

# Holy Transfiguration Cathedral Newsletter

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### *LENT, HOLY WEEK & HOLY PASCHA - 2004*

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#### UPDATE ON PROPERTY ACQUISITION

Our Parish Council is now engaged in negotiations with George Birch in order to purchase the Kulick/Birch property immediately adjacent to our property. We have agreed that we will not resell the property and will be responsible for the homes it now contains in their "As is" condition. We also have a general agreement on how we will finance the purchase. We still have to determine the appropriate price of purchase and have suggested that a couple of neutral appraisers be retained to help establish a basis for negotiation. Some of our parishioners have already begun making special contributions to the "Land Acquisition Fund". This is greatly appreciated because the more money we can put, "up front", the stronger our position will be in financing the purchase.

#### Youth News

Our Rocky Mountain Orthodox Youth Camp will be held from the evening of Sunday, 25 July through Noon on Wednesday, 28 July. This is the first time in years that we have been able to schedule camp outside of a FAST time.

The 25th is our 106th annual Parish Picnic (St. Vladimir's Celebration) and the 20th Anniversary of the Hirsch family's assignment to Holy Transfiguration. Fr. Joe and Matushka Paulette plan to host a big party that day and, then, Father hopes to accompany a record number of campers and adult counselors to Glacier View Ranch for our camping program.

We are able to pay half of the camping fees for any of our regularly attending youths because of the generous funding of our Nikolaev/Burak family youth endowment which, for 18 years has been funded on a, "As needed" basis by Mr. Richard Nikolaev, a child of our community and of Nadjezda Mystkowski and Grandson of stalwart member, Dorothy Burak.

#### WINTER EVENTS A SUCCESS

Three very successful events highlighted our post-Nativity Season this year. First, thanks to Dana and Hannah Gal, our local Romanian folk dancers and all who prepared wonderful dishes, we had a wonderful event for Charity and were able to add substantially to our Romanian Children's Memorial Fund.

Two weeks later, on 11 January, we held our annual, "OLD RUS" holiday party for the benefit of the girls of the Black Lake St. Nicholas' Monastery in Kaluga Russia. The Planina Singers provided the program and entertained with a special program of Russian and Ukrainian music.

Finally, on Sunday, 1 February, we held our 106th Slava and, in spite of bad weather and the Super Bowl, had our biggest success in a decade, receiving almost \$2,500 in income from the dinner.

We are especially grateful to all who helped to make these events work, especially to John and Janet Milosovich who were hosts for this year's Slava and to the ladies who helped to cook for all of these events.

*Emelia, Magda and Adriana preparing food for St. Sava's Day*



#### LUNCHEONS

We have several vacant spots on our Coffee Hour Luncheon Calendar during Great Lent. This is a very great opportunity to prepare a simple and relatively inexpensive meal as the fast precludes Meat, Fish or Dairy products. Wine and oil may be used on all Saturdays and Sundays and fish is allowed on Palm Sunday.

#### 7 Day Lamps

*Kat Jobanputra, John Milosovich, Merle Moriarty and Andrei Piatnitski have all purchased 7 day lamps. for 2004. One lamp remains and may be donated for the year or on a week by week basis.*

#### SISTERHOOD NEWS

The Sisterhood continues to sell their food coupons every Sunday to support their many charitable projects. Parishioners may buy coupons good for full value at Safeway, King Soopers and Albertsons Stores and the Sisterhood receives a 5% bonus for each dollar they spend.

Thanks and many years to Matushka Maria and to the Sisterhood members who provided the luncheon for our 5 February meeting of the Rocky Mountain Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood.

#### CHOIR PRACTICES

Our Choir will hold regular practices for Lent and Holy Week on Thursdays, 4 & 18 March and 1 April. Choir members should attempt to be present for all three of these important practices.

#### PASCHA AGAPE POT LUCK

Paschal Baskets will be blessed following the Holy Saturday Morning Liturgy, after the Paschal Matins and Liturgy at Midnight and following the Agape Vesper at noon on Holy Pascha.

We will also have our traditional lamb roast and Easter egg hunt with our Paschal pot-luck following Holy Pascha Services and an informal pot-luck luncheon following Vespers at 1 p.m. on Pascha.

Fr. Joseph and Matushka are buying one of the two lambs for pascha and someone may wish to donate the other.

#### THEOPHANY BLESSING AT MONARCH PASS

Local Colorado clergy joined with Fr. Joseph for the fourth annual blessing of the snow pack at Monarch Pass on the Continental Divide, Thursday 8 January of this year. Water is blessed that flows into rivers which drain all of North America.



## FINANCIAL SITUATION

When we evaluated our financial reports for 2003 we discovered the cause of our problems. While our giving was up a good 4%, which is right in line with the economy, our costs for utilities, insurance and assessments was up about 12%. This placed us in the red and left us few choices as nothing in the budget; except for clergy support is subject to adjustment on our part.

The months of December and January have been fairly good and it appears that, presently, we are operating in the black for 2004 but we need about \$2,200 a week simply to cover our operating budget. Subsequently, we have asked each of our supporting families to consider adding \$5.00 a week to their normal contribution. If each member is able to do this, we should have no further problems for the time being.

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



## LENTEN CLASSES

We are offering two sets of adult classes during Great Lent this year. On Mondays, 1, 8, 16 & 29 March we will have an overview of the Orthodox view of the Old Testament Scriptures. Classes will be from 7-8 p.m.

On Wednesdays, 3-31 March, from 1 to 2 p.m., we will hold a five part series on Orthodox Morals and Spirituality. Sign up lists are available in the Church for both classes.

## HOLY WEEK & PASCHA PALM, WILLOW AND FLOWER FUND

The Sisterhood will have decorated baskets in the Church and parish hall to receive your contributions to the fund for palms and willows as well flowers which are required to adorn the Lord's Tomb and Temple for our Great and Holy Week and Paschal celebrations. In the past, our people have been very generous for this purpose.

## PASCHA BASKET BLESSING

It is the custom in many Orthodox cultures for families to prepare special baskets for the Feast and to bring these to Church for blessing. These baskets usually include ham, sausage, boiled and decorated eggs, cheese, special rich breads, butter, salt, horseradish, mustard and some other holiday delicacies. Because of the tradition of baskets containing flesh meat, they are not brought into the Church. Since animal sacrifice has ended, we no longer offer "Bloody" oblations in the house where the "Bloodless sacrifice of Christ takes place".

We normally bless these baskets in the Church Hall or on the porch of the Temple. We have three times for basket blessings. First, after the Great and Holy Saturday morning Liturgy: the "First Resurrection", secondly, after the Saturday Midnight Matins and Liturgy when we gather in the Parish hall for an Agape meal with traditional roasted lamb and share with one another from our baskets. At this gathering, we also have a Pascha Candy Egg hunt for our children. The third blessing takes place following the Agape Vespers, which, this year, we are moving to 1:00 p.m. An informal potluck luncheon follows this service in the parish hall.

## CHURCH PRESERVATION PROJECT

When we celebrated our Centennial in 1998 we were praying for a \$100,000 endowment fund to preserve our historic buildings. It seemed only right that we should not launch out on a new century of development without providing for the maintenance of what was provided for us by the parishioners of the last century. Anyway, we were able to provide this endowment through the generosity of one descendant of an early family, Mr. John Krodsen.

As part of our preservation program, we sought and obtained some time ago, historical designation by the Colorado Historical Society. Now, the Historical Society has a program of grants in place specifically to assist in the preservation of historical places of worship. We had already been told by the Society that we have the best Church website in Colorado but were surprised when a newspaper article about the new grant program specifically mentioned ours as a Church worthy of preservation.

Subsequently, Matushka Paulette contacted the Historical Society and obtained a copy of the grant application. We are now engaged in stage #1 of the program, which involves our obtaining a \$10,000 architectural grant to find and provide remedies for structural problems and deterioration in our Temple. If all goes well, we will be eligible for a second grant of \$100,000 to \$200,000 to restore the building as much as possible to pristine condition. When we get to this stage, we will need to provide a 25% cash match to the state funds which means that every dollar we invest in our Church will leverage \$3 in State historical preservation funds. When we arrive at this point, we will be soliciting some donations from our people so that we do not have to drain our endowment fund to meet the match. Fortunately, the endowment which David Hirsch has been managing has had outstanding earnings but we hope to use our interest and dividends on this investment to help make the down payment on the Kulick/Birch property.

We will keep you advised as events develop.

## PAN-ORTHODOX VESPER SERVICES

As you will discover on our March Calendars, we will again be participating in Sunday Evening Mission Vesper Services around the state. However, our first such service will be held on Sunday, 29 February at Holy Assumption Greek Orthodox Cathedral. His Eminence, Metropolitan Isaiah will preside and a reception will follow the Vespers.

The rest of the schedule will be as follows:

Sunday, 7 March, we will take our traditional place as the host cathedral of "The Second Sunday of Orthodoxy" the Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas. We will also host a Lenten reception and ladies will be contacted to request assistance in preparing and serving food.

14 March (*Holy Cross*) we will go to Holy Theophany Church in Colorado Springs, 21 March (*St John of the Ladder*) will be observed at Holy Dormition Church in Calhan. And 28 March (*St. Mary of Egypt*) will conclude our series at St. Herman Church in Littleton. All services will begin at 6:00 p.m.



## HOLY LENT & HOLY PASCHA, 2004



Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Lent, as we know, is a time for growth in Spiritual and moral perfection. Fasting from various foods is just a portion of our stewardship of all that we are and all that we have. It's simply the experience of the Holy Church, that if people are able to take control of what they eat, they can, in all likelihood, have pretty good control over the rest of their lives.

I have written and rewritten this letter to try to get across a few simple points without making people angry or boring them to death. I have finally decided that the best way to handle it is simply to be straightforward. I don't have any idea how much money any of our people give because it is all handled, by number, by our Treasurer and Financial Secretary and, anyway, I have no need to know. I do believe that many of our people, especially older ones are very generous in their stewardship. I believe that some of our people do little or nothing to help support our maintenance, operation and programs and I believe that most of us who are supporters of the Church can and should do more. The problem is our tendency to see our giving to the Church as a financial rather than as a spiritual issue. As a result, the entire Church family has to suffer from the same kind of anxiety, frustration and internal tension, which afflicts any family when money is, chronically short. So, for perhaps one time to many, here are some things to think about.

It is a blessing, a gift, to be able to share with our God a portion of all that He has given to us. It is a spiritual crime, a personal sin to be mindless of God's invitation to live in dynamic partnership with Him. The Gospels are full of such statements as, "Lay not up treasure for yourself upon earth." "You can not serve God and Money." "It is more blessed to give than to receive." and so forth. There is no set tithe in the New Testament because we live under Grace and not under law but there is an imperative, a directive to give to God in proportion to His generosity toward us. From the beginning of our congregation up to the depression, the norm for our people was a 10% voluntary tithe and had this not been the case, certainly, the eleven or twelve founding families, all of them headed by manual laborers would NEVER have been able to purchase our property and build our temple and, ten years later, our rectory and old schoolhouse.

As much as I think about these things, still, the thought that I will alienate someone from the Church by tempting them to believe Satan's whispered word that, "That priest talks about money all the time." makes me shudder., I just have to trust that you, have known me well enough and long enough to know what is in my heart and to know that it is not a "Con" or a "Scam" when I say that, although a few of our people are giving sacrificially, most of us are not doing what we ought to be doing to support the Church and many of us are doing sinfully little. So, as I said at the start, Lent is a good time to deal with our need for moral and spiritual growth. What are we going to do about it?

Yours in the Love of Christ,

Proto Joseph