

Holy Transfiguration Cathedral Newsletter

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

HOLY WEEK & HOLY PASCHA & PENTECOST (April, May & June) 2004

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New Idea For Picnic

For as long as we have had a parish, we have had a Summer parish picnic. By tradition, this picnic falls on the last Sunday of July, both because it falls just prior to the Nativity Fast and to our parish Nameday and because it falls near the Feast of Great Prince Vladimir of Kiev, whose feast our founders were forbidden to celebrate under the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Originally this was a big occasion and people from all over the state would come to participate.

Now, however, that we serve a meal every Sunday, the picnic has become just another parish event and even just a big outdoor coffee hour.

In order to try to put some of the old pizzazz back into the picnic and even to give it new direction and purpose, the Parish Council has come up with a creative idea. We plan to turn our PICNIC into an ETHNIC FESTIVAL. We hope to have each of our traditional Ethnic and cultural communities: Greeks, Romanians, Russians, Ukrainians Western U.S. and perhaps our new Eritreans, set up a booth, decorate it with informative and interesting cultural artifacts, and prepare and serve some of their own traditional PICNIC cuisine.

We can produce an educational pamphlet about our parishes and its component cultures. We can invite local entertainers from each culture to come and share part of their own tradition and folklore. We may want to roast a couple of lambs and or pigs for atmosphere and for good eating. We, then, can advertise the event in the whole Denver Community and bring in a larger public to learn about our People and Parish and to contribute money toward our many ongoing projects.

Fr. Joe and Matushka have offered some "Up-front" money for the project in honor of their 20th anniversary at Transfiguration but we will need many parishioners to plan the event and even

more to make it all work. We have started a planning committee starting with our Senior Warden, Erin Busken, Diana Seurer and Matushka Paulette. We need volunteers to work with them and we need to get a plan for the festival underway since 25 July will be upon us before we know it.

Someone called this idea "A taste of Orthodoxy" and that is true in more than one way since our guests will be exposed to a taste of our delicious food, of our Orthodox Faith and of the various cultures of which our community is composed.

Camp 2004

We will have our Rocky Mountain Orthodox Youth Camp between Sunday evening, 25 July and Wednesday afternoon, 28 July. We are able to fund half of the tuition for our participating children. This is done through our Burak Family Youth Trust funded by Richard Nikolaev.

Our children are welcome to participate in project such as our upcoming yard sale and the picnic to add to the available funds. This year, Fr. Joe plans to go to camp and hopes to take the largest group of campers and helpers we have sent in several years. Applications should be available by Pascha.

A NEW BISHOP TO VISIT

On Wednesday, 17 March, the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, elected the Vr. Rev'd Archimandrite Benjamin (Peterson) as Bishop of Berkley California and Auxiliary to His Grace, Bisop Tikhon. As one of his first official visits prior to his consecration, Archimandrite Benjamin will visit Denver and serve the Presanctified Liturgy in our Temple at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, 31 March. After the Liturgy, we will have a Lenten potluck dinner in the Hall and everyone who is able to do so is encouraged to be present to pray with our newly elected Bishop and then

to meet and share food with him. Bishop Benjamin will be consecrated at Holy Trinity Cathedral in San Francisco on Saturday, 1 May, of this year. Anyone wishing to make a consecration gift to the new Bishop can give a check to Chris Jobanputra marked for "Consecration Gift."

New Table of Preparation

While our Holy Table is made of the best Mahogany our Table of Prothesis (Preparation) is a cabinet made of particle-board. It is not only too small for our needs but it lacks usable storage space and, moreover, is falling apart. Fr. Anthony Karbo, who carved our Troitza and made the cabinets for our Holy Altar, has agreed to make us a new Prothesis Table built into our Altar and crafted from good materials for \$500. We need a benefactor for this sum so that we can tell Fr. Anthony to start working.

New Analois

Thanks to Kat and Chris Jobanputra, and through the labors of Fr. Anthony Karbo, we have two beautiful little Analogia or Icon stands for our children. The kids seem to love being able to venerate the Holy Icons without having to beg someone to hoist them into the air. The Holy Icons on these stands are the beautiful wedding icons left to our parish later Luba MacMaster.

Youth Softball

For years we have conducted a Softball rivalry with our sister Parish of St. Mary in Calhan. Last year, due to Fr. Nicholas' transfer, we didn't manage to get this scheduled. This year, we are trying to set up at least three games against St. Mary's, St. Heman's and St. Constantine and Helen's.

Traditionally, this is co-ed Softball and the requirement to qualify as a youth is to feel young enough to play. Sign up for the team with Erin, Berry or Ben and practices will be scheduled soon after Pascha.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

In response to our suggestion, it appears that many of our parishioners have decided to increase their regular weekly or monthly giving. We are grateful for this because it confirms our experience that our people always rise to a challenge or tackle a problem when they are made aware of the need to do so.

We must keep in mind that our needs, while changing throughout the year, are real and constant and require an ongoing commitment if they are to remain manageable.

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



LENTEN CLASSES

Our Lenten adult study classes seem to have been a big success this year. We had steady attendance both at the Monday Evening and at the Wednesday Afternoon courses. If there is interest in a spring or summer course or set of courses, this can be scheduled. Those who are interested should see Fr. Joseph with suggested topics and times.

PASCHA BASKET BLESSING

Remember that there will be three times for the blessing of Pascha Baskets: After the Vespertal Liturgy on Great and Holy Saturday Morning, following the Midnight Matins and Divine Liturgy on Holy Pascha and following the Agape Vespers which is at 1:00 p.m. on Pascha. The Saturday Morning and Sunday Afternoon blessings will take place on the Church porch and the blessing after the midnight service will accompany the children's candy hunt and the Pascha breakfast in the Parish Hall. And, please remember to bring a dozen colored eggs to Church to be blessed and distributed

TOMB WATCH

One of our most precious traditions is that of keeping the watch before the Lord's Holy Winding Sheet between the end of Great and Holy Friday Vespers at 3:00 p.m. and the Start of our Vespers Liturgy at 9:30 on Holy Saturday Morning. As always, we ask any members or families able to do so to sign up for one or more hours between 9:30 p.m. Friday and 9:30 a.m. Saturday. If you are able to watch one hour, please sign up. We need to have at least two people per hour through the night. The schedule is posted together with the Holy Week candle list at the desk on the Church porch.

PASCHA MEALS

Again this year, we will have a lamb roast and Community breakfast in the Parish Hall following The Midnight Matins and Liturgy. There will be two roasted lambs and we will all have the food in our family baskets to enjoy and to share as we choose. Also, again this year, we will have an informal potluck Paschal luncheon in the Parish Hall following the Agape Vespers. We have moved the Vespers one hour later, to 1:00 p.m. this year to better accommodate those who need a rest after the Midnight Services.

CHURCH PRESERVATION PROJECT

We continue to advance, step by step, through the process of evaluating and purchasing land near our Church. We have not run into any real problems but have had to deal painstakingly with many details so it is necessary for all of us to remain prayerful and patient.

We have received a bid from an approved architect to begin the study of what is necessary to bring our historical Church into the best possible shape. We are preparing to submit this material as part of a grant application to the Colorado Historical Society.

SISTERHOOD NEWS

New Stove Project

The St. Mary's Altar society held a quarterly meeting in early March and voted to undertake the purchase of a new stove and ovens for the kitchen in the Hall. Gifts are being made toward the project and some fundraising activities are being planned. Some of the ladies are gathering up and saving all of the loose coins they get or have lying around the house. They call it "'Change our stove". The cost of what the ladies are looking at will be about \$2,500.

Tomb & Church Decorating

Saturday, 2 April is Lazarus Saturday. This is our traditional day to tie up palms and to decorate the Church for Holy Week. We need plenty of help to do all of this work quickly and enjoyably.

Friday, 9 April, Great & Holy Friday, is the day we arrange the flowers for Our Lord's Tomb and for Holy Pascha. We start right after the Royal Hours at about 11 a.m. and finish a little before the 3 p.m. Vespers. This is a STRICT Fast Day so everyone who needs to, should bring the minimum sustenance which they will require to remain healthy.

Lawn Sale

One of the Sisterhood's planned fund raising projects is a Lawn sale, which is tentatively scheduled for 4 & 5 June. This is the weekend, which was most successful in the past. We know this is short notice but, as you do your spring cleaning, please try to put aside some good resalable items for the sale. We will also need a lot of volunteers all week long and, especially on the weekend of the sale. We have not done one of these in many years so we all should have had time to accumulate more "Stuff" for the sale.

Next Sisterhood Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Sisterhood will be on Sunday, 6 June, following the Liturgy.

Holy Week Palm, Willow and Flower Fund

Please remember to make your donation to the Sisterhood's Holy Week & Pascha collection for willows, palms and flowers.

PAN ORTHODOX VESPERS

We received many compliments on our Pan Orthodox Vesper service on the Second Sunday of Lent. The congregation was generous in their donations to the International Orthodox Christian Charities and the reception was very pleasant and well hosted. Thanks to our Choir and Sisterhood for a fine event.

CHOIR

We have one more regular Choir Practice for Holy Week and Pascha on Thursday, 1 April at 7 p.m. All those who expect to sing should plan to make this practice unless they have made special arrangements with Matushka Paulette, our Director.



HOLY WEEK & HOLY PASCHA & PENTECOST- 2004



Dearly Beloved in Christ,

One of the most wonderful things about the Great & Holy Week and Paschal time is the way in which our Community imitates the earliest, New Testament, Church in our coming together in work and celebration.

Whether it's bundling palms on Lazarus Saturday, singing the services all week long with diligence and beauty, boiling and coloring eggs, decorating candles, washing hundreds of candle cups, preparing candy for our children, polishing a hundred pieces of brass, baking the Artos, preparing and roasting lambs, purchasing the fireworks, covering flower pots and decorating the Temple on Holy Friday, serving in the Holy Altar or cleaning up the Church between our many services, just to mention some of the work, it seems as though, for at least that one week, we are all drawn to do our best to take our place in the work which goes on in God's House.

I remember how touching it was last year when, after the Friday night Matins, eight or ten people stayed or came back to help me make all of the changes in the covers and lamps which are necessary for the Saturday Morning Liturgy. That night, for the first time in 19 years, I actually got to sleep before 1:00 a.m.

I also recall how impressive it was to know that I could sleep for six hours and that two or more of our people would cover every watch of the night, before the Lord's Tomb.

Then there was the wonderful realization after the Saturday Morning service that the four ladies who were remaining in the Church, had, like the Myrrh-bearing women, come to care for the Lord and His Church. I think they were there for five or six hours, scrubbing and cleaning the Church and even planting flowers in the yard. And, again, when I came for Agape Vespers at midday on Sunday, I was touched to the heart to see that some of us had stayed after the party to clean up the Temple for that service.

And, of course, not least, it is always a special joy to see how many of us get away from the mundane burdens of daily life to pray at some of the twenty-four or more Sacred Services, which make up our Great & Holy Week cycle.

What is it that brings us all out of our little private corners to work together so hard and to pray so much during this Holy time? Of course, it is the welling up of faith and the renewal of the memory of God's Love and Holy Joy within each of our hearts and souls. And, of course, the fruit of that Love and Holy Joy is sufficient to move us to be much more active, alive, loving, serving, giving and praying people all of the year round.

As you experience that Holy Joy and Love this year, may Christ truly raise you up to live in newness of Life in Him as Apostle Paul urges us, "*If ye then be Risen with Christ, seek those things which are above*".

Yours in the Love of Our Risen Lord,

Proto Joseph