



CATHEDRAL NEWSLETTER

Holy Transfiguration of Christ

Orthodox Cathedral – O.C.A.

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Great Lent & Holy Week Edition

March & April 2005

PASCHA IS 1 MAY

Holy Pascha this year falls on the first day of May. This is more than a month after the Western “Easter”. We will serve “The First Resurrection” on Saturday, 30 April at 10:00 a.m. We are hoping to proceed this Liturgy with at least one Baptism and will conclude it with the first Blessing of Baskets.

At 9:00 p.m. we will commence with the reading of The Acts of the Holy and Pure Apostles and will continue with the Nocturne at 11:30 and the Procession, Matins and Liturgy at Midnight, where we hope, once more, to have our beautiful firework salute to the Resurrection.

We will conclude, following Liturgy, with the Blessing of Baskets in the Parish Hall, with our kids’ traditional candy hunt and with our Agape Breakfast including roast lamb.

At 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, 1 May, we will serve the AGAPE VESPERS with the reading of the Holy Gospel in various tongues, and then, we will return to the Hall for a Paschal Lunch.

CHANGES IN SERVICE TIMES

Beginning with 1 March most of our weekday services will be moved from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. the reason for this is that many who attend these service come from some distance such as from Highlands Ranch, Boulder or Longmont and experience difficult with the morning commuter traffic. Two exceptions to the 10:00 a.m. rule are the Presanctified Liturgy on Friday, 8 April when we will be hosting delegates to a Home School Convention at 9:00 a.m. and Great Friday, 29 April, when we will continue to read the Royal Hours at 9:00 a.m. in order to allow enough time to decorate the Church and Tomb for the 3:00 p.m. Vespers. This is an attempt to respond to the request of our people for a schedule that will facilitate their greater participation in our regular cycle of worship.

READERS ROBES

Our older Servers and Readers have been wearing the same gold robes since 1988. These are made of flimsy light material, which was all we could afford then, and were made hurriedly for our 90th Anniversary celebration. We are now attempting to purchase five new large gold readers robes. The project was kicked off with a \$500 donation from Paulianna Fotinos . Helena Mickle and Betty Davidovich purchased one vestment each and several others have made generous donations toward this project. Also, the Sisterhood is purchasing a new blue robe for Deacon Averky. We are still accepting contributions and may even be able to buy one or two more vestments.

A NEW SHRINE

The Hirsch Family has commissioned a large shrine Icon of Sts. Dimitru Basarabov and Philopthea of Romania in honor of Andrew and Daniela Hirsch. The Icon Shrine will join Sts. Herman, Innocent and John the Baptist.

HISTORICAL GRANT

We are coming to the close of our evaluation, funded by the Colorado Historical Society, and will be submitting our application for the October round of \$200,000 historical grants to preserve the structure of our Temple. We will need about \$65,000 in matching funds to bring the project full funding but much of this can be written off as administrative costs donated by Steve Dawson, our resident C.P.A. (*continued on page 2*)

*(continued from page 1
"Historical Grant"*

and Matushka Paulette, our Grant writer and administrator. Still, donations to the Church Preservation fund are both needed and gratefully received.

NEW "ROGO"

"Many years!" to Michael III and Monica Rogozik upon the birth of their son Michael Rogozik IV. Also, "Many Years!" to the proud grandparents, Mike and Gloria.

ALEX AND MASHA TO RETURN

As hard as it may be to believe, Alex Vallens will complete his three year Master of Divinity Degree from St. Tikhon's Seminary this May. With the Blessing of His Grace, Bishop Tikhon, Alex and Masha will be returning to Colorado where, God willing, Alex will be ordained as a Deacon and Priest and will serve as a missionary assigned to our Cathedral staff. We plan to launch a new parish between Highlands Ranch and Colorado Springs with Alex as our "Missionary".

There are a lot of expenses associated with graduation and relocation, especially since Alex will not be returning to a paying Church assignment, so your generous gifts to the Seminarian Scholarship Fund will all be passed on to Alex and Masha and will be most profoundly appreciated. Alex is also the "Webmaster" for our widely praised Website.

CHOIR

It is urgent that our Choir members take seriously their important ministry within the Divine Liturgy but, most especially during the Sacred Seasons of Lent and Pascha. Often, it has seemed miraculous how the three or four people who make it to the Divine Liturgy on time, are able to carry the burden of leading the entire congregation and are able to do so with such beauty that one must suspect that two or three angels are invisibly participating, filling the places of those who have not yet arrived.

Well, at least everyone should recognize that for that two hour Liturgy they attend (or whatever part of it) on Sunday, there is about 50 minutes of Vespers the night before, an hour and a half of Matins sung that morning and, normally, four or five hours of weekday services preceding it (10 or 12 hours during Great Lent).

Certainly we can understand that those who are dedicated to the ministry of communicating God's Word through music, desire to do the very best job of which they are capable. For this reason, a few additional practices are scheduled during the Lenten and pre-Holy Week period and all who are able to do so are requested to take cognizance of these and to make every attempt to participate both in practicing and in singing the Divine Services for which these practices are preparation.

The dates are Saturdays, 19 March, 2 & 16 April from 4:30-6:00 p.m. and Thursday, 21 April at 7:00 p.m.,

ADULT CLASSES SCHEDULED FOR LENT

Father Joseph will offer two sets of adult education classes during the Great Fast this year. On Monday nights, 21 and 28 March and 4, 11 and 18 April we will be studying the foundations of the Holy Orthodox Faith as proclaimed in the Decrees of the Ecumenical and local Councils and as reiterated in the "Rite of Orthodoxy" which is celebrated by Orthodox Bishops on the First Sunday of Great Lent. Classes will consist of a 45-minute to 1 hour talk followed by a fifteen-minute question and answer time. This should offer something both to enquirers and to "Life long" Orthodox.

On all of the Wednesdays of Great Lent, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., we will hold a discussion based upon the Magazine series, "Ask Fr. Joe" which has run in the Diocesan publication for almost ten years. We will start with some of the published documents but will make an ongoing list of questions to be addressed through the six weeks. Everyone is invited to bring a Lenten lunch and their questions and to join us for one hour each Lenten Wednesday.

POOL TABLE FOR LOWER HALL

When we built our Hall in 1985 we promised our kids that we would put a game table (Pool and ping-pong) in the basement. Well, those kids are now 20 years older but Gary Seurer has offered us his 3/4 size Pool table. All we need is some strong backs and truck to transport it. Many years! To Gary and Diana for this gift.

HOME BLESSINGS

Although we can continue Theophany Home Blessings up to Cross Veneration Sunday which is 3 April this year, we prefer not to have dinner blessings after Forgiveness Sunday, 13 March. We can bless homes at any time but if you wish to have your home sanctified with Jordan Water and do not as of yet have an appointment you should make it a priority to contact Matushka Paulette or Fr. Eugene.

SOME SISTERHOOD NEWS

NEWSLETTER INSERT-Our St. Mary's Altar Society has prepared a two-page insert for this Newsletter and we hope that this will remain a feature of our publication from now on.

MEMBERSHIP PINS-So far this year we have 41 ladies who paid their \$20 voluntary dues to the sisterhood and this is a modern record. Small icon pins of the Theotokos have been purchased for these ladies and those who have not as yet done so, should pick theirs up.

LENTEN RETREAT-On Saturday morning, 26 March, Mother Casiana of The Holy Protection Monastery will conduct a Retreat for ladies at our Cathedral. We will begin at 9:00 a.m. with Prayer followed by meditations on Great Lent with emphasis on the joys of the Fast. We will have a Lenten luncheon and a brief afternoon program. The event will be supported by a voluntary offering and all ladies from our parish and all other parishes are welcome to participate.

LUNCHEONS (AGAIN)- For the seemingly 100th time we need to address the issue of our luncheons. First: we must realize that our practice has become the pattern imitated by most of the growing parishes in the West. Yes! We are the model.

Second: we must realize that coffee hour luncheons are not "Fund raisers". By definition, they are common meals and we are forbidden, both by Holy Apostle Paul and by such luminaries as St. Sava, from making ones participation dependent upon economic status.

Third: Luncheons are a program of parish life. If we

made not a red cent on Coffee hours, still, their value in holding the community together after the Divine Liturgy would argue for their continuation. They allow time for conversation both within the Parish at large and with those who share ones special culture and mother tongue. Many people have first come to Transfiguration looking for someone to talk to in Russian, Romanian, Ukrainian, etc. only to become active members of the Community at large. They also allow time for children to participate in Church school

Fourth: they give us an opportunity to make a special offering to God on such occasions as birthdays, marriages, wedding anniversaries, name days, Slavass and memorials of death. This allows the provider to offer food to the community on such occasions, which is an almost universal Orthodox practice. It also allows the whole parish to fulfill the directive of the Holy Apostle to "Rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn".

Fifth: they save mothers from having to rush home from Church to prepare a Sunday dinner each week. By cooking once or twice a year, each woman is freed from this duty at home for the rest of that year.

Sixth: luncheons can be as elaborate or as simple as we wish them to be or feel able to provide. We should not compare our coffee hour to someone else's nor should we feel that the donations made at a luncheon are somehow an evaluation of one's self or his or her cooking. This is just the Devil's way of taking away the blessing from what should be simply an offering of love.

Seventh: whatever the level strictness or laxity observed in our homes during Fasts, we should keep our Lenten coffee hours strictly within the bounds of Church discipline. We should not tempt our brother to abandon a strict rule simply because we feel unable or are unwilling to observe it ourselves. On the other hand, there is no sin in "Eating such things as they set before you" without scruple. (Ordinarily, all Lenten Sundays allow wine and oil but no meat, fish, eggs or dairy products. The Sunday of Palms as well as Annunciation and, in some traditions, Forty Crowned Martyrs, is also fish days. Many Serbs, however, as well as some Carpatho-Russians have never had a restriction on fish. Also, vegetable oils other than olive oil are usually allowed.) If one follows one of these alternate traditions, they should make a point to provide strict fasting foods of equal quality for their brothers and sisters.

Eighth: even though there is no charge for luncheon, we should be very sensitive to the fact that our brothers and sisters have invested a great deal of time, money and effort into providing a meal for 75-100 people. This is a labor of love and the appropriate response is to make a generous love offering for the Sisterhood's many important charities. If we have nothing we need give nothing but for most of us, to simply walk by the Sisterhood's Basket or to drop in a dollar when that is the price of a cup of coffee most places today, is, at least, an offence against charity. At least a couple of dollars a person or a few dollars a family is certainly appropriate.

Ninth: it is clear from looking at the list that only about 27 of our families ever prepare a coffee hour lunch. Simple math allows us to understand that this means that many of us are preparing two or three meals a year while a majority are not ever helping with this. It is altogether possible for two or more families to combine to prepare a meal or for someone who cannot or can no longer cook to donate money for someone else to prepare a meal.

If this seems wordy, may it be the LAST WORD

St. SAVA FOLLOWUP

This year's St. Sava Celebration was one of the most successful we've ever had. Support from our brothers at St. Herman's and from the South Denver Serbia Mission boosted our attendance and, for the first time in years, people stayed all afternoon to dance and talk.

Dusica and Emelia Muntean were hosts and showed a warm welcome and traditional hospitality to all of their guests. We exceeded our anticipated receipts. Income was about \$2200 and the sisterhood made another \$250 on the bake sale. Emelia, Magda, Adriana and Sandie did all of the cooking and the Munteans donated all of the food for the event. At the Slava service, the munteans handed over a ceremonial feast day bread to Boris and Natasha Vukovich who have graciously agreed to be hosts for next year's Slava, which will also be the 20th anniversary of our Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish Hall.

BRIGHT FRIDAY DINNER DANCE

We are presently holding preliminary discussions with our brethren of St. Herman's Parish in Littleton and Sts. Peter and Paul's Parish in Boulder to co-sponsor a gala on the "No-fast Friday" following Holy Pascha. This would be Bright Friday, 6 May and plans are, as of now, in a preliminary state.

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR.

Please add these dates to your long-term calendar.

Friday, 6 April, Bright Friday, is the tentative date for the Post-Paschal Dinner Dance.

24-27 July is our Rocky Mountain Orthodox Youth Camp at Glacier View Ranch.

Saturday and Sunday, 30-31 July will be our second annual Orthodox Food Festival.

Saturday, 20 August is the Centennial Celebration of St. Mary's Dormition Church in Calhan.

Sunday, 2 October will be the celebration of Fr. Joseph's 30th Ordination Anniversary.

Tuesday-Thursday, 4-6 October is the Diocesan Assembly in Colorado Springs. On Thursday the new Holy Theophany Church will be consecrated.

All of these are genuine opportunities, which we ought to attempt to share.

BOOKSTORE PREPARING FOR GREAT FAST

As you prepare to enter upon the Great Fast, check out the Parish bookstore, which is stocked with spiritual reading, which you will find of great assistance.

PREPARATION FOR HOLY PASCHA

PALMS & PASCHA FLOWERS

At Christmas time last year the Sisterhood was faced with a choice.

Having ordered the greenery: wreaths and garland, well in advance, they realized that the contributions for Christmas decorating were not adequate to purchase the many poinsettias, which traditionally adorn our temple during the Nativity and Theophany seasons. They went ahead and took the money from their treasury, which inflicted an unbudgeted expense upon it.

This year, as we have said, Holy Pascha is significantly later than Western "Easter" and so we must order our lilies far ahead of time and ask the florist to preserve them for an extra month. We also have the normal costs of palms, willows cut flowers and greenery for the Church and tomb. In the hope of avoiding another "Big hit" to the Altar Society treasury, we are planning to ask parishioners to sign up to donate one or more lilies or pots of tulips at \$10 a plant. We are even suggesting that, after bright week, people might want to take their donations home and plant them in their gardens. We have found that when we plant these at Church they almost always bloom again in the fall.

We could also extend this to the tomb flowers, which run about \$150, the palms and palm fans, which are about \$80, and, of course, we can use pussy willows and cut bulb flowers donated from our parishioners' yards. It may be late for tulips but should be just the right time for Iris. Willows should be cut as soon as they bud and can be bagged and stored in a cool place.

This way, all of us can, in some way, play a part in the adornment of God's Temple for this Holy Time.

CANDY FOR CHILDREN'S BASKETS

Western "Easter" is 27 March this year and we should all keep our eyes open for candy sales during the week following this. The merchants do not want to and often cannot restock this candy and are usually prepared to give bargains to those who have a use for it.

LAMBS FOR AGAPE BREAKFAST

It certainly seems premature given that we have not even entered the Fast yet, but we should give a reminder that we would be grateful for the donation of one or both of the Pascha lambs which are shared during our Paschal Agape Breakfast following the Midnight Services. The going price is about \$130 per lamb.

SPECIAL ACTS OF SEASONAL DEVOTION

The end of Great Lent and The Great and Holy Week offer their own special ways of serving God. Among these are our participation in cutting, tying and arranging palms and willows on Lazarus Saturday following Liturgy, helping to decorate the tomb and Church on Holy Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and signing

up for an hour or more of tomb watch from Holy Friday night to till Holy Saturday morning.

Also, as some of you may be aware, after the Matins Service on Holy Friday Night, it is necessary to change everything in the Church from the dark Lenten colors to the Resurrectional brightness. With a half dozen workers we finish this by about 12:30 in the morning. More hands make lighter, quicker and more joy filled work.

HOLY LENT & HOLY
PASCHA, 2005

Holy
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Orthodox Cathedral
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Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Cathedral

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Archpriest Joseph Hirsch-Dean
Archpriest Eugene Tarris-Assistant
Father Averky Davis-Deacon

18 February, 2005

Beloved in Christ,

As most of you know, last year was the twentieth anniversary of my service at Holy Transfiguration. This year, in the fall, I will reach the thirtieth anniversary of my ordination to the Holy priesthood. That means that I have will be serving the Lenten, Holy Week and Paschal services for three decades and, with you for the 22nd time and yet, as Lent draws near, it is as if it is all new, as if it is all for the first time. Also, in as much as I will turn 61 years old before this Pascha, I am reminded by nothing so much as my aching joints that some year soon I will offer these services with you for the last time, whether through retirement, disability or the inescapable call of death. There will be a last Great and Holy week and a last Pascha on earth for me and for each of us as there have already been for 91 of our fellow parishioners during my tenure here.

When I was newly ordained and serving in Kansas City, I had an elderly parishioner named Ruth Sullivan. When she converted to Orthodoxy from Episcopalianism someone said to her, "Oh, you must have done that because your son did". Her answer was, "No! I did it because it was the right thing to do." The point is that, although our first year of Lenten and Holy Week services in Kansas City was not very impressive due to my lack of experience and our lack of a real Church, by the next year, we had built a Church with our own hands and Grandma Ruth said to me, "I saw your schedule and you're going to be doing a lot of services. I want you to know that I'm coming to all of them. Why, at my age this may be my last chance." Actually she lived through my entire nine years there and, in spite of ill health, lived on to a ripe old age. Also, in spite of ill health, she continued to treat each Lenten Service, each Holy Week Service, each Holy Pascha with the same youthful enthusiasm with which she shared in it for the first time and with the profound awareness that it might be her last time. I pray for the same freshness and warm longing of heart for each of you as we enter upon the Holy Fast.

Finally, I would like to share some slightly more mundane business with you. You all know that for the last three years we have been negotiating with the Lawyer for the Birch family to purchase the land directly to the North of our Hall. Our intention is not to become a landlord but one day, to build a second and larger Basilica next to our small historic Cathedral. After many false starts and confusing correspondences from George's Attorney, the Council asked me to contact the Birch family personally. What has emerged is the following:

They don't really want to sell all of the lots right now and know that we have little or no use for part of them. They need one lot for the housing of a family member and also face serious tax issues if they sell at this time. They want and intend that the Church should have the property upon which their family has dwelt since the 1890s when they were instrumental in building our present Church. They want our Congregation to remain in Globeville and to prosper in memory of their forbears. They, in no way, expect to make a real estate "Killing" on the property nor do they want us to resell it at a later time.

Thus, we have an agreement that we will continue to set aside funds for the down payment on the property. (Many of us have already made and are keeping substantial pledges to the "Land Acquisition Fund" and at a time in the not too distant future, when circumstances are more auspicious for both parties, we will formalize a contract. Meanwhile, we have the luxury of saving for the purchase without the burden of taxes or property management or the cost of expensive repairs to the infrastructures of buildings, which we plan, eventually, to knock down.

I know that this is not the answer for which many of us were waiting but I have a personal trust of George and his daughter and son-in-law and they know that Matushka and I have made a large ten year pledge toward the purchase of their land and will, thus, God willing, be around to assure that the Church keeps up our end of the agreement.

Yours in the Love of Christ and Faith in His Divine Providence,

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Parish Council Update

As we embark on a new year, the Parish Council has high hopes for a successful 2005. We are off to a great start with this year's St. Sava's Day Celebration. Our goal was to make this event a fundraising and fellowship event, like the "Old days". We had a great turnout and hope, slowly but surely, to make this event an even bigger one in the future. In our 2005 budget we projected a \$2,000 profit from this event. We achieved this goal! I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the event, especially our hosts Dusica and Emelia Muntean. There were a number of people who helped throughout the weekend from cooking, to setting up, to decorating, working the bake sale, selling tickets and cleaning up.

With the help of the income from St. Sava's Day, we have started the year 2005 in the black (positive). This is encouraging after ending the last year almost \$5,000 in the red (negative). Please continue to make a personal commitment to increase your giving to the best of your ability. In November the Parish adopted a budget that included a significant and long overdue raise for Father. To meet the budget we will all have to be generous with our giving on a regular basis. Remember that the Parish is self-supporting. As members we are all responsible for the operating expenses like the Priest's salary, the utility bills, liturgical supplies and much more. Please keep in mind that even when you are not in church on Sunday the services go on. We rely on the regular support of all our members, even if they are not actually in church. Let's aim to have a year where we consistently meet our budget and we do not get in the red and have to play catch up later in the year.

The following are some projects that the Council is working on:

New Member Orientation Packet - We have developed an orientation packet for new members. We are in the process of finalizing it. It provides information on a number of topics that we think would be helpful new people who have joined our Parish community such as coffee hours, opportunities to get involved, and giving. It is our goal that this packet helps new members to feel welcomed. Starting in March this will be distributed to new members. If you are interested in receiving a copy please let me know.

Parish Directory with Photos - In the Spring we will be working to create an updated Parish Directory that include photos of members. As our community has grown, we realize that it has become harder to put faces with names. We hope this directory will help with this. Stay tuned for details about when to get your photo taken for the directory.

2nd Annual Orthodox Food Festival - Planning has begun for our 2nd Annual Orthodox Food Festival. The festival will be July 30th and 31st. We are hoping to improve on the incredible success of last year and make this year's Festival even bigger and better. We would love to expand the number of food booths. If you are interested in coordinating a food booth please see Diana Seurer. If you have any other ideas for the Festival please let me know. In the upcoming months you will be hearing more about the details of the Festival.

We look forward to working with all of you throughout the year!
In Christ,

Erin Busken, Senior Warden