

Holy Transfiguration Cathedral Newsletter

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

PENTECOST & SUMMER (June-August) 2004

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ORTHODOX FOOD FESTIVAL

Our parish is really coming together to make a success of what we hope will be a long future of successful Orthodox Food and Ethnic Cultural Festivals. July 24th & 25th will be the dates and our beautiful grounds and adjacent Argo Park will be the venue for our exposition of the delicious cuisine, art, music and crafts of the cultures of Eastern Europe which have founded and constituted our Parish over the past 106 years.

The Festival is a major undertaking, which should bring thousands of people to our historic Cathedral, and its success will require the help, support and efforts of ALL OF OUR PEOPLE.

We plan to have tours of our Temple, concerts of sacred and secular music of Eastern Europe, folk dancing and dance instruction, cultural displays and gifts from a half dozen of our constituent cultures.

People in the Denver media and political arena who have heard of our plans seem to be very excited about the project of a new Ethnic Festival, which, they expect in time to become a fixture of the summer season in our area.

We are calling this an "All hands on deck" event. Everyone who cares about the future of our Parish will need to help by cooking, working, manning booths, or contributing start up money for the event. Matushka and Fr. Joe have already put up \$600 for the purchase of food and other items. We have received \$900 for live entertainment and Chris and Kat Jobanputra are do-

nating a bunch of "Easy-up" tents for the event. The Planina singers and their Balkan band are offering to entertain at a discount and the Romanian Community has rescheduled its annual Boulder festival from the 24th to the 10th of July so that they can cooperate with us in the monumental event. This is an historic event in the life of our parish and those who care will be involved.

CAMP APPLICATIONS

Are available for Rocky Mountain Orthodox Youth Camp, July 25-28 at Glacier View Ranch near Boulder. The Church will pay 1/2 of the \$110 fee for parish children who wish to attend. Applications should be in by the end of June. Checks to "Holy Transfiguration Cathedral" should accompany the applications as we must collect all of the money and write one check to the camp. If any family is unable to pay half of the camp fee for their child or children, they should discuss this with Fr. Joseph and we will try to arrange some scholarship. We need one adult helper for every three or four campers we send.

The camp this year will begin on the evening of the second day of our food festival and children will have the opportunity to run games on Saturday and Sunday to help earn money for the Youth fund. We are also hoping that parents from the Southern parishes will stop by and participate in our Festival on their way to take their children to camp. Fr. Joseph plans to be at camp this year and Bishop Benjamin will join us for part of the camp.

A NEW BISHOP TO VISIT

His Grace, Benjamin, Bishop of Berkley and Auxiliary to His Grace, Tikhon, will spend some time with us

at the end of July and the beginning of August. We expect to have His Grace join our campers on the 26th or 27th of July and then travel around the Deanery and visit parishes here and on the Western Slope. He plans to be back here for our Vigil of the Transfiguration on 5 August after which we will host an informal reception. On the Feast day, Friday, he will serve the Divine Liturgy and join us for our Lenten potluck Feast day luncheon. He will be back for Vespers on Saturday evening, 7 August and will serve the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning. We need someone to prepare a Lenten luncheon that day.

If you haven't had enough Hierarchical stuff, you can join us for Vespers of St. Herman's Day on Sunday evening the 8th and for Liturgy the next morning as we celebrate the Feast day of our daughter parish in Littleton. Since, after all, we are the Cathedral, it is both our honor and duty to host and care for our junior hierarch as he visits our Deanery.

New Table of Preparation

Many years to Kat and Chris Jobanputra who were the first of three families to offer to pay for the making of our new Prothesis (Table of Preparation). Fr. Anthony Karbo has taken measurements and purchased materials so the new furniture should be finished and installed in our Holy Altar by our Feast day if not sooner.

Youth Softball

Many of our young people are involved in softball leagues and at their request we have asked our nemesis, St. Mary's Calhan, for a game. We have also challenged St. Peter & Paul's in Boulder and St. Herman Parish to set a time and place. Young adults who are interested in playing should see Joe Hirsch.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

The Parish Council will soon be sending out some educational material about our Church finance to our 105 active families. Briefly, we have two issues. First, only 72 of our households are really supporting the Church at all. Secondly, our level of support per household has gone up about 2% a year over the last decade while personal income, generally, and our cost of operation have gone up much faster. It is strange to be such a fine and generous parish and yet to be afflicted with a chronic cash "crunch".



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

CHURCH PRESERVATION PROJECT

We have already received our first donation toward the matching grant we anticipate receiving for our Church Preservation Project. It was a \$500 gift and will leverage at least \$2,000 more in historic preservation grants. This is a great cause for some of our distant family members and descendants of our founders, to take up.

TRANSITIONS

Many Years...

-To Ruth Karen Wood, who will be departing at the close of the month for St. Barbara's Monastery in Santa Barbara, California, where she will become a Seeker testing her monastic vocation under Abbess Mother Victoria.

-To Reader Michael Tarris who has received a complete support scholarship to study at the Oriental Institute of the Pontifical College in Rome. This is a three year Doctoral program and Michael needs to be there ready to begin Italian lessons the first week in July.

-To Tatiana Russell and Kyra Rubtsov, who have both been admitted to an elite PhD program at the University of Colorado School of Health Sciences. Thankfully for us, both will be able to remain in Denver.

-To Martin Graham, eldest son of Reader John and Marjorie Graham, who is scheduled to be inducted into military service on 13 June. We will do the blessing of armed forces for Martin on Sunday June 6th.

-To Newly Chrismated Servant of God James Hartenbower and his wife, Antonina who were crowned in Holy Marriage on Sunday, 16 May and to John Fredericks and Kimberly Beethe who will be crowned in Holy Marriage on Sunday, 11 July at 1:30 p.m. and who invite the entire Parish Family to their wedding and reception.

- To the newly illumined Servant of God, Dr. Igor Zotikov, who was Baptized on Saturday, 1 May. He is currently a professor at C.U. and is a member of the Russian Academy of Science.

- To Fr. Michael and Matushka Elizabeth Lilianstrom. A former Swedish Lutheran pastor and newly ordained Deacon of the Serbian Orthodox Diocese of Northern Europe, he recently spent two weeks with us while visiting his family in Denver.

SISTERHOOD NEWS

The New Stove Project was a big success. With purchasing an extra set of racks, putting rolling casters on the stove for easy cleaning and paying for the transportation and installation of the stove, the whole project came to \$2,900 and we raised the money in about three weeks. Thanks to all of the ladies who broke open their piggy banks to fill our "Change our Stove" jar. Thanks to Nick Fotinos who lent his professional expertise in choosing the right stove and to Diana Seurer, who spent almost three days cleaning up and preparing the kitchen for its arrival.

The Lawn Sale is just around the corner now it is time to bring in your good salable items. Books, movies on video, jewelry, objects of art, old (antique) items and baby furniture are among the big sellers. Matushka Maria invites everyone to come up on Thursday night, June 3rd, before the sale opens to the public, to help put out the items and to have the first option on anything they may wish to purchase. If you have any friends in the restaurant business or who feed a small army, we have a good "Old" stove with six burners, griddle and two ovens which we will let go for the best reasonable offer.

Prospora baking is one of those things Fr. Joe no longer has to worry about. Every couple of months, Sandie Kennedy comes to the hall for several days and bakes about 500 small loaves; Luminitza, Magda and Peggy keep us stocked with the larger loaves required for Sunday and Holy Day liturgies. Ladies wishing to help should see one of these ladies for instructions and Fr. Joe to obtain the special seal and blessing to bake Holy Bread.

THE CHOIR has several scheduled practices in June and July to prepare for our Name day services on 5 & 6 August and for the Vespers and Hierarchical Liturgy on Saturday & Sunday, 5 & 6 August.

NEW NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP

After three years in which factions more or less quibbled over neighborhood leadership and Matushka and Fr. Joseph backed away from the conflicts, a group of neighborhood residents and service providers decided to start a new registered neighborhood group called "Globeville United Neighborhood Group & Home Owners" (GUNGHO). They have asked once more to be able to use our Parish Hall for their bi-monthly meetings. They have also elected Matushka to serve as the President of the group in its formative stage. She had served in the past for nine years as President of the former neighborhood association.

FOOD FESTIVAL PLANNING

Our first Orthodox Food Festival is scheduled for 24-25 July and planning efforts have been underway at a semi-frantic pace to make up for the lead-time these events usually require. The Planning Committee is meeting every other Sunday (6 & 20 June, 4 & 18 July) and in between as needed. We need all kinds of skilled and unskilled workers. Souvlaki stickers, bread bakers, sausage makers and everything imaginable to make this the first rate kind of event that will cause people to want to return and that will give them a positive introduction to our Church as well as the various mother cultures of our people. Please see Erin Busken, Diana Seurer or a Matushka - to offer your help. There is a black and white poster in this newsletter and you can download and print a full color one on our Web site. Let's each put one up somewhere.



Holy Transfiguration Cathedral HOLY PENTECOST & SUMMER- 2004



Dearly Beloved in Christ,

While the summer months are considered by most of us to be a time of diminished activity and for increased rest and relaxation, our Church Calendar for these languid days is a veritable treasure trove of sacred celebrations and of Spiritual Riches. Beginning with the Great Feast of Pentecost we continue through All Saints' Sunday and All Saints of North America to reflect upon the men and women who have shown with the Resurrection Light in every generation. Passing through the brief fast of Ss. Peter and Paul we are invited to triumph with these chief Apostles as they witness with their blood to the life transforming power of the Cross. Ss. John Maximovich, Vladimir & Olga, Anna and Elias shine like the Summer sun to illumine our July while three Feasts of Our Lord and one each of His Holy Mother and the Forerunner are scattered like stars in the August firmament. Even the anticipatory fast of Our Lady's Dormition is mitigated by the Great Feast of Our Lord's Transfiguration, our own Feast.

It is beginning to look like our Glorious Liturgical activity this summer will be paralleled with an unprecedented level of personal involvement in the communal life of our Parish. The Parish Council has formed a new resolve to increase broad involvement of our people in the life of the Community. Part of this is a call to new and mature commitment in financial support of the parish. We have three big events planned for the summer. A yard sale during the fast free week after Pentecost. A massive and broadly advertised transition of our old picnic into a two day ORTHODOX FOOD FESTIVAL flowing over from our beautiful property into the adjoining Argo Park, and a two week visit including four sacred services with our newly consecrated Auxiliary Bishop Benjamin.

With all that is going on, we will scarcely have time for much rest but should experience lots of joy in the diversion from our normal pursuits which this summer's Church Calendar offers. We should also all be rewarded with a great deal of satisfaction in coming together as a community to take on, at last, a real adult burden of building up our Church. We may also, if God wills, be rewarded with the joy of having participated in and produced some wonderful events. We will not be able to revert to those old patterns where we lay back and let others do the work or even where we do a good job and then rest for a long time on our laurels. All summer long, preparation for each event will need to be underway even before the previous event has been completed.

Already, we have some rewards in hand. Our "two month" campaign to collect \$2,900 for the purchase of a really good stove for our Hall kitchen was oversubscribed within three weeks. The stove is in place. Our request for a donation to build a new Table of Preparation was met by three offers to cover the cost within three days and one of the families just said, "Well, then, use the money for something else you need". We are now preparing to purchase a new large refrigerator with room for our big pans and trays and, before we could ask for donations, Steve Dawson asked to purchase this from his Mother's memorial fund. But, most recently, we have been awarded a \$9,500 architectural inventory grant by the Colorado Historical Society, accompanied by the assurance that we will be eligible for hundreds of thousands of dollars to complete the historic repair and preservation of our 106-year-old Temple. We were even featured in the Sacred Structures periodical of the Historical Society.

What the parish council came to realize is that our main problem has been complacency. When nothing was falling apart, our Church is full on Sundays, our music is good and we can move money around to cover what our people don't choose to give, it is easy for us to become complacent. In the Book of Revelation, however, Our Lord speaks these words to one of the seven Churches of Asia, "I would that you were either hot or cold, but since you are neither hot nor cold I will spit you out of my mouth." The message is clear! There never has been and isn't now any place for uncommitted or, "luke warm" half committed people in an Orthodox Community. During our planning process, we had a motto from the Scriptures: "Were there is no vision, the people perish". I recently visited a sister Greek congregation where they had added: "Where there is a Vision, the people build their Parish". And, please note, it is the People who, together with God, build.

Yours in the Love of Christ,