

Holy Transfiguration Cathedral Newsletter

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

Christmas, 2002 / January & February, 2003

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Annual Meetin # 105

On Sunday, 3 November, our Cathedral Parish held its one-hundred and fifth Annual Meeting. The Meeting, which started promptly at five minutes before Noon, lasted less than an hour and was a model of a highly informative and zero conflict event.

Reports were received from the Dean, Senior Warden and about a dozen parish officers and departments. Highlighted in the report from Erin Busken, our Strategic Plan Manager, was the need for ongoing re-visitation of our "Plan 2010" to ascertain that we are remaining on track with our fourth major parish plan.

The Parish Council presented a budget of about \$109,000 (an increase of about 11%) for 2003.

Four members, Michael Cahenzli, Jill Cahenzli, Reader Anthony Dyl Esq. and Daroah Powell were elected to fill full three year terms. David Karsen and Tatiana Russell were elected to complete vacant terms.

At a special meeting following the Parish gathering, the Parish Council selected the following officers: Senior Warden- Daroah Powell Junior Warden- Mike Rogozik Secretary- Tatiana Russell Treasurer- Christine Jobanputra

Helena Mickel was elected as Financial Secretary and Gloria Rogozik, Anatoli Rubtsov, Dan Simons & Laura Cahenzli will serve the Parish as Auditors.

A principal goal for the Parish in 2003 is the acquisition of adjacent or

near by property to meet the demands of a rapidly growing Church Community. Special recognition was given to Fr. Eugene Tarris for his work in translation as well as his work assisting Matushka Paulette with the Parish Choir and his ministry with the Slavonic singers and monthly Slavonic Liturgy.

Slava Plans Finalized

Doug and Erin Busken, hosts for this year's Saint Sava festivities, have announced plans for this year's Sunday, 2 February event. Music for the celebration will be provided by the "Tom Allan Variety Band". Many of us will recall how well received this ensemble, whose repertoire ranges from the '40s "Big Band Song" to the ever popular "Chicken Dance" was extremely well received when they entertained at Sam and Anna Ivkovich's 50th wedding celebration last Spring.

The menu will be built around our famous "Sarma" (Sarmale) or traditional cabbage rolls and will include roast pork as well.

As always, a special purpose of the celebration is thank God for the great Saint Sava and for the part played in the history of our parish by Serbian people and culture. This year, we will return special thanks to Our Lord for the venerated Archimandrite Sabastian Dabovich, the first Serbian Priest born in America, the founder of the first Serbian Orthodox parishes in the U.S. and the third Rector of Holy Transfiguration.

We are hoping for a big turnout this year to restore some of the old time festivity to our observation of Serbian Orthodox history and culture.

POST-CHRISTMAS POT LUCK PARTY

On Sunday, 29 December, we will hold our 10th annual benefit luncheon for our "Romanian Children's Memorial Fund". This fund was started to honor the children who were massacred during the Romanian Revolution as well as all of the victims of Communism. Over the years, we have sent thousands of dollars from this fund to worthy charitable projects. We have also used this as a chance to allow Romanian children who were adopted by American families to "Reconnect" with their history and culture.

The Luncheon will follow Divine Liturgy and our annual Children's Christmas Play. There will be gifts for all of our kids and for our guests. Again this year, we are attempting to eliminate overhead by asking each family to bring a festive dish for the holiday buffet luncheon. We will have both holiday and ethnic music. There is no charge but a basket will be available for "free will" donations to our own home grown charity.

OLD RUS HOLIDAY PARTY

Our sixth annual Russian Holiday Party and benefit for the girls of the Kaluga Monastery will be held this year on Sunday, 12 January. This year, we will return to the old days when we all participated in bringing food and performing for the entertainment part of the program. Special entertainment will be provided by the world famous "Planina Singers". Tatiana Everenden is our courier who takes money a couple times a year to this institution for abandoned girls. This is one of our major charities, so let's all try to support it.

Thanksgiving Collection

Thanks to all who supported the various Thanksgiving projects. In addition to our Parish Collection, we provided Thanksgiving dinners to 34 neighborhood families and collected \$600 in grocery certificates for our nuns at Holy Protection Monastery in Lake George, Colorado.

Some Thoughts About Collections

We are all aware that the people of Holy Transfiguration Cathedral are a very generous bunch. Every year, we contribute large sums to help Romanian, Russian and Serbian children as well as to the special charity collections of our "Rocky Mountain Orthodox Missions and Charities" Board. We also collect money for outreach to neighborhood families during the holidays and have both ongoing and special programs to help our local nuns.

In addition to these "Charity Appeals" we are also providing regular support to our seminarians through our Sisterhood and through our monthly second collections. We take offerings for Christmas and Pascha flowers and we are also always requesting donations of candy flowers, candle and so forth. Not to mention, as we regularly do anyway, the baskets we put out at Sunday Coffee Hour luncheons to support Sisterhood charities.

Now all of this is on top of the fact that we have an operating budget which exceeds \$100,000 a year just to support our day to day expenses and programs.

This is not meant to weary you or to pat ourselves on the back. The point we want to make is this. There is, in our Orthodox Faith, no specific obligation to give anything to the Church. We have two general guidelines regarding our material wealth. First, Apostle Paul instructs us that each of us ought to set aside a portion, a percentage, of our increase for an offering at the Sunday Liturgy. He doesn't say what portion but simply, "A proportion". Secondly, there is the general directive not to appear before the Lord "Empty handed" by which we are taught to bring some token of our lives, a candle, a prosphora, a kolach, wheat, wine, oil or money, when we stand before God. This is simply the Sacramental principle that God gives all and we give back a portion in gratitude, which in turn, is given back to us as a channel of Grace.

Sometimes we feel very, "Put upon" by all of the appeals and collections which take place in our Church and sometimes those who are collecting and who feel that their special project is the most important one, can put unfair or improper pressure on us; can try to "Lay a guilt trip on us". We must each remember, however, that none of this is done in "Bad faith or with bad will" and that, ultimately, what we each will give and to what purpose, is a part of our own spirituality. Please make a resolution not to get angry or to feel grumpy or resentful about what you do or give, or even about what is requested. Remember Holy Apostle Paul's further words that, "The Lord loveth a cheerful giver" and do only that giving which The Lord puts into your heart and which you can do with gratitude and love.

"Thine Own of Thine Own We Offer Unto Thee..."



HOLIDAY EVENT SCHEDULE

Saturday, 21 December
Family Church Decorating
Day- 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Sunday, 22 December
Parastas for Victims of the
Romanian Revolution-After Liturgy
Tuesday, 24 December (Christmas Eve)

Royal Hours & Typica- 9:00 a.m.
Vespers Liturgy- 10:30 a.m.
Holy Supper- (Traditional Holiday Lenten Pot Luck) 5:00 p.m.
Nativity Vigil- 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, 25 December (*Holy Nativity*)
Divine Liturgy- 10:00 a.m.
Christmas Pot Luck Luncheon-(After Liturgy)

Thursday, 26 December (*Synaxis of the Theotokos*) Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, 27 December (*St. Stephen*)
Liturgy at 9:30 a.m. (No Fast)

Saturday, 28 December- Children's Play Practice & Pizza Party at 10:00 a.m. Roller Skating party from 12 Noon to 2:00 p.m. at "U.S. on Wheels".

Sunday, 29 December- Matins at 8:45 a.m.

Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

Kids' Christmas Program and Party.

Tuesday, 31 December- Vespers at 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, 1 January, 2003- Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.
(Circumcision & St. Basil)

Friday, 3 Jan., Royal Hours of Theophany at 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, 4 Jan. Parish Hall Clean-up Day
from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Sunday, 5 Jan., Matins- 8:45 a.m., Liturgy- 10:00 a.m.
Great Blessing of Water *

& Lenten Lunch

Theophany Vigils- 6:30 p.m.

Monday, 6 Jan., Theophany Liturgy and Water Blessing
at 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, 7 Jan., (*Synaxis of St. John*) Slavonic Liturgy
at 10:00 a.m. (Pot Luck holiday reception follows)

Thursday, 9 Jan., Deanery Blessing of the Continental Divide
Sunday, 12 Jan., Matins-8:45 a.m. Liturgy-10:00 a.m.

Russian Benefit Party-Noon to 4:00 p.m.

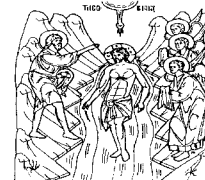
Saturday, 1 February, Set up day for St. Sava
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Sunday, 2 Feb., Matins-8:45 a.m. Liturgy-10:00 a.m.

Slava Service at 11:45 a.m.

St. Sava Celebration from Noon to 4:00 p.m.

* Home Blessings begin on 5 January and run through February. See Matushka Paulette if you want an evening or Sunday appointment.

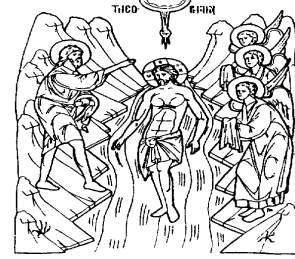




Christmas, 2002 & Theophany, 2003

Christ is Born!
Glorify Him!

Christ is Baptized!
In the Jordan!



Dearly Beloved in Christ,

For the nineteenth consecutive holiday season, Matushka and I wish to express our hopes and prayers that this will prove a joyful and hallowed time for you and your loved ones and that the coming year will find you greatly blessed and surrounded by the Love of God and of your friends and family.

This is the 105th year for Holy Transfiguration Cathedral and our thoughts ought also to turn to prayers and gratitude for all of those who work to give us our Temple and Parish and to keep and preserve it throughout these several generations. One hundred and five Christmases and one hundred and five Theophanies have hallowed our little Church and we pray that future generations will look back in prayer and thanksgiving to us for providing, preserving and transmitting the treasures of Holy Orthodoxy for themselves and their children.

When we arrived here in 1984, there were no more than a dozen children on the rolls of the Church and the average age of a parishioner was about 60 years. Last Sunday, we had about forty children at the Liturgy and our average parish council member is about 32.

With hope that the Holidays will find you near God's Holy Altar and that we may share the joy of our Worship and fellowship with you, we remain:

Yours in the Love of Christ Our God

Archpriest Joseph & Matushka Paulette