

## Holy Transfiguration Cathedral Newsletter

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**Archpriest Joseph Hirsch - Dean Archpriest Eugene Tarris - Assistant Fr. Averky Davis - Deacon**

### Nativity Services and Events

Our cycle of Nativity Services is a bit different this year because the Feast falls on a Sunday. The Royal Hours, which usually fall on Christmas Eve morning, are served, instead, on Friday morning. Saturday, we will have the Fore-festal Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom, followed by a brief Vespers with prophetic readings. Saturday night, we will hold the traditional Christmas Eve Vigil which includes Matins. On Sunday Morning, Christmas Day, we will read the 3rd and 6th hours at 9:40 and will commence with the Christmas Liturgy at 10:00 a.m. Because of the nature of the holiday, we realize that many of our families will have other plans and commitments that day, so, as usual, we will open the Hall for those who wish to bring an item or two to share and will relax in this informal environment for an hour or so.

### Festive Holiday Dinners

We will hold our three traditional Holiday Dinner events in January.

On Sunday, 1 January, we will follow our Sunday Liturgy with our traditional Children's Program in the Church. We will then adjourn to the Hall for the Kids' Christmas Party and our traditional Holiday pot luck dinner for the benefit of our Romanian Children's Memorial Fund.

The next Sunday, 8 January, we will hold our 10th annual "Old Russian Christmas Party". This dinner, featuring Russian and Ukrainian cuisine and entertainment, is a charity event which has sent about \$25,000 to children's charities. This year, we plan to send the money we raise to a Church sponsored children's cancer hospital and hospice in St. Petersburg.

And, on Sunday, 29 January, for the 108th time in our history we will honor the Great Serbian Saint, Sava, and the Balkan "Pioneers" of our community. The traditional dinner which includes "Sarma" or cabbage rolls, will be observed with a children's program, door prizes and a dance. We are hopeful that this will also be the big kickoff for our historical preservation grant project.

### Slavonic Liturgy

The annual, January 7th, Slavonic Liturgy will fall on a Saturday this year. Usually we have a full Church for this holiday and invite everyone to join us in the Hall for a festive pot luck buffet.

### Church Preservation Project Grants

As we draw closer to the January announcement day, please keep our Parish Historical preservation grant in your prayers. Remember that, if we receive the, about \$150,000, grant to excavate and waterproof our walls and to remove other problems, we will need close to \$50,000 from our own assets to match the State funds. Some people have already began making monthly contributions for this purpose. Each dollar you give, leverages \$3.00 in State historical preservation funds.

### Family Church Decorating Day

Saturday, 17 December, is the time for our Holiday Church Decorating. It doesn't take too long to wrap the Poinsettias and hanging evergreen. When we have lots of hands it is quick and light work. When volunteers are scarce, it can be a real drudge and near impossible task. Since this day falls long before Christmas this year, it ought not to interfere too much with people's last minute projects.

We are all indebted to Sandie Kennedy who, assisted by Dona Hofmann, has already polished ALL of our brass and silver for the holidays. Please remember, when you are tempted to put a finger on a candlestick, that it takes about 45 hours of work, at least three times a year to bring our Church brass and silver to this brilliance. We also appreciate Tracey Powell's annual labor of love in setting up the "Tree of Crosses" in our Temple.

### Church-school Stocking Project

Again this year, our children will be soliciting donations for the Eastern European Christmas Stocking Project. Last year, we sent 100 Christmas gift stockings to Romanian, Russian and Serbian children. Our young people will be cutting out hand prints for each stocking that is contributed. Last year, we filled the whole East wall of our hall with cut-outs. This year, we plan to arrange them into a holiday wreath. The OCA headquarters in New York has expressed concern that, with all of the charity drives for hurricane, flood and earthquake survivors, we may not receive enough donations this year to provide these small Christmas gifts for the children in our Orthodox institutions.

## Parish Council Update

Here is an update from the Council:

**Parish Council Members Changes** - At the annual meeting in November we elected three new members to the Parish Council - James Hartenbower, Carol Montealegre & Lidia Stcherbak. We welcome them to the Council and look forward to working with them. Thanks to Jill Cahenzli, Mike Cahenzli and Daroah Powell whose terms just expired for their years of service on the Council.

**St. Sava's Day Celebration** - Our annual St. Sava's Day celebration is just around the corner on Sunday January 29<sup>th</sup>. Our goal is to continue to have this event grow and have it become a truly Pan-Orthodox event once again & a nice fundraiser for the Parish. We encourage everyone to make it a priority to attend and to invite family and friends.

**Welcome Program** - We are in the process of formalizing our greeter / welcome program for visitors and new parishioners. We will be developing a Welcome brochure for visitors. We hope to have the process developed and implemented early next year. If you have any ideas on this please let me know.

**Festival** - Believe it or not the Festival will be here before we know it. The existing committee will be meeting soon to organize plans for the 2006 Festival. If you are interested in being on the committee please let me know. We will be advertising committee and volunteer opportunities in the near future.

**Financial Temperature** - Thank you to everyone who made a personal commitment to increase their regular giving this year. We are very optimistic that we end the year in positive as a result of generous Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings. Assuming we do end in the positive, we will have met our budget which was \$7,200 bigger than 2004 which is great. The 2006 budget that was adopted at the annual meeting is bigger than this year's budget so we will need everyone to continue to be generous with your regular giving and hopefully increase it a bit. Thanks again for rising to the challenge and doing what you could do financially support your Parish.

**Upcoming Plans** - In January we are going to identify the new projects we want to tackle in 2006. If you have any ideas or are interested in helping with special projects, please let us know.

In Christ,

Erin Busken, Senior Warden



# Sisterhood Corner

The following ladies have paid their dues to the St. Mary's Altar Society for the September 2005/2006 Calendar Year. Thank you for your dues, time and multiple talents!

Angela Myhr

Carla Scott

Colleen Ramos

Gloria Rogozik

Ioana Comaniciu

Mat. Maria Davis

Violeta Dawson

Narcissa Dragulescu

Ann Marie Kuczun

Catherin Rogozik

Diana Seurer

Helen Capron

JoAnn Cahenzli

Marina Piatnitski

Xenia Grant

Mat. Paulette Hirsch

Betty Davidovich

Chris Jobanputra

Erin Busken

Helene Mickle

Lidia Stcherbak

Peggy Yadlowsky

Madlena Blagaila



Dues are \$20 per year. If you would like to participate, please give your donation to our Treasurer, Colleen Ramos.



The board members and advisors for the next Church Calendar year are:

Maria Davis, President

Elizabeth Montealegre, Sec.

Carla Scott, Vice President

Matushka Paulette Hirsch, Adv.

Colleen Ramos, Treasurer

Erin Busken, Advisor



## King Sooper/ Safeway Certificates

Your purchase of King Sooper Certificates gives the Sisterhood a 5% profit. We in turn would like to offer something special. Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> everyone who purchases King Sooper Certificates will have their name go into a drawing (one entry for each person). A name will be drawn each quarter and the fortunate person picked will receive a \$25 King Sooper Certificate.

### Calendar of Events:

Bake Sale

Church Decorating/Cleaning Day

Pot Luck

Pot Luck for the Romania Children

Saturday, December 10th and Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Day, December 25<sup>th</sup>

Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

### Ladies Get Together

If you would like to get together for Tea at the Brown Palace in Denver, please let Maria Davis know and she will make your reservation. We are looking at going to Tea on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. The total cost with tax and gratuity will be approximately \$30.



# Holy Transfiguration of Christ Cathedral

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA  
349 E. 47th Ave.  
Denver, CO 80216

THE VERY REVEREND  
FATHER JOSEPH HIRSCH  
ARCHPRIEST AND RECTOR

6 December 2005  
St. Nicholas of Myra

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

As we prepare to celebrate the 108<sup>th</sup> Nativity and Theophany Season in our Parish and, as Matushka and I approach our 22<sup>nd</sup> "Winter Pascha" among you, our thoughts cannot but drift to contemplation of the enormous transitions, which this venerable community has experienced during our incumbency. Just since last Christmas, we have lost Irene Dorchinez, Pauliann Fotinos and Anna Ivkovich each of whom had become more a family member than the less familiar relationship that the term "Parishioner" implies. Having recently struggled with Irene through the premature death of her daughter, Marsha; having watched Pauli and Nick support each other during her years of painful affliction and having seen Anna decline, within the past year, from the bubbly, hospitable, "In control" lady she had always been to the state of a feeble, ill and effectively helpless person had no less impact upon Matushka and me in the last year than had the gradual deterioration which culminated in the death of my own mother last May. Please don't misunderstand. This is not a measure of the lack of personal impact of my mother's death, but, rather, a remarkable realization of the degree to which these and so many of the earlier losses that we have sustained over 21+ years, have been, in a real sense, "Personal" losses for us and for our family.

While my son, Benjamin was driving to Anna's Parastas, he remarked, "You know, Dad, when we came here, these people became our family."

What holds us together: the glue that cements us, the tie that binds us, is the continuation down through the generations, back to our founders and through them, back to old Greece, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine, etc. and then back to the first century Orthodox Church, gathered in the houses of Old Jerusalem. One Body, One Spirit, One Hope, One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism, One God, and One Holy Orthodox Catholic and Apostolic Church, gathered from every corner of the earth and from every generation, back to Adam, which assembles before the Holy Table, The Throne of the Triune God. This is what we celebrate at this Nativity and Theophany time. This is what we celebrate whenever; "Two or three of you are gathered..." in his name and before his Holy Altar.

Our Holiday Joy, will be to gather together with you there at the Sacred Services, this Holiday Season.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archpriest Joseph & Matushka Paulette

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