

## Holy Transfiguration Cathedral Newsletter

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

### Wonder-working Sitka Icon to Visit Denver

*On September 27 and 28, Holy Transfiguration Cathedral will be host to the Wonder working Icon of Our Lady of Sitka. This Holy Image, written in the pattern of Our Lady of Kazan, was presented to the Cathedral of St. Archangel Michael in Sitka in 1850. It was originally a part of the iconostasis. Over the past century and a half, over fifty miracles have been attributed to it. This will be the second visit of this Holy Image to our parish and many of our people remember the spiritual blessings which accompanied it. During this time, we will serve a Vespers and Akathist at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, 27 September and a Liturgy and Moliebin at 10 a.m. the next morning. We will also be accepting financial donations for the work of the Orthodox Diocese of Alaska. Everyone should set aside some time to visit this spiritual treasure.*



### Festival Time is Here Again

As everyone is certainly well aware, we are on the threshold of our Second Annual Orthodox Food Festival. There is plenty in this newsletter about the festival, including a flyer, but it remains to be said that Festival #2 should be even bigger, better, tastier, more entertaining and, over all, even more wonderful than was our widely acclaimed Festival '04.

We are adding a Western Bar-B-Q booth, with Chef Gordon Spencer in command. We will be serving Mexican cuisine and will be "spit roasting" lambs both days. Our entertainment this year will add the nationally renowned "Cleo Parker Robinson African Drumming Ensemble". We will feature all new kids' games along with the popular face painting, air castle, and balloon sculpture clowns. We will also have a snow cone machine.

This year we plan to move the food booths to the sidewalk to bring them closer to the entertainment. We will, again offer our popular Greek, Italian, Romanian, Russian and Serbian treats, our limitless baked goods, our Cafe, Iconography exhibit and book and gift kiosk. There will be Church tours, dancing lessons and a continual stage show featuring a variety of Ethnic entertainment. This year, with the opening of the new wonderful new Argo Park Pool, families can bring their swimming gear and make a mini-vacation out of the weekend. In terms of Parish Life, this is an event that requires 100% participation. Last year, we had over 70 people cooking, serving, manning booths, setting up and cleaning up. We had about 200 guests who took tours of our Church and received a great deal of publicity for the event. It is an event, vital to our Parish life.

### Calhan Centennial

As you will notice from the enclosed poster and from our Calendar, our daughter parish of The Holy Dormition in Calhan, Colorado will celebrate its Centennial on the weekend of August 19-21. During his third and final visit to Denver, St. Tikhon went to this prairie community on the border of El Paso and Elbert Counties and broke ground for one on four Orthodox Temples which, at one time stood within a couple of miles of each other. When the Heretical "Living Church", group got legal title to the original building, it was sent it back to God by a fire. Later, the united parish in the area built a beautiful new temple where we will share in the Hierarchical celebrations that weekend. We should all make it a priority to try to participate in, at least, a part of this wonderful celebration.

## Historic Preservation Grant

We have received a letter from the Sacred Landmarks department of the Colorado Historical Society, complimenting us upon the successful completion of phase #1 on our Church preservation project. The architectural study, completed by the Slaterpaull firm and paid for by a grant from the Society, has determined that we have an unusual condition called "Rising damp" which causes moisture to accumulated in our Church walls and to dissipate through the stucco and plaster and plaster which cover the exterior and interior walls, respectively.

To repair this condition will require removal of sidewalks surrounding the Church and excavation of the Church footings. after treatment of the ground and subterranean walls with sealant, A special chemical will be injected into the brick to prevent the rising of moisture. Then, the stucco, plaster and sidewalks which have been removed will be replaced. There are also a number of small code, cosmetic and other issues which are to be addressed. The expected outcome is to repair all damage and to restore the Church in such a way that no major project will be required for 100 years.

The second stage of the Grant process is due around the first of September and Matushka Paulette plans to begin the writing as soon as we

finish up with the Festival. The project will take place in two stages of about \$200,000 each. This will take a couple of years and we will need to provide a 20% cash match. Although we have enough money in our "Property Preservation Endowment Fund to cover this cost, it is our hope that a good portion of the funds will be donated by our people to allow us to conserve our assets. Such donations should be made out to the Church and designated for the "Historical Preservation Project".

## Church Featured in Historical Book

The Cathedral is featured among the first of the "Sacred Landmarks" in a new guidebook entitled *Historic Sacred Places of Denver*. We are one of about 30 structures which are pictured and described in this new book by Michelle Pearson, for the State Historical Society. A copy of the flyer advertising the book is included in this newsletter or it can be ordered on line from [www.historicdenver.org](http://www.historicdenver.org). The author and Historical Society will also have a booth at our Festival.

## Around Our Grounds

Certainly, everyone has noticed the big new play system which is in the back yard of the Rectory. This is a safe, red wood "Rainbow Play System" and includes two swings, a tire swing, a slide, a "rock climbing wall", a climbing net a rope ladder, a trapeze with rings and a big covered playhouse deck with binoculars, a telescope and a ship's wheel. Almost a dozen

kids can use this set at one time and, with proper maintenance, this should last twenty or more years and is a gift to the children of the Parish from the Fr. Joseph and Matushka Paulette in memory of Marjorie Hirsch, Father's mom who passed away during this past Bright Week.

Also, speaking of maintenance, Ben and Joe Hirsch re-stained and treated the wooden fence on the West side of our property and Vera Gasch and Matushka Paulette bought and planted flowers in all of the Church gardens.

## Church School

We should be planning right now for our Fall, 2005 Church school. Ben and Berry are putting up more soundproofing in the Sunday school area and we are looking for ome dedicated volunteers to share the teaching with present staff.

## Icon Project

This Spring, we have added several painted Icons to our Church. Many of them are Holy Women Martyrs whose images we did not have.

St. Julia was given by Steve Dawson in memory of his mother.

St. Christine was given by the Jobanputra family.

Ss. Paraskeva and Marina: by the Piatnitskys.

Ss. Philothea and Cecilia: by the Hirsches.  
St. Nina by Lidia Stcherbak: in memory of her sister.

St Katherine in honor of Catherine Rogozik by her family.

St. Barbara is yet to be donated.

Also donated were

St. George was given by Gabriel Hayman and St Demetrius by John and Katie Milo-soich, and the Busken and Blake Families.

Anyone else wishing do donate Icons should see Father Joseph.

## New Vestments

On the Feast of the Holy Annunciation, Deacon Averky wore the new blue set of Deacon's Vestments which were ordered and paid for by the Sisterhood. A few weeks later we received four of the five beautiful new gold Readers' robes which were paid for by the Fotinos and Davidovich Families, among others. Later, Fr. Joseph received a bright green set of Priests' Vestments and veils for Pentecost. Our last gold robes were made in 1988 and our green priests' vestments were purchased in 1984. It is good that we are now able to serve God with the Glory with which the service books say that all of the Ministers of the Holy Altar should be robed. We still need about \$400 toward the green vestments. We also have a dark violet set of Lenten (post) vestments coming from Romania.

## Serbian Parish To Be Our Guests.

Every month, usually on the Second Saturday, we serve the Divine Liturgy in the Slavonic Language and most of the participants are Russians and Ukrainians. The general exception to this rule has been 7 January when many of the area Serbs who normally attend other parishes, return "Home" to the Cathedral for the Holiday. This year, our neighbors from the St. John's Serbian Parish, which, as of yet, has no Temple have asked to share the service with us on Saturday, 13 August. Our Fr. Eugene will serve with Fr. Leoned from the Serbian Diocese and both the Slavonic

and Serbian languages will be used. After this, there will be a Slava and luncheon for the Serbian community in our Parish Hall.

## Parish Feast Day

THE FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION will be celebrated with a VIGIL at 7 p.m. on FRIDAY, 5 AUGUST and a LITURGY AND LENTEN LUNCHEON (Fish, wine & oil permitted) At 10 a.m. on SATURDAY, 6 AUGUST. We will also celebrate the Baptism of Sophie Elizabeth Busken that day.

## All American Council

Frs. Joseph and Eugene together with Matushka Paulette and Lidia Stcherbak, will be attending the All American Council of the Orthodox Church in America during from Monday the 18th to Friday the 22nd of July. We will monitor the Rectory Voice Mail every day for messages.

## Camp

Our Rocky Mountain Orthodox Youth Camp will run from Sunday evening, 24 July through Wednesday Noon, 27 July. The deadline for registration is 15 July and the Parish Fr. Joseph will be there the entire time and will be doing the religion classes.

## Anniversaries

On Saturday Evening, 1 October, we will have at least one bishop present for Vigil at 6:30 p.m. On Sunday, 2 October, we will have a Hierarchical Liturgy at 9:30 a.m. and a luncheon following. The occasion is the thirtieth

anniversary of Fr. Joseph's Ordination to the Holy Priesthood and the 10th anniversary of Fr. Averky's Diaconal ordination.

## Colorado Springs Temple Consecration.

On Thursday, 6 October, during the Diocesan Assembly,



we will celebrate the Consecration of Holy Theophany Temple in Colorado Springs. More details will follow.

## Many Years!

*to Liann Holmes who graduated from Regis University this spring, to Deacon Alex who received his MDiv (with honors from St. Tikhon's Seminary, to David Graham and John Davis who received their high school diplomas this spring and to Cecilia Hirsch who completed her Medical Residency and has received a Fellowship in Cardiology from the University of Colorado.*