

## Holy Transfiguration Cathedral Newsletter

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**Archpriest Joseph Hirsch - Dean**

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### Church Preservation Project

At this moment, the workmen have finished remediating the "Rising damp" on the East and north sides of our temple and have replaced the concrete which had been removed. The "Bob cat" is now at work excavating the West side and work will soon begin on this wall.

The entire process is not something that is clearly comprehensible to the "Naked eye" but, certainly, will have made the difference between the survival of our lovely historical temple into future centuries and the impending necessity of its demolition.

Briefly, the workmen are excavating the exterior walls all the way to their base. They are temporarily removing an entire course of brick all the way through the two foot thick wall and, bit by bit, inserting a layer of lead flashing about two feet above ground level and then reinserting the brick. Next, they are tuck pointing the old brick, are sealing it in mortar below ground level, are installing a perimeter drain system and covering the subterranean part of the walls in durable Styrofoam. Finally, they are refilling and repacking the trench and are pouring a slightly wider sidewalk with a slope away from the building.

In the process, we have been able to retain the same preservation contractors to install dozens of new cedar piers on footings beneath our Temple floor and to level the

entire floor which, in some places, was as much as 6% out to plane. We have also shored up and installed adjustable jacks beneath the Altar floor, which had been badly undermined during a "Remodeling" in the early 20th century. Ten years ago, our lowest bid on this floor project, which we have known we would have to undertake for almost a quarter of a century, was about double the cost today since we are combining it with the historical preservation of the walls. This part, however, is not covered by the grant and is costing us about \$12,000 out of pocket.

We have, also, installed a new drain for the Sacristy sink in the Altar and it now drains into a special well which is appropriate for the disposal such water.

We have installed a a "State of the art" laser fire detection alarm system, have repaired cracks in the ceiling of the temple and repainted it a beautiful "monastery blue" color.

In all, we have raised about \$21,000 of the matching funds for this project from our members and friends and will, probably, therefore, need to withdraw about that much more from our savings to make up the difference.

The State, and our architect, are urging us to go ahead at once with an application for a second smaller grant to complete the re-plastering and painting of the Church interior. The Parish Council has approved our going ahead. The rising damp has left some cracks that one could loose a small child in. Still, this will require another 25% match from the Parish so we will need to continue to solicit your generosity for the process of restoration. We are now quite aware, however, that Phase I, which we had seen as optional, was in fact, a matter of life and death for our Temple, whose walls were consecrated by Saints and sanctified by over a century of prayer.

### Neighborhood Painting Project

Again this year the "College Pro Painters" will be holding a training camp for their summer employees. Somewhere between 60 and 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 twenty low income, elderly or disabled neighborhood residents. Much of the paint, food and other essentials are being donated and, again this year, Matushka Paulette, Margaret Escamilla and the Globeville Civic Association have written grant applications which should cover much of the rest of the cost. If you are in the neighborhood and see the crews working between the 12th and 30th of March, stop and tell them "Thank you!" for this effort to lift up the neighborhood where our Church is planted and where we own property.

### PODD '07

Friday evening, 13 April (Bright Friday) we will hold our third annual Pan Orthodox Dinner Dance or PODD at the Denver Athletic Club. No one who attended PODD 1 or 2 will want to miss this wonderful feast of food and fellowship on the "Fast-free Friday after Holy Pascha. Last year, one third of our profits went to IOCC and, this year, we plan to donate back half of the profits to the participating parishes in proportion to their participation. That way, each Church can support their own special charity or other project and we, hopefully, will make the event truly "Pan Orthodox". Special invited guests for this year's event are, His Eminence Archbishop Isaiah of Denver and His Grace Bishop Benjamin, who has been nominated by our Diocese to become the next Bishop of San Francisco. A feature of the PODD, this year as in the past, will be the multitude exciting door prizes and raffle

items in which our guests have an excellent chance if sharing.

All in all, the PODD is one of the top events which our young and creative Parish Council has initiated in the last few years.

### Retrospective of Parish Events

#### CHRISTMAS POT LUCK BENEFIT

Even with the horrible weather the we experience in late December, the attendance for and participation in our Children's Christmas Party and pot luck benefit for the Romanian Children's Memorial Fund was impressive. Thank you to Dana Gall, who contributed the children's gifts and to Michelle Dyl who helped with all of our children's events throughout the Holiday Season and to all who cooked, brought food and donated to this important parish charity. We received somewhere around \$700.

#### RUSSIAN HOLIDAY PARTY

Because of the snow on the last Saturday in December, we were unable to hold our Children's Play practice so we moved the performance to 6 January and joined it, this year, to our annual Old Rus Holiday Charity Party. The food was provided by our ladies from Russian, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Belorussia, etc. and was coordinated by Antonina Hartenbower who has a positive genius for organization not to mention the she and her crew are GREAT COOKS. We received a little less than \$2,000 for our Charity: the Orthodox Children's Hospice in St. Petersburg, but, we hope that we will be able to add a bit to that before Anatoy Rubtsov takes our money to Russia in May.

**SAINT SAVA BALKAN WINTER FESTIVAL**

Our St. Sava Celebration on 28 January was one for the record books. Our attendance was the best in years and, naturally, the proceeds also surpassed previous years. Mira and Tom Hall, who were the Hosts for the Feast took a vital interest in every in every aspect of the days celebration. Next year, Marco & Gari Lukich will be the Hosts. Many years to both of these wonderful families!

**PASCHA DRAWING**

A special donation to the Sisterhood has been made by Steve Dawson. A lady's 14k white gold, Tanzanite / Diamond ring, Appraised at \$1250.00 (appraisal paper provided). The sisterhood will be selling sweepstakes tickets throughout lent for \$5.00 each and there will be a drawing at the Agape Breakfast on Pascha.

**Festival # 4**

Mark your calendars for July 22nd. This is the date of our annual ORTHODOX FOOD FESTIVAL & Old Globville Days. It seems like a long way off right now but the OFF Committee has already been meeting for several months and plans are underway for a greater, better, more enjoyable OFF in 2007. We have been promised some additional publicity this year. (Last years Radio spots were terrific.) and we are hoping to obtain an even greater amount of grant money to cover the cultural aspects of our event.

**WINE & OIL**

We use a special wine called "Extra heavy Malaga" . This is sweet enough that infants will receive it, strong enough to stand up to hot water and is free of phosphates. Father Averky has been purchasing this for the Church and will continue to do so but, recently, some of our parishioners have been picking up a case from time to time and bringing as an offering. This is a laudable practice as the donation of such items as

bread, wheat, wine & olive oil is a tradition which goes back to the very roots of our history

**Continental Divide Blessing**

There is a nice film clip of our annual Blessing of the snow pack on the Continental Divide at Monarch Pass on "U Tube Service". The link is

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NcnquxAvQ88> It is published by a list called Pravoslavna and may be found under the title "Holy Theophany 2007".

We had a wonderful time and we hope that more of our people will attend next year.

**Holy Week Candles**

Please remember that we rely on your donations to provide the many candles, palms, willows and flowers which make our Holy Week and Pascha services so beautiful. Both the Holy Week candle calendar and the palm and flower donation basket are at the candle desk.

## LENTEN VESPERS

By the time you receive this Newsletter, we will already have had our first Pan Orthodox Vespers Service at Holy Assumption Cathedral. The second service, which will be for our Denver and Northern circuits, will be at Holy Transfiguration on Sunday, 4 March, the Sunday of Saint Gregory Palamas. Our Choir will sing and we will have a Lenten reception in our Hall following the Service. Please plan to come to Vespers at 6:00 p.m. and, please bring a Lenten dish for the reception.

In the weeks following, there will be Vespers in the Denver area, in Boulder and the Northern Suburbs and in the Southern part of our Deanery.

Fr. Joseph will be participating in the following services, all at 6:00 p.m.:

Sunday, 11 March- St. Constantine & Helen / Holy Theophany in Colorado Springs.

Sunday, 18 March- St. Archangel Michael in Pueblo.

Sunday, 25 March- St. Mary's Holy Dormition in Calhan.

Fr. Joseph will be making his Lenten Dean's visit to St. Herman Church for a Pre-sanctified Liturgy on at 6:30 p.m. on Friday evening, 2 March. A supper will follow. Parishioners are welcome to join in any of these services.

## LENTEN ADULT CLASSES

We have has several requests for Lenten Adult Classes. In response, Fr. Joseph has scheduled a series of five Lecture and Discussion classes on the five Thursdays of March. Classes will run from 7:00-8:15 p.m. and will be for enquirers, catechumens and practicing Orthodox alike.

Topics for the five weeks will be:

1 March- "Salvation History and the Old Testament".

8 March- "The Incarnation and the New Testament Church".

15 March- "The Mysteries of the Old and New Covenant".

22 March- "Orthodox Worship: the Christian Temple, Holy Icons and cycle of services".

29 March- "Orthodox Spirituality and Prayer".

## PROJECTS

We are spending a lot of money right now on our historical preservation project and will be spending even more on phase two. Also, we are continuing to put aside funds in anticipation of our purchase of adjacent property.

Still, from time to time, other needs and wants emerge. In the area of needs, the Rectory bathtub has become a complete mess due to the peeling away over the years of the enamel coating. It is, even with the use of rubber pads which only exacerbate the problem, like sitting on sandpaper. The most economical and permanent "fix" is to install a solid lining in the old tub. The Parish Council approved this project in in December but it will cost almost \$3,000, so contributions would be welcomed.

Another emerging need is for hand rails on either side of the center Altar steps. These should be sturdy, unobtrusive and easily maintained. Not only is it difficult for both of the aging priests to negotiate the narrow steps but many of our parishioners have to be helped up and down the stairs when Holy Communion is administered from the Amvon, as when the Bishop visits. A couple of elegant wrought iron rails on the sides of the amvon would be perfect and a wonderful donation.



# Holy Transfiguration of Christ Cathedral

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA  
349 E. 47th Ave.  
Denver, CO 80216

THE VERY REVEREND  
FATHER JOSEPH HIRSCH  
ARCHPRIEST AND RECTOR

22 February, 2007

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

The early date of Holy Pascha this year leaves me in an odd position in writing this bi-monthly newsletter. Great Lent has already begun and, by the time most of you receive this, we will be well into the second week of the Fast. And yet, it seems a bit premature to say the least, to be addressing Paschal greetings at this point in time.

Still, as you read through this March and April newsletter, you will certainly be impressed with the many signs of Resurrection, of New Life, which surround us in our Diocese, Deanery and Parish. Attendance during the entire six weeks of the "Blizzard of '06-'07" remained remarkably good and the storm did not prevent us from finishing last year in black ink on our ledger.

Our Deanery Parishes experienced a wonderful pilgrimage to the Continental Divide and the Blessing of that service will be rolling across America for months. We are, again planning to hold our Lenten Mission Vesper Services and have already begun plans for our Summer Camp.

Our Diocese has exercised its ancient privilege and performed its ancient duty of nominating to the Holy Synod, a person, who, it seems good to the Holy Spirit and to us, that he should become our new Diocesan Hierarch. God willing, His Grace will be with us at the end of Bright Week this year and, again, for our camp and Parish Feast Day in August.

Parochial life is being lead and facilitated by our very gifted Parish Council who are actively engaged in planning for our future, in undertaking new projects, in investigating possible land acquisitions and in stewardship of the Parish patrimony. We have initiated new programs, improved old ones, preserved our venerable Temple, helped to improve life in our local neighborhood and welcomed a steady stream of new members through birth, new birth and transfer.

A wonderful thing about Great Lent and Holy Week is how they always look forward to and push us toward and draw us into the Paschal Mystery. May our Deanery, Diocese and our Parish continue to serve for us as IKONS of Gods Renewing Power and Risen Presence in our midst and as consolations and sources of hope in our times of sorrow, confusion, pain and temptation till we all, the People of God, come to stand together in Eternal Joy before the Throne of Glory.

Yours in Christ,

Archpriest Joseph

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## Parish Council Update

We hope that 2007 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 \$4,078! Thank you to everyone who made the event successful particularly our hosts Tom & Mira Hill. The other celebrations supported Orthodox charities.

The Council started the year by brainstorming goals / projects for 2007. All together we came up with 40 fantastic ideas. While we would love to work on them all right now, we know everyone's time and resources are limited. We are in the midst of prioritizing the ideas and getting the projects organized. Some are already under way. If you are interested in seeing the list we generated and possibly helping we would love to have some help. Please see me. You will be hearing more about the ideas as we work to implement them. Some projects definitely in the works follow:

**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 13<sup>th</sup> at the Denver Athletic Club. We are thrilled to announce that Bishop Benjamin of Berkeley and Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver will be attending the event! The cost is \$50 for a fabulous sit down dinner and a great time. There will be lots of great door prizes. Approximately 1 in every 9 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, serve, 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. Please see the flier in the newsletter with the details. We hope to see many of you there!

**Communication** - We are continuing to work on improvements to communication within our Parish family. We hope to establish an e-mail list that can be utilized to make announcements (births, deaths, illnesses, etc.), 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. Last fall we put out a parish directory in the hall for everyone to verify their information and add e-mail addresses. Unfortunately it has mysteriously disappeared so we are starting over. Please look for this in the hall &/or e-mail Father Joe with any changes to your contact info. and provide an e-mail list. This is critical to keeping everyone updated.

**Parish Survey** - In the next couple of months we will be distributing an important Parish wide survey. This survey will serve a number of purposes. It will assist the Parish Council in determining the future needs of the Parish including physical space (such as parking, the possibility of a new church, a mission, etc.) as well as programming needs such as education, fellowship, community service, etc. This will be your opportunity to share your desires about the future of our Parish as well as any concerns. Please stay tuned for this and in the mean time jot down any ideas you have so you can include them on the survey.

**Festival** - Believe it or not the Festival will be here before we know it. The existing committee has been meeting monthly. If you are interested in being on the committee or have any ideas 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 on February 25<sup>th</sup> as well as the Pan-Orthodox Vespers we are hosting the following Sunday. We hope many of you will consider attending these services and receptions that follow. 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