eccentric or ideosyncratic, the joy which will sweep through all of the dark corners of the Orthodox World in a few days is the only sane, the only possible response of the human soul to the knowledge that Death is not victorious, that Hell is not ultimately triumphant and that The Darkness has done its worst and has failed to overcome or even to comprehend the Light. It is precisely because apparent defeat is swallowed up in total victory, that life flows forth from the Grave and Hope and Meaning are born of the shards of despair and confusion that we and our fellow believers are able even to act purposfully. Indeed, as the existential philosophers, mostly atheists and agnostics, succeeded in demonstrating a decades ago, human existance itself lacks anything but absurdity. An unredeemed life is simply INSANITY. I recall reading that St Nikolai Velimirovic counted his best Pascha ever, indeed the best time of his entire life, to jave been one which he celebrated with his fellow prisoners at Dachau. I also recall the diary of a Russian Priest imprisoned in the Gulag who spoke of the joy and wonder of a Pascha celebrated with a meal at a table which contained a few scraps of bread and some leaves of lettuce.

No, the problem is not for our poor, persecuted, suffering and afflicted Orthodox Christians to keep Holy Week and Holy Pascha with joy. It is, on the other hand, very difficult for us who live in a state of almost perpetual physical comfort and security to transcend the illusion of "Heaven on Earth" of instant gratification to truly feel the need for healing, salvation and deliverence. It is not for our poor brothers' souls that we need to pray this Holy Week but for ourselves and for our children.

Yours in Christ's Victory