

Holy Transfiguration Cathedral Newsletter

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

Christmas, 2004 / January & February, 2005

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ANNUAL MEETING

On Sunday, 14 November, we held our 108th annual Parish Meeting. The outgoing council members and auditors were all reelected. We adopted a resolution extending the authority of the Parish Council's land acquisition committee to negotiate for the purchase of near-by and adjacent property for future parish development. We also adopted a very forward-looking budget, which raised the Dean's compensation by 8% and transferred some insurance items to the salary line. We also received very optimistic reports from our various departments and had an enthusiastic discussion of parish stewardship. With all of this business, the meeting, still, was over in just a bit over one hour.

At a subsequent Council meeting, Erin Busken, Mike Rogozik, Tanya Russell, Chris Jobanputra and Colleen Ramos were reelected to their offices of Senior and Junior Warden, Secretary, Treasurer and Financial Secretary, respectively.

PARISH FINANCE UPDATE

As everyone knows by now, our regular weekly tithing to the Church operating fund is not adequate to meet our monthly expenses. While this is problematic and bespeaks a need for each family to reevaluate the level of their regular weekly proportional giving, still, this fact does not tell the whole story. At the annual meeting it became clear that, in the past year, we have received almost \$11,000 for our various charity projects and several thousand dollars to our Land Acquisition and Memorial/Building Funds. Also, we have placed enough money in our Festival Account to enable us to support the event for 2005.

One obvious big difference between our present situation and that that prevailed from the middle 1980s through the 90s is the constant drop in the average age of our parishioners. This means that we have many more young families who are just getting started and many fewer departing parishioners to leave bequests to the Parish.

Finally, David Hirsch, our Endowment Fund Manager, reported that our First Investors Account has increased by almost 20% over the past 32 months, during a time when

many others were suffering big losses in their investments.

While this does not change our individual obligations to take responsibility for our regular tithes and offerings, it does put things into prospective and cast a little brighter light on our fiscal situation.

SLAVONIC HOLIDAY LITURGY

Again this year, we will celebrate 7 January with a Slavonic Liturgy. Although most of the Orthodox in America, including our parish, employ the Revised Julian Calendar, still, a great number of our brethren in faith, including the Churches of Russia, Ukraine and Serbia, adhere to the "Old Calendar" and celebrate the Feast of the Nativity 13 days later than we do. To show respect for these Orthodox Christians and to some of our own people who grew up with the old calendar, we have this special celebration and a potluck luncheon for 7 January. Liturgy is at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, 7 January and the luncheon follows immediately.

THREE BIG EVENTS

Once more we will hold our three Parish-wide holiday ethnic celebrations.

ROMANIAN PARTY-

On Sunday, 26 January, which is Fr. Joe's Name day, we will have our annual Holiday potluck luncheon and children's party to benefit our Romanian Children's Memorial Fund. The luncheon is a chance for each of us to bring some holiday dish: meat, hors d'oeuvres, casseroles, deserts, etc. which can be easily served. The luncheon follows our children's Christmas program and will again feature Christmas presents for all of our children and for all of the adopted Romanian children who are our guests. We have also invited the Romanian Folk dancers to participate that day.

OLD RUS HOLIDAY PARTY-

On Sunday, 9 January, we will hold our benefit luncheon and Holiday party for the Kaluga orphanage. We have a minimum charge of \$6.00 (\$3.00 for children aged 5-12) but receive most of our money through special donations toward this important charity, which we have supported for about a decade.

We will be having a Russian folk dance group and the band "Continental Drift" and are accepting contributions to pay these two groups. Also, we need everyone who has a favorite Russian or Ukrainian holiday dish or two, to volunteer to provide it for the party.

SAINT SAVA CELEBRATION-

Then, on Sunday, 30 January, we will hold our 107th Annual St. Sava Celebration. We are promoting this as our Winter Balkan Celebration and hope to bring back some of the visitors who patronized our Orthodox Food Festival last summer. Dusica and Emelia Muntean will be our Hosts for the Feast and we will again feature an old time dance band. We want to do everything we can to promote this event among our friends and acquaintances.

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE BLESSING

On Monday, 9 January, the Clergy of the Rocky Mountain Deanery will again assemble atop Monarch Pass to bless the waters of the Eastern and Western United States. Throughout the year as the snow pack melts, the sanctified waters will flow into the Pacific Basin and the Gulf of Mexico. This is a regular event for our region and bespeaks our Orthodox awareness of our responsibility to preserve and Sanctify God's Natural Gifts. Anyone wishing to make the drive should contact Fr. Joseph.

CHURCH CLEANING TEAMS

A combination of pregnancies, new births and relocations has brought about the depletion of a couple of our rotating Church Cleaning teams. We need volunteers to spend an hour or so every five or six weeks to work with others in keeping Gods Temple in good condition. If you are able to help, please see Becky Schilling.

HOME BLESSING TIME AGAIN

We will be available to bless homes and apartments with the Theophany Water during the months of January and February. Those who have a special preference as to the time of their blessings should see Matushka Paulette for an appointment. Fr. Eugene is also available for home blessings and should be contacted directly.

Christmas, 2004 & Theophany, 2005

Christ is Born! Christ is Baptized!
Glorify Him! In the Jordan!

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Matushka Paulette and I are delighted to have this opportunity to wish you and your family a most blessed Nativity and Theophany Season.

This will be our 21st Christmas in Denver and, certainly, we have a great number of rich memories of our Holiday Celebrations and Theophany Home Visits over the past two decades.

May He Who was born in a cavern and who lay in a manger for the sake of our Salvation: Christ our True God, have mercy upon and bless each of you in His Love for mankind, now and unto ages of ages. AMEN!

In His Love
Archpriest Joseph
&
Matushka Paulette Hirsch



HOLIDAY EVENT SCHEDULE

Saturday, 18 December
Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.
(Meeting of the Holy Icon "Rescuer of the Perishing" at Holy Transfiguration)
Family Church Decorating Day
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Sunday, 19 December Matins &
Liturgy, Romanian Parastas *(Play practice)*

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

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

Sunday, 26 December *(Synaxis of the Holy Theotokos and Ss. Joseph, David & James)*

Matins at 8:45 a.m. & Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.
Kids' Christmas Program and Romanian Party.

Monday, 27 December- Liturgy at 9:30
(Holy Proto-martyr Stephen)

Friday, 31 December- Vespers at 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, 1 January, 2005- Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.
(Circumcision & St. Basil)

Wednesday, 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- 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, 6 January

Theophany Liturgy and Water Blessing at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, 7 January, (Synaxis of St. John)

Slavonic Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

(Pot Luck holiday reception follows)

Sunday, 11 Jan., Matins-8:45 a.m. Liturgy-10:00 a.m.

Russian Benefit Party-Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Monday, 10 Jan., Deanery Blessing of the Continental Divide

Saturday, 29 January, Set up day for St. Sava
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Sunday, 30 January, 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.*

