



CATHEDRAL NEWSLETTER

Holy Transfiguration of Christ Orthodox Cathedral – T.O.C.A.

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**Holy Week, Holy Pascha & Pentecost Edition
May & June 2005**

First Annual Bright Friday Party

As you have probably read and heard, our Parish Council has planned a big social event to allow our people to gather and to enjoy each other's company over a nice dinner, which none of us will have to cook and after which none of us will have to clean up. Our plan and hope is that we will eventually make this an annual region wide pan-Orthodox event and we have invited the clergy and people of our neighboring parishes to participate in the hope that, in the future this will become a tradition. It will provide a common social event for all of the Orthodox people in the Denver area and could also generate some funds for our parishes and charities.

For this year, however, we had to compress our planning and do not expect this event to do much more than to allow us to come together at the beautiful Denver Athletic Club, located between 13th and 14th and Glenarm in Downtown Denver, for a night of dinner, dancing and fun. The charge for the event is \$40 a person and we have already received donations of about \$2,000 worth of good door prizes and raffle items.

This is an event for people 18 and over, but our Parish Council and Katie Milosovich, our event manager, are attempting to provide child care at the Church Hall with some kind of fun activities for our youth.

Please see the enclosed flyer for details on the event and on how to order your tickets and, then invite your friends and relatives to share in the fun.

Impending Ordination

Alex Vallens, our Reader and Seminarian will be arriving on Monday of Bright Week to begin making arrangements for himself and Masha to relocate in the Denver area after his graduation from St. Tikhon's this spring. On the weekend of 14-15 May, we anticipate that Alex will be ordained to the Holy Diaconate in our Temple. More details will be provided as we learn them.

Historical Preservation Goes Forward

We have received the first of three reports from our architect laying out the recommended measures to repair and preserve our historic Temple. We plan to make our first application for funding from the "Sacred Places" project of the Colorado Historical Society during the October funding cycle. Among suggestions offered are those which would bring us up to standards with all of the City building codes, the excavation of the footings, ventilation and resurfacing of interior and exterior walls and other measures to prevent the future rise of dampness in the interior brick structure. Grants can be requested for up to \$200,000 at a time and, although matching funds of 20% are required, we can offer some donations, "In kind" toward this match and can also apply for some secondary grants from other places to help meet this obligation. Anyway, there is certainly no other current project which has higher priority than making certain that our 107+ year old Temple, sanctified by the joys and tears of six generations and consecrated by the hand of the martyred Hierarch, St. Tikhon be preserved. In an age when Orthodox Churches in Kosova and other parts of world are being destroyed by the hands of the enemies of God we are blessed and honored to be able to help preserve one of the three or four oldest of our Churches in America, "Unto the consummation of the age".

16th Annual Romanian National Day

On Sunday, 15 May we will observe the Holiday which was the National Romanian Celebration prior to the rise of Communism. Traditional Romanian food will be provided by John and Magda Blagaila. Magda and John will be in Romania on the holiday but have made plans to insure the our celebration goes forward as always. Depending on His Grace's schedule, this may also be the date of the ordination of our Son, Alex Vallens to the Sacred Order of Deacon.

2nd Annual Orthodox Food Festival

Announcwd

You will find a flyer in this Newsletter wich makes the first announcement of our 2005 Orthodox Food Festival on 30-31 July. More details will be provided but we need volunteers for every aspect of the event. Last year we had almost 75 parishioners involved.

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR.

Please add these dates to your long-term calendar.

- Friday, 6 May, Bright Friday, is the date for the Post-Paschal Dinner Dance.
Saturday & Sunday, 14-15 May, His Grace Tikhon will be here to ordain Reader Alexander Vallens.
- Sunday, 15 May, is also our Romanian National Day Celebration.
- 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.
- Monday and Tuesday, September 26th and 27th we will be blessed with a visit from the Wonderworking Icon, "Our Lady of Sitka".
- 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.

Babies

Many years! to Tatiana and Anthony Russell who were blessed with the birth of their first son, Sebastian. His Baptism is scheduled for Bright Saturday, 7 May.

Donald and Laura Powell will be here over Pascha Weekend to celebrate the Baptism of their daughter, Anya. Many Years to them as well.

Erin Busken will be honored with a Baby shower after the luncheon on Sunday, 17 April.

PASCHAL PREPARATION

- **CHOIR-** Our singers are reminded that our Holy week services require rehearsal

and preparation. Choir practices for these services are scheduled for 14 and 21 April. And, right after Pascha, we need to practice on 5 and 12 May for our visit from the Bishop and Alex's ordination. All of these dates are Thursdays and all practices begin at 7:00 p.m.

- **FLOWERS, PALMS AND WILLOWS-** Please do not neglect to make a donation toward the purchase of Palms, Willows and Flowers for Holy Week and Pascha. Many families have elected to pay for one of the lilies and the Zeniuks have donated all of the flowers for the Winding Sheet.
- **LAMB FOR PASCHA BREAKFAST-** We are going to serve roast lamb again this year. For a change, we are having the Leg of lamb that was so popular at the Festival and we need donations of about \$200 to purchase the meat.
- **LAZARUS SATURDAY PALM PRERPARATION-** We need folks on Lazarus Saturday, 23 April, to come and help us tie up bundles of Palms and willows and to help donate the Church for the Feast of Palms and for all of Great and holy Week. This will take about hour after Liturgy.

- **CHURCH TIDINESS-** Every day between Lazarus Saturday and Holy Pascha, we offer between 2 and 4 services. Although our handful of dedicated Church Cleaning team members do an heroic job, they can't be there for every service and things often get real messy, so, if you think about it, why not plan to stay and clean after one or two of the services. Cleaning God's Temple is like the women who tended our Lord's Sacred Body for burial. It is a blessing and a means of Grace.
- **IMPORTANT HOLY FRIDAY WORK-** We, also need many hands (men, women and older children) on Great and Holy Friday to help get everything in order and the Church decorated for Holy Pascha. We will be working from immediately following Royal Hours: about 11:00 a.m., until The Vespers of the Descent from the Holy Cross at 3:00 p.m.
- **HOLY WEEK ALTAR CANDLES-** There is a sign up sheet on the Church porch to donate Altar Candles for each of the many services during Great and Holy Week.
- **TOMB WATCH-** There is also a sign up sheet for the Tomb Watch, which extends from

the end of Matins, about 9:00 p.m. on Holy Friday until the Baptism and Vesperal Liturgy at 9:00 a.m. on Holy Saturday. Try to watch one hour with The Lord during that night.

- **HANDS NEEDED FOR HOLY FRIDAY NIGHT-** Also, Father Joseph needs to have as many hands as possible between 10:00 p.m. and Midnight on Holy Friday to transform the Church for Pascha. Changing all of the cloths and lamps can take six hours for one person but a half dozen can do it in a far shorter time.
- **BASKET BLESSINGS-** Pascha baskets will be blessed on the Church Porch after the Liturgy on Holy Saturday Morning. They will also be blessed following the Midnight Matins and Liturgy and after Vespers at 1:00 p.m. on Pascha in the Church Hall.
- **CANDY FOR KIDS-** Please bring wrapped candy for our children's Candy hunt in the Hall basement following the Midnight service.
- **OUR GARDENS-** Every time someone comments about our beautiful Church in print, they seem to mention our, "Beautiful gardens". Actually, we have attractive

bushes along the east side of the property, a garden and planters at the Rectory, which Matushka tends, and two crosses, the Troitza and the Memorial sign. Matushka Paulette, Magda Blagaila and, when she felt better, Pauli Fotinos did the bulk of the work on these and on the large pot in the middle of the yard. What we are asking is for one, two or more ladies to adopt one of these gardening projects and to bring it up to snuff, if not by Pascha, at least by Pentecost or earlier. Please pray about it.

- **AGAPE MEAL-** Remember that, in addition to our Paschal Break Fast after the Midnight service, some of us bring food to share in a little lunch after the Agape Vespers on Sunday afternoon. It is a nice way to wind down and to mellow out after the long, beautiful and rigorous services.

Great Martyr George
According to our calendar, the Feast of the Great Martyr and "Trophy bearer", St. George is observed on the last Friday of Great Lent before Lazarus Saturday. For this reason, we will celebrate with a Presanctified Liturgy at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, 22 April. That evening we will have the canon of repentance and Confessions. However, our brethren at St George's Skete in Denver will be observing their Patron Saint on

Bright Monday, 2 May, and everyone is invited to the Liturgy and luncheon which follows it. Or, come to Liturgy with us for St. Athanasius and go with us to the Monastery for their celebration.

NEW VESTMENTS

We are grateful to all of those who contributed toward the purchase of five new Readers' Vestments. Also, thank you to The Sisterhood which purchased a blue Deacon's set for Father Averky.

NEW ICONS

Also, thank you to those who have contributed toward the purchase of new Icons of the Great Women Martyrs for the Church. We have Sts. Christina, Julia, Philothea, and Tatiana so far and are hoping for donations for Sts. Barbara, Cecilia, Margaret, Marina and Paraskeva.

ADRIANA TO RETURN TO ROMANIA (For a while)

Adriana Stacu who has come and gone between Denver and Bucharest and Denver for a few years, will be returning to Romania for about a year to help raise and care for her grandson. Her last Sunday will be the end of May. If you don't know Adriana, you will miss her anyway as it is she whose has kept our Hall so clean and radiant these last 10 months.

THANK YOU! To Helen Capron who washes all of our colored lamps and to Sandie Kennedy, who with Donna Hofmann, polishes all of the brass in the Church and bakes thousands of Prospora for our services.



Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Cathedral

349 E 47th Ave,
Denver, Colorado, 80216

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

7 April, 2005

Repose of St. Tikhon of Moscow (Consecrator of Holy Transfiguration Temple)

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

I greet you at the midpoint of our journey toward Holy Pascha. God willing, I will join you and my Brother Clergy in the proclamation of the Resurrection of Our Lord for the twenty-first time. As you have, perhaps, already gathered, this Newsletter is jammed with information about all of the things, which are going on around here. Please take the time to give attention to all of the announcements, schedules, invitations and opportunities to help out mentioned in these 15 pages.

When I came here, the name of the parish Newsletter had, for some time been *The Good Tidings*. I immediately changed this to simply *The Parish Newsletter* and later to *The Cathedral Newsletter*, because it seemed to me that the "Good tidings" were the words of the Gospel (Good Spiel or Good News) of Jesus Christ and that the title was far too grandiose and presumptuous for a parish bulletin,

On the other hand, as I read over the various articles, lists, flyers, report and calendars which constitute this Pre-Paschal Newsletter, it seemed to me that, while this is not the Gospel of Christ it is, in a real way, a witness to our communal response to that message. God has conquered death, overthrown the Devil and made a few hundred people from various races, tongues, generations and backgrounds into a living, viable struggling Icon of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. In a way, our struggle to live the Christian message together, in Community and in Love is our showing forth before men that light of Christ which shown in the darkness and could not be overcome by it; the light which enlighteneth all who come into the world and which, by beholding in and among us, invites all who see it to Glorify the Father Who is in Heaven.

We will not all attend all of the Holy Week and Paschal Services but they will be offered, prayed, sung on behalf of all of us and for all of us. We will not all attend the Sunday Morning Break-fast, the Sunday afternoon potluck luncheon or the Bright Friday dinner and dance party but it will be our community, which is sharing, eating and celebrating. For, touching on our Life in the Risen Lord, "Me" and "I" fade into the shadows as "We" and "Us" are illumined by the Light of and Incorporated into the Body of Our Risen and Triumphant Lord, Who, being King before the ages, nevertheless, condescended to work Salvation in The Midst of the Earth.

On behalf of Matushka Paulette, Fathers, Eugene and Averky and the officers of your Parish Council I wish you a Blessed Great and Holy and a Joyful and Holy Pascha.

Archpriest Joseph Hirsch

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