

Holy Transfiguration Cathedral Newsletter

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Archpriest Joseph Hirsch - Dean

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Church Preservation Project Grants

After having written an application and having received an Architectural Assessment Grant: After having completed the evaluation process and spent the entire month of August working with Matushka to compose a forty-seven page project application and then submitting, revising and resubmit it: After having waited, then, for over four months for a decision: we were elated at being informed in mid January that we have been awarded a \$155,000 "Sacred Structures Historical Preservation Grant" from the Colorado Historical Society.

The grant is a 3 to 1 matching grant, which means that we will either have to raise about \$51,000 on our end or take that much from our "Property Preservation Endowment". We are extremely fortunate, because, having started the process as an optional effort to repair and restore our building, the architectural study left no doubt that the excavation of the footings and foundation, the diverting of ground water and the treating of the ancient brick walls against the incipient encroachment of "Rising damp" are absolutely necessary for the long term survival of our sacred and historic Temple.

This grant, which is for "Phase one" of the process, will also allow us to bring our building up to code and to deal with some issues such as the inert asbestos left in the crawl space from an old heating system and an unevenness in the Altar floor which goes all the way back to the installation of the iconostasis in 1905, as well as to repair fissures and cracks in the interior and exterior wall surfaces.

The entire first phase will take about eighteen months to complete. Bids for the work should be received and contracts signed around the end of March. We have already received gifts and pledges for about 15% of our match and will be making pledge cards available so that those who wish to do so can have a part in supporting the work. Every Liturgy, we pray for God to Sanctify and Glorify those, "...who love the beauty of Thy House". This is a genuine opportunity to join the "Founders" (Those who laid the foundation.) of this hallowed structure in receiving this blessing.

Neighborhood Painting Project

During the weeks of 13 through 28 March, the "College Pro Painters" will be holding a training camp for their summer employees. A total of 100 students will be coming to Globeville in three, spring break shifts to spend three or four days sharpening their professional techniques by painting the home of thirty low income, elderly or disabled neighborhood residents. Paint is being donated as is food and lodging for the young painters. They will probably be using our Hall for lunch and noon time meetings a few days each week. The event is being arranged by the Globeville Civic Association of which Matushka Paulette is President and will provide a valuable boost to the morale of many of our neighbors as well as to the general appearance of the Neighborhood.

Projects and Improvements

Since our last Newsletter, a number of repairs improvements and acquisitions have occurred at Holy Transfiguration:

Mike Rogozik has been very busy replacing the back door on the rectory, repairing the door locks on the parish hall, restoring the stockade fence blown down by recent high winds and obtaining bids for new wrought iron railings on the rectory front steps as well as the new railing on the exterior altar steps which will be required by the terms of our grant.

The Hirsch family paid to have all of the tall trees on the property trimmed and pruned

and to have a new permanent shade installed on the rectory Patio as part of the memorial fund for Marjorie Hirsch.

Tom Lynch, who is an excellent carpenter, formerly from our Parish but now living with his family in Pueblo, has put in several days of work hand sanding, filling and refinishing our solid oak Church doors. Fr. Christopher, who had made the doors for us at about half the regular price, had been unfamiliar with the effects of climate and U.V. on wood finishes in Colorado. The acrylic finish which should have protected them for years, instead, caused them to dry out and crack, leaving a rough surface and visible defects in the wood. Tom could not use any kind of stripping compound or tools because of the damage these would cause to the glue and the wood. Skillfully, he has stood for hours in the elements, removing the offending finish bit by bit. All that will be required now will be an annual linseed oiling similar to what we give our wooden crosses. The doors will then be beautiful for decades. Tom also made solid oak cylinders to contain sand on our two large brass candle stands. This will spare our ladies hours of scraping and melting of wax with hair dryers.

Gabriel Hayman has written and donated two large Icons of the "Stilites", Sts. Simeon and Daniel and one of St. Raphael of Brooklyn. He has also completed Icons of "The God-crowned Saints" Constantine and Helen and Vladimir and Olga as part of the Memorial to Helen Capron.

PODD '06

Friday evening, 28 April (Bright Friday) we will hold our second annual Pan Orthodox Dinner Dance or PODD at the Denver Athletic Club. No one who attended last year will even think of missing the event this year and everyone who has talked to someone who was there will certainly want to attend as well. Details will be announced at Church as plans are made but it is certainly an event which everyone will want to put on their calendar today. If you would like to help with the PODD, se Erin Busken

for details. We are presently collecting door prize and "Silent auction" items of \$50 or more in value. If you can contribute something or have any ideas, please-let Erin know

Retrospective of Parish Events

ROMANIAN BENEFIT

Our Holiday and post Holiday parties and benefits were all wonderful successes. On New Years Day we held our Annual Christmas Party and benefit pot luck for the Romanian Children's Memorial Fund featured a buffet laden with wonderful food, both Romanian and otherwise. We were entertained by the Romanian Dancing ensemble, shared in good fellowship, distributed Christmas gifts to our children and collected generous donations for our Romanian Charity Account. This fund was originally started at the time of the Romanian revolution to honor the children who were slain with some kind of memorial. Over the years, it has become an ongoing "Living memorial" having collected and distributed almost \$15,000 to worthy individuals, charities and Churches in Romania. This spring, our ladies plan to hold their annual Romanian National Day and to donate the proceeds to the new "St. John's Romanian Church which has opened up one block from our Church on 46th and Logan.

RUSSIAN HOLIDAY PARTY

Our Russian and Ukrainian ladies put on a wonderful feast for our "Old Rus Holiday Party". We collected over \$2,000 for a children's hospice in St. Petersburg and were entertained by many of our highly talented local Russian children. Many Years to Antonina Hartenbower who organized the event and to our Russian and Ukrainian ladies who prepared a princely banquet.

RUSSIAN YOLKA

The brethren of All Saints of Russia ROCOR parish were our guests in the Parish Hall on the afternoon of Sunday, 15 January. Frs. Eugene and Joseph were the guests of Fr. Boris Henderson and the parishioners of All Saints for a nearly professional program that featured the story of the "Bogoteers" who fought the Tartars in old Russia.

SAINT SAVA

BALKAN WINTER FESTIVAL

Over and over again the comment was heard, "This is like the old days". It was the 108th Annual St. Sava's Day and spirits were high as we sang the praises of our beloved Saint Sava of Serbia and partook of the cabbage rolls wrapped in home made sour cabbage by Magda, Emelia and Dana and enjoyed delicious roast pork and Greek beans prepared by Diana Seurer with the help of Nick Fotinos.

It was a special joy to serve the Divine Liturgy that day with Archimandrite Leonid of the Serbian Patriarchate.

It was a special blessing that day to be able to announce the awarding of our historical preservation grant.

Silent Auction to end on Cheese-fare Sunday

Mary Lou Egan, one of the foremost graphic artists in Colorado and archivist of historical sites in the state, has given Fr. Joseph a unique Pastel rendering of the three buildings which constitute our parochial compound. Fr. Joseph has put this artistic treasure up for auction to the highest bidder who will be the person who makes the largest donation to the Historic Preservation Matching Grant. The High bid thus far is \$2,000 and the silent auction will end on

Sunday, 5 March. The art work can be viewed on the West wall of the Parish Hall.

Festival # 3

It has been urged upon us by people "In the know" that we move our 2006 Orthodox Food Festival and Globeville Cultural Celebration up one week to 22-23 July so that folks will not be forced to choose between the popular "Dragon Boat Festival" and our celebration which is growing in reputation and popularity. It may also be possible for us to obtain some "Community Building Grant" money for the part of our celebration which is open to the public without charge. As soon as the Festival committee is able to meet, we will have more details on this wonderful event.

Bishop's Visit

Anniversary Celebrations

On Sunday, 2 July, the Continent will rejoice in the Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the repose of St. John Maximovich of San Francisco. This is also 40th Anniversary of Fr. Joseph and Matushka Paulette's wedding and, two day later, Fr. Eugene will celebrate the fortieth anniversary of his Holy Priesthood. His Grace, Bishop Benjamin will be here to celebrate these joyous events with us and Fr. Joseph and Matushka Paulette will host a Festal Banquet that day for all who are able to be present to join in the joy of the day.

40 Day Service for Helen Capron

On Sunday, 26 February, we will offer the forty day service for Helen Capron. The service will follow the Divine Liturgy. We have received many donations to Helen's Memorial Fund and have used some of it to purchase two Icons in her memory. The remainder will be placed in the Church Preservation Matching Fund. May her Memory be Eternal!

PROSPHORA

Every week we use at least two large prospora (proschura) and forty to fifty small loaves. These can not be and are not simply, "Thrown together". They can not be tossed into a "Bread machine" and left to cook. First, we require special ingredients, a special kind of unbleached white flour, yeast, salt and pure water. Next, special seals and, preferably, rolling pins, pans and baking sheets must be assembled. Then, the process of baking requires, at least, two kneading, two risings and several rollings and rerollings. All of this is exhausting work. Then, each loaf must be marked with the appropriate seal, pierced repeatedly to avoid bubble forming under its surface and the two layers from which each prospora must be made, are bonded together. The loaves, then, must be baked for just the right duration at just the right temperature or they will either be doughy or develop hard crusty surfaces which, in either case, makes them difficult or inappropriate for use at the Altar.

The person or persons who are doing the preparation and baking of these loaves must cultivate a quiet, pious and undistracted demeanor as they work for they are forming loaves, some of which, will become the very living flesh of God Himself.

It is a custom in this and many other parishes that, in addition to the five loaves required for the Divine Liturgy, individuals bring or purchase one or more prospora which, together with their lists of the living and departed, are sent into the Holy Altar so that the priests may cut small particles in memory of these individuals and place these on the discuss together with the Holy Lamb which has been prepared for Holy Communion. At the conclusion of each Liturgy, the Priest or Deacon places all of these particles in the holy chalice to represent the washing away of sins in the precious blood of Christ and through the prayers of His Saints. The small loaves are then returned to those who offered them to

be consumed with compunction and reverence.

Recently, we have had large numbers of Holy Prospora left over after the Sunday Liturgy. People, it seems, are paying for their offering breads but not coming to Church to receive them. For this reason, we have determined that we will not send prospora to the Altar for those who are still absent by the reading of the Holy Gospel. Rather, we will send their commemoration books to the Altar so that particles may be taken from the two loaves reserved for such a person.

Further, we have decided to raise the offering for each loaf from \$.50 to \$1.00. Hopefully this first price raise in thirty years will discourage people from purchasing loaves they do not really want and leaving them lying around.

Finally, we all need have a greater respect for the Holy Bread and a more perfect understanding of the great blessing it is to be allowed to prepare and bake it. When this happens, we will, doubtless, have many more eager hands coming forth to assist Sandie Kennedy and a handful of other ladies in making this holy food.

WINE

We use a special wine called "Extra heavy Malagna". This is sweet enough that infants will receive it, strong enough to stand up to hot water and is free of phosphates. Deacon Averky purchases this from a vender who orders it for us but anyone who desires to do so, is welcome to purchase the wine for one or many liturgies by giving a check to the treasurer or money to Father Deacon.





Holy Transfiguration of Christ Cathedral

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA
349 E. 47th Ave.
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THE VERY REVEREND
FATHER JOSEPH HIRSCH
ARCHPRIEST AND RECTOR

Sunday of the Prodigal Son
19 February, 2006

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Once more, we are on the threshold of the Great Fast. It is always with a mixture of feelings that most of us approach this time of year. On the one hand, Fasting means doing things we might not have chosen to do otherwise, such as eating or not eating, drinking or not drinking by rules rather than by whim and impulse. It also means that our consciences are made especially sensitive to our own selfishness and sins, which, while a good thing in itself, makes us feel a bit uncomfortable. And then, of course, the Priest will expect us to attend more church services and they will, sometimes, be longer than we are accustomed to.

On the other hand, most or all of us would admit to a special sense of peace, of calm and of quiet joy that comes from entering into the Lenten Discipline of the Great Fast. Like children who act out and misbehave, we know that our normal lives are a bit out of control, out of focus and our behavior is often a cry for discipline. Like those same naughty kids our hearts and minds respond to that loving discipline with a feeling of interior quietness at knowing that, not only are WE not in control of our situation but We don't need to be in control because someone else, in this case, God, has been given and has taken that control out of our hands.

What a wonderful feeling to enter upon the Feast of Fasting, a fast as much or more from hurtful words and judgmental attitudes as from food and drink. What bliss it can be to listen again to the ancient hymns and the penitential melodies summoning us back home to Paradise. The Fathers call this time the "Feast of Fasting" and they compare it more to a return to Eden than to a sojourn in the desert. Let us, then, join hands and enter together into the joys of the Great Fast, laying aside all of our negative feelings and anxieties and embracing our return to the Lenten Paradise with Faith and Love so that, together as a family and united with Pauliann, Anna, Helen and all of our blessed departed ones, we may hear the Paschal proclamation from the lips of the Golden Mouthed St. John, "Christ is Risen, and there are no longer any dead in the tombs".

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archpriest Joseph-Dean

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Parish Council Update

We hope that 2006 has started off to be a great year for you and your family. So far things are looking great for our Parish family. January was an exciting month with several celebrations. The St. Sava's celebration is the first fundraiser of the year for the Parish's operating budget. This year's event was very successful - attendance was great and the net profit for the event was \$2,848! Thank you to everyone who made the event successful. With a big St. Sava's day and your generosity, we are starting the year \$6,100 in the positive. With a start like this, 2006 is sure to be a great year for us. The Council plans to work on the following projects / events this year and then some:

Bright Friday Pan-Orthodox Dinner/Dance - Mark your calendar for this exciting event. You don't want to miss this. It is Friday evening April 28th at the Denver Athletic Club. The cost is \$40 for a fabulous sit down dinner and a great time. There will be lots of great door prizes. Approximately 1 in every 10 people will win a door prize valued at \$50 just for being there. There will also be great items for raffle and silent auction. The goal of the event is to provide a fellowship opportunity for everyone in our Parish as well as local Parishes to enjoy without having to work. With any big Parish sponsored event there is always a group needed to set-up, cook, clean-up, etc. It often ends up being the same group of people volunteering for those jobs. These people never get to sit back and enjoy the festivities. This event allows everyone (adults only) to get dressed up, relax and have fun with their friends from church, outside of our normal setting i.e. our hall. All you have to do for this event is show up and have fun. Stay tuned for all of the details. We hope to see many of you there!

Social Events - We plan to have four social events this year for the Parish. These will be an opportunity to get to know your fellow Parishioners outside of the Sunday routine. We will host a softball tournament in the fall. We also plan to hold a retreat and have some guest speakers. A couple of these will also be Pan-Orthodox events. If you have any ideas please let us know.

Library - We have a tremendous amount of reading materials in the hall of the basement. We plan to catalog these so everyone knows what is available and can take advantage of these resources.

Communication - We would like to improve communication within our Parish family. We hope to establish an e-mail list that can be utilized to make announcements, send reminders, etc. We want to make sure that everyone knows what is going on and can stay involved. Please be sure that we have your e-mail address so we can take advantage of this means of communicating.

Taping Sermons - On several occasions it has been suggested that Father Joe's sermons be recorded. We will begin doing this in the near future and they will be available in the library to check out.

Welcome Program - We finalized the formal greeter / welcome program for visitors and new parishioners and will be implementing the program in the very near future. As part of the program, the new Welcome brochure for visitors will be available soon.

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.

Lastly, as you noticed we are hoping to strengthen relationships with our Orthodox brothers and sisters in Colorado through a number of events. A great opportunity to do this is at the Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers at the Assumption Cathedral. We hope many of you will consider attending this service and the following reception. It is a great way to start the Paschal lent.

If you are interested in helping with any of these projects, have any ideas or input on these projects or additional projects, please let a Parish Council member know. We look forward to an exciting year!!

In Christ,
Erin Busken, Senior Warden