

## Holy Transfiguration Cathedral Newsletter

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**Archpriest Joseph Hirsch - Dean**

**Archpriest Eugene Tarris - Assistant**

**Fr. Averky Davis - Protodeacon**

**Fr. Alexander Vallens - Deacon**

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### **Church Preservation Project Grants**

We have received the second grant from The Colorado Historical Society to finish the work of Plastering, applying stucco, filing cracks, installing a new icon shelf and thoroughly repainting our Temple, inside and out. The Grant is for \$ 99,050 and we have an additional 25% match of about \$ 33,000.

For Phase one, which, literally saved and preserved the Church building, we received enough donations from our people that we did not have to take anything from our savings. We are hopeful that that same degree of commitment will carry over to Phase two. We already have about \$6,050 in the Phase two fund.

### LAND ACQUISITION

We have purchased two pieces of property, on Grant Street, directly across Clark Place from our Rectory. One is a small house which we purchased for about a quarter of what it sold for a few years ago. Doug Busken and Eric Slater and others, have been working for several weeks to rehab and upgrade the house. We will also retain some contractors to restore the home and to bring it up to code. When rehabilitated, the house should easily pay for itself as a rental property. Your continued contributions to the Property Ac-

quisition Fund is a wonderful way to help your parish's effort to invest in property in our neighborhood. Over the past four years, we have received about \$30,000 for this fund.

The second property is the burned out home across from the rectory. We will be demolishing this in the next few weeks and plan to develop it, temporarily, as parking. This will not produce income at this time and, so, we are dependent upon your continuing contributions to the LAND ACQUISITION FUND to make the payments on it.

We have also made a bid on the small yellow house with a large garage and yard which is directly across from Argo Park on the corner which is diagonal from our Church. This property is in good condition and should be able to pay for itself from the outset.

### THANKSGIVING EVENT FOR CHILDREN

Matushka Maria Vallena has organized a little celebration of the Thanksgiving Season for our young people. This party will, at the same time, help them to appreciate American history, the idea of Giving Thanks and the joy of sharing with others. It will, also, provide an activity for the children during the Annual Parish Meeting. Children are asked to bring canned food for the poor and will receive a ticket for each can. these will be exchanged for a prize at the Thanksgiving event. Children are also to design costumes as Pilgrims, Indians, Turkeys, Pumpkins, etc. and the best costumes will receive a prize at the party. Please see the enclosed flyer for more details.

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

On Sunday, 18 November, we will hold our 110th Annual Meeting in the Church immediately after Liturgy. The 2008 Budget will be adopted, Council Members will be elected and any business will

be conducted. Meetings are usually about 1 hour in duration.

All supporting members of the Parish who have received the Mysteries of Holy Confession and Holy Communion in the past year and are over 18 years of age, are eligible to participate, vote and be elected to office.

### NATIVITY FAST RETREAT

The Parish Council is sponsoring a retreat for parishioners and other interested persons, during the Christmas Fast. On Saturday, 8 December, Archpriest Michael Dahulich of St. Tikhon's Orthodox Seminary in South Canaan Pennsylvania, will present two lectures and answer questions. In the Morning, between 10:00 and 12:00 Noon, he will address the issue of "Being Orthodox in a non-Orthodox Society." In the afternoon, between 1:00 and 3:30 p.m. he will speak on the subject of "Raising and Keeping Children in the Orthodox Faith". Both of these are topics which were offered by our parishioners. There is a charge of \$25.00 to cover Fr. Michael's flight, a small honorarium and your breakfast and lunch. Call Lidia Stcherbak at 303-480-9973 or contact her at [lidstch@hotmail.com](mailto:lidstch@hotmail.com) to register. If there are enough families with children, we will try to provide baby sitting.

On Sunday, 9 December, we will ask Fr. Michael to speak to us briefly about the Seminary and its work.

### SISTERHOOD BAKE SALE & ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION

Our Sisterhood will hold its Fall, pre-holiday Bake Sale on the weekend of 8 & 9 December. Baked items for your Holiday table will be sold between Noon and 2:00 p.m. on the day of our retreat and following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, 8 December. This is also the date of our St. Nicholas Day event for the Children.

### ROMANIAN BENEFIT

Again this year, for the 19th time, we will celebrate the Sunday after the Nativity, 20 December this year, with our Children's Christmas Program, Our young people's Christmas Party and our Pot Luck Benefit for Romanian Charities. Last year we sent money to Romania to assist poor and elderly people and donated \$500 to the new "St. John the Romanian" Parish to help the provide iconography. We will also use money from this fund to send 40 Christmas Boxes to children served by the "St. Philotheia" children's charity. Please bring a cold or hot dish, a ham, turkey, cold cuts or other holiday type dish and be a part of this ongoing parish charity project.

### RUSSIAN HOLIDAY PARTY

Our Annual "Old Rus" Russian and Ukrainian New Year Charity event will fall on Sunday, 13 January, this year. Reasonably priced tickets will be sold and we will have an old style "Yolka" program. Income from this event will be sent to the Children's Orthodox Cancer Hospice in St. Petersburg and the St. Raphael House run by our Church in San Francisco which offers a home to temporarily homeless families.

### BISHOP BENJAMIN TO VISIT

On Sunday, 6 January, the Feast of Holy Theophany, His Grace, Bishop Benjami will visit our Holy Nativity Temple in Colorado Springs. The next day, Monday, 7 January, His Grace will serve our traditional St. John's Day & Old Calendar Christmas Slavonic Liturgy at Holy Transfiguration. This service, which is always a festive one, will be made even more joyful by the presence of our Hierarch. The next day, Tuesday, 8 January, His Grace will lead the local clergy in our annual blessing of the Snow Pack at Monarch Pass. We invite any of our people who would like to attend this event can meet us at the Church to car-pool. There will be more details later.

## Parish Council Update

The Council is currently working on the following:

**Spiritual Retreat** - Lidia Stcherbak is organizing an upcoming Pan-Orthodox retreat on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Please see the flier for more detail.

**Property Acquisition** - We continue to work on the two properties that were recently purchased by the Parish.

**Poker Tournament** - Barry Myhr is organizing a Poker tournament for January. This is a great opportunity for fellowship outside of our normal Sunday routine. Please see additional details elsewhere in the newsletter.

**Festival** - The Festival is planned and implemented by a small Planning Committee. The Planning Committee for last year just concluded the debrief of 2007 Festival and has done some preliminary planning for 2008. We have a need to expand the Committee as we hope expand the Festival itself. This is the largest event and fundraiser for the Parish and therefore needs a handful of people willing to do the planning work. We need the following positions filled:

- Vendor Coordinator - this person is responsible for finding vendors to have booths at the Festival, receiving contracts and payments and being the liaison between the vendors and the Festival Committee.
- Kids Games / Activities Coordinator - this person oversees all the kids games and activities for the Festival.
- Sponsorship Assistant - this person will work closely with Tom Hill, Sponsorship Coordinator, to solicit businesses for cash and in-kind donations. This is a perfect job for someone wanting to enhance their sales skills or someone that really likes talking to people. Sponsorships are key to the financial growth of the Festival. If you are not willing or able to commit to this position, if you have any contacts for businesses who we can approach to be a sponsor that would be really helpful. A personal contact makes the "sell" much easier. Between all of us we should have a lot of contacts. Please share any leads with Tom Hill.

If you are interested in one of these positions or helping in some other way with the Festival please see me. I can discuss the responsibilities and time commitments in more detail with you. There is plenty of support for people taking on these roles.

If you are interested in helping with or attending any of these projects / events, have any ideas or input on these projects or additional projects, please let a Parish Council member know. We hope to see many more people attending and helping with upcoming events and projects.

In Christ,

Erin Busken, Senior Warden