
Holy Transfiguration Cathedral Newsletter

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Archpriest Joseph Hirsch - Dean Archpriest Eugene Tarris - Assistant

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Annual Parish Meeting

Our 109th Annual Parish Meeting took place following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, 5 November. The 2007 budget was adopted. Reports were received and six Parish Council Members were elected. Erin Elizabeth Busken, Reader Joseph Hirsch IV, Berndt Roman Myhr and Colleen Amelia Ramos were reelected to three year terms while John Baird and Yana Kosic were elected to complete vacant one year terms. Douglas Michael Busken and Carla Elizabeth Scott were selected as auditors. At a subsequent Meeting of the Parish Council, Erin Busken was reelected as Senior Warden, Ben Hirsch as Jr. Warden, Chris Jobanputra as Treasurer and Carol Montealegre was elected as Secretary. Colleen Ramos accepted another term as Financial Secretary. All Members and officers will be installed on Sunday, 7 January, subject to approval by Bishop Benjamin. The meeting lasted about one hour and ten minutes and was very constructive.

Church Preservation Project Grants

God willing, we will have completed the work on our first Historical Preservation Grant by Holy Pascha. The remaining work covered by this grant involves excavating the entire circumference of the Temple down to the footings and inserting a lead barrier into the brick wall to block the "Rising damp" which is the cause of our present blistering and cracking of the internal and external plaster. We will, then, backfill, repour the concrete all around the Temple and build a dry well for the Altar sink. The contractor is ready to start in mid December, after he finishes a job at the State Capitol. This will mean that the project will be completed about three months ahead of time and for about 25% under budget. We have also decided to go forward with a project to rebuild the structure of our floor in as much as the contractor has offered us a very favorable price for the work at this time. We still need your generous donations to the Matching Fund to avoid our having to take too much money out of our "Property Preservation Trust". Also, the Parish Council has approved our applying for a smaller grant in the April cycle to cover the re-plastering and repainting of the interior of our Temple once the structural damage has been halted and remediated.

Nativity Services and Events

Again this year our cycle of Nativity Services is a bit different because the Feast falls on Monday. The Royal Hours, which usually fall on Christmas Eve morning, are served, instead, on Friday morning. Saturday, we will have the Fore-festal Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom. Sunday, we will have our regular morning services, followed by a brief Vespers with prophetic readings at 1:30 p.m. That night, we will hold the traditional Christmas Eve Vigil at 6:30 and, on Monday Morning, Christmas Day, we will read the 3rd and 6th hours at 9:40 and the Christmas Liturgy at 10:00 a.m. Because of the nature of the holiday, we realize that many of our families will have other plans and commitments that day, so, as usual, we will open the Hall for those who wish to bring an item or two to share and to relax in this informal environment for an hour or so.

Festive Holiday Dinners We will hold our three traditional Holiday Dinner. On Sunday, 31 December, we will follow our Sunday Liturgy with our traditional Children's Program in the Church. We will then adjourn to the Hall for the Kids' Christmas Party and

out traditional Holiday pot luck dinner for the benefit of our Romanian Children's Memorial Fund.

The next Sunday, 7 January, we will hold our 11th annual "Old Russian Christmas Party". This dinner, featuring Russian and Ukrainian cuisine and entertainment, is a charity event which has sent about \$25,000 to children's charities. Again this year, we plan to send the money we raise to a Church sponsored children's cancer hospital and hospice in St. Petersburg.

And, on Sunday, 28 January, for the 109th time in our history we will honor the Great Serbian Saint, Sava, and the Balkan "Pioneers" of our community. As usual, the traditional dinner which includes "Sarma" or cabbage rolls, will be observed with a children's program, door prizes and a dance. Sponsors for this year's Slava are Tom and Myra Hill and they are already making plans for a truly great day.

Holiday Envelopes

Please remember that your donations in the Christmas Envelopes are usually the difference between financial solvency and shortfall for the Parish for the entire year. Please be generous!

Sisterhood Greenery and Flower Collection

Once more, the baskets are out to receive your donations toward the decorating of our Temple for the Nativity & Theophany Season. Again, the Sisterhood is asking families and individuals to Donate one or more of the items listed in the hall to beautify the Church for the Holidays.

Slavonic Liturgy

This year, the 7th of January falls on a Sunday. Normally we serve this Liturgy for the Feast of St. John the Baptist in Old Slavonic and with the Nativity Hymns at the conclusion. Since, however, this is a Sunday Liturgy, we will sing a few of the sections of the Divine Liturgy in Slavonic but most of the Service in English. We will have the joy of holding our "Old Russian Christmas Party" on that day.

Family Church Decorating Day

Saturday, 16 December, is the time for our Holiday Church Decorating. It doesn't take too long to wrap the Poinsettias and hanging evergreen. When we have lots of hands it is quick and light work. When volunteers are scarce, it can be a real drudge and near impossible task. Since this day falls long before Christmas this year, it ought not to interfere too much with people's last minute projects.

We are grateful...

To Reader Simeon and Beth Mary Johnson who donated a new sound system for the Parish Hall.

To the Julia Dawson memorial fund for re-plating the small set of Eucharistic vessels which we use for most of the weekday liturgies.

To Thomas Bede Cope, J.D., Ph.D. who has volunteered to take over as Financial Manager of our historical preservation project. Also, to Steve Dawson, who handled the books for us during the past several months but was unable to continue.

To Anastasia Whitted and Gordon Spencer for volunteering to take over Sandie Kennedy's brass polishing duties. Sandie continues to bake the small Prospora and Magda Blagaila and Luminitza Gurau, the large ones.

To Tracey Powell who puts up and takes down our beautiful "Tree of Crosses" each year.

Memory Eternal to Dennis Glasson, Husband of Ludmilla Glasson and son in law of Peter and Valentina Kopiloff, who reposed on Sunday, 12 November, a few hours after having embraced the Holy Orthodox Faith and receiving the Holy Mysteries as his "Final provision on to everlasting life". We will serve his 40 day service following Liturgy on Saturday, 23 December.