

Holy Transfiguration Cathedral Newsletter

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

Christmas, 2003 / January & February, 2004

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ANNUAL MEETING #106

It took only 55 minutes but everyone who had been around long labeled it, "The best parish meeting ever". Someone said, "We haven't had this many people since the old days when they came to fight". Well, there weren't any fights, but there were a number of "Firsts".

For the first time, all of the reports were copied in advance so that no lengthy oral presentations were needed. For the first time, we not only expressed our intention to purchase the adjacent property but some of us put our money where our votes were by pledging almost \$40,000 to facilitate the purchase of that property. And the council that we elected met the next Sunday to elect Erin Elizabeth Buskin as the first female and first "Twenty-something" Senior Warden in 106 years. We are very grateful to Daroah Powell who served as Senior Warden for almost a decade and who continues to serve on the Parish Council and as an elected member of the Diocesan Council.

If there was any dark cloud hanging over the meeting it was the shortfall in the parish financial statement, which raised doubts about our ability to meet even the slight increase in the adopted 2004 budget. Still, as the meeting was gavelled to a close, optimism and enthusiasm were the prevalent attitudes.

The New Council members and parish officers will be installed on Sunday, 11 January, following the Liturgy

SLAVA 2004

The 106th Annual St. Sava's Day will be held on Sunday, 1 February. John and Janet Milosovich will be the Hosts this year and the "Tom Allan Variety Band" will provide music. Every year, our guests comment about the quality of our food. This is the oldest and largest Serbian Celebration in the State and honors, year by year, the founders and pioneers of our Parish Community.

POT LUCK PARTY AFTER CHRISTMAS LITURGY

As we have done the past several years, we will hold a pot luck reception and luncheon in the Parish Hall, immediately following the Nativity Liturgy. Everyone is invited to come over and share a bit of food with your brothers and sisters before taking off for your Christmas Day plans.

SISTERHOOD NEWS

Calling Tree

We are instituting a Calling Tree for the Altar Society in order to get out the word about, funerals, projects and requests for prayer.

Evergreens and Christmas Flowers

We will be collecting for Holiday flowers and evergreens for our Nativity Celebration. Money that is contributed will save the Sisterhood the funds which can then go for their many worthy charity projects.

The 2004 Coffee Hour List is posted on the Sisterhood Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall.

CHOIR PRACTICES for Lent are set for 14 & 28 January & 11 February. We will be hosting pan-Orthodox Vespers on Sunday, 7 March.

POST-CHRISTMAS POT LUCK

On Sunday, 28 December, we will hold our 12th 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 and, over the years, we have sent thousands of dollars from this fund to worthy charitable projects.

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 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.

"OLD RUS" HOLIDAY PARTY

Our eighth annual Russian/Ukrainian Holiday Party and benefit for the girls of the Kaluga Monastery will be held this year on Sunday, 11 January. Special entertainment will be provided by the world famous "Planina Singers". We will also have our special Auction which was so entertaining and popular last year.

THEOPHANY HOME BLESSINGS

We will begin Home Blessings immediately after the Great Blessing of Water on 5 January and will continue through mid March. The early arrival of Holy Lent this year means that we will be having less time in which to do our Blessings. Father Joseph will not be teaching this winter to allow more flexibility in making visits but those who wish to have a dinner visit should make an appointment with Matushka soon.

CHRISTMAS GIFT for OUR NUNS

Last year we were able to provide \$600 in grocery certificates for our nuns at Holy Protection Monastery in Lake George, Colorado. We suggest that each family purchase and donate a \$10 or \$25 "Cert" toward this project this year. We will be collecting these up to Sunday, 14 December.

2003 FINANCIAL CRUNCH

After having had several years of ballanced budgets, we are now in our second year of "Deficit spending". It is clear that this has nothing to do with a decline in Church life as our attendance and membership continue to grow. More than likely, it is a function of anxiety about the national economy following the events of 9/11. We would adjust for this if we had any items we could cut but, except for the Priest's Salary, (which has only received a "cost of living" increase in the past two budgets) items in our budget are beyond our control. Perhaps, now that the GDP and DOW are up, interest rates remain low and unemployment is falling, we will all feel a bit more secure in our personal lives and may even have need of a bigger than anticipated tax deduction at the end of this year. But, whatever your situation, we can not borrow from our maintenance fund for much longer, which makes our situation a serious one. We need your prayers and whatever else you can do to help.

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



2004 LAMPADA LIST

The 2004 list for 7 day Lamps and for the large pillar candles is posted on the bulletin board at the candle stand.

SNOW PACK BLESSING

Our clergy will conduct the fourth annual blessing of the snow pack on the Continental Divide at Monarch Pass on Thursday, 8 January. Those who are interested in this event should see Fr. Joseph.

DENVER AREA CLERGY MEETING

The Orthodox Clergy of Colorado, Wyoming and Western Nebraska will meet at our Parish on Thursday, 22 January. We will be expected to provide a luncheon that day.

CAMP DATES SET

Our 2004 Rocky Mountain Orthodox Youth Camp will be held at Glacier View Ranch from 25 to 28 July. We will leave from Church right after our picnic on Sunday the 25th and hope to have over 30 participants from our Parish this year.



HOLIDAY EVENT SCHEDULE

Saturday, 20 December
Family Church Decorating Day
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Sunday, 21 December
Matins & Liturgy (*Play practice*)

Wednesday, 24 December (Christmas Eve)
Royal Hours & Typica- 9:00 a.m.
Vespers Liturgy- 10:30 a.m.
Nativity Vigil- 6:30 p.m.

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

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

Saturday, 27 December (*St. Stephen*)
Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.
Children's Play Practice & Pizza Party at 11a.m.-4p.m.
Roller Skating party from 2-4 p.m. "U.S. on Wheels".

Sunday, 28 December (*Ss. Joseph, David & James*)
Matins at 8:45 a.m. & Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.
Kids' Christmas Program and Romanian Party.

Wednesday, 31 December- Vespers at 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, 1 January, 2003- Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

(Circumcision & St. Basil)
Monday, 5 Jan., (*The Eve of Holy Theophany*)
Royal Hours & Typica- 9:00 a.m.
Vespers Liturgy & Great Blessing of Water- 10:30 a.m.
Vigil- 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, 6 January
Theophany Liturgy and Water Blessing at 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday, 7 Jan., (*Synaxis of St. John*)
Slavonic Liturgy at 10a.m. (Pot Luck holiday reception follows)

Thursday, 8 Jan., Deanery Blessing of the Continental Divide
Sunday, 11 Jan., Matins-8:45 a.m. Liturgy-10:00 a.m.

Russian Benefit Party-Noon to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, 31 January, Set up day for St. Sava
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Sunday, 1 February, 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, 2003 & Theophany, 2004

Christ is Born!
Glorify Him!

Christ is Baptized!
In the Jordan!



Dearly Beloved in Christ,

This will be our 20th Christmas in Denver and every year we have sent our best wishes to you through this Parish Letter.

The most memorable event of 2003 will certainly be our annual meeting in November where about fifty of our supporting members enthusiastically joined in the vision of acquiring the adjacent Kulick property, which has been a spiritual extension of our land since before there was a temple on this lot. Your Parish Council is now heavily engaged in negotiations to obtain this land from the family at a fair and reasonable price and, honestly, it has become clear that the family wants the property to become a permanent part of the Parochial Patrimony almost as badly as we do.

The day of our meeting, about \$40,000 was pledged toward this purchase and that is with most of our people not even aware that pledges and checks were being made. I, personally, had delusions of, perhaps, retiring in five years on my 65th birthday but, when Matushka Paulette pledged \$3,000 a year "For the next ten years." I was quickly disabused of that idea. Thus, it now appears that, with Vladyka's acquiescence and God Willing, you will be receiving Nativity epistles from the Hirsches for, at least another decade.

Indeed, it is our hope to live to see the new and ample Temple erected next to our little historic one and thus, to behold the vision of our Globeville Pioneers vindicated and fulfilled.

I still don't know how this will happen. I refuse to launch the kind of fundraising which turns what should be seen as an honor and a joy into an obligation and a burden. I do know that I prayed and asked, in 1998 for \$100,000 to endow our historic building on its 100th birthday and, before long, one person contributed the entire amount. I also know that, if a parish which was reckoned almost dead in 1984 can elect Parish Council of 12 members, 7 of whom are under 35 years of age and 4 of whom, including our wonderful new Senior Warden Erin Buskin, were toddlers when I arrived here in that year, then nothing need stand in the way of all of the rest of our hopes, prayers and dreams.

Indeed, we can do all things through Jesus Christ who dwells in us and is among us. May you and your family have a blessed and joyful Feast of Our Lord's Holy Nativity!

Yours in the Love of Christ Our Incarnate God,
Archpriest Joseph & Matushka Paulette
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