

Holy Transfiguration Cathedral Newsletter

349 East 47th Ave. Denver, Colorado 80216

Phone (303) 294 0938 **Email** jbirsch@sprintmail.com

Web Site www.transfigcathedral.org

**His Grace, Benjamin - Bishop of San
Francisco and the West**

Archpriest Joseph Hirsch - Dean

Archpriest Eugene Tarris - Assistant

Fr. Averky Davis - Proto-Deacon

Fr. Alexander Vallens- Deacon

Historic Renovation

Phase 2 Grant – We have received the second grant from The Colorado Historical Society to finish the work of Plastering, applying stucco, filling cracks, installing a new icon shelf and thoroughly repainting our Temple, inside and out. The Grant is for \$ 99,050.00 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 2 as we spent the last dollar in the HISTORICAL PRESERVATION FUND to close out the first grant.

110th Anniversary- Fall of 2008

In the fall of 2008 we will celebrate the 110th anniversary of our parish! As you probably know we are the oldest Orthodox parish in Colorado and one of the three or four continuously used Temples in the lower 48 states and the oldest Church between the Mississippi and the West Coast. We plan to invite Metropolitan Herman as well as Bishop Benjamin

thereby making it a significant Pan-Orthodox event. We will definitely have a dinner and celebration at the parish. A committee will be established to plan and implement the celebration. If you have an interest in being part of this planning committee or have ideas for the celebration, please see Erin Busken. We will need a number of people to make this a special event and will need to start the planning soon.

Property Purchases

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 have been working for several weeks to rehab and upgrade the house. They have reached the point where they can use help, so if you have a little extra time and like construction work, you can be of real value to your parish. When rehabilitated, the house should easily pay for itself as a rental property. Also if you would like to donate an appliance or other needed item for this house, please see the list in the Hall and talk to Doug. This would be a real support your parish effort to invest in property in our neighborhood.

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. In the last four years, this fund has grown to about \$30,000.

We have also put in an offer on the house, garage and large lot which is on the opposite corner of 47th and Logan from us. This

is in good shape and should be immediately rentable. We do not intend to use any regular General Fund donations for property acquisition and upgrading. The situation is that almost all real estate in our neighborhood is available for 1/2 to 1/3 of what it sold for just a few years ago and, if we do not take advantage of the buyers market now we will, most likely never have another such opportunity.

Gold Leafing of the Copula

Our Gold Copula was last gold leafed for our Centennial in 1998. This makes the 9th year that the work which was done by David Karsen, has held up. This summer, however, we lost the bottom bar off of our three barred cross and it seems like a good time to re-gild our copula. Michael and Gloria Rogzik have offered to contribute the money, about \$3,000, which will be required to rent the lift, purchase the gold leaf and pay a minimal amount for labor.

Anyway, through the Catherine Rogozik Memorial Fund we will have our Cross and copula in brilliant condition for our hundred and tenth anniversary and the decade following.

Upcoming Events

Bishop Benjamin to Be Enthroned

On Tuesday, 2 October at 10:00 a.m., His Grace, Benjamin, will be enthroned as the ruling hierarch of the Diocese of San Francisco and the West. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman and bishops from several jurisdictions and diocese will join in the Celebration of the Divine Liturgy which will open the annual Diocesan Assembly.

Our parish is entitled to have up to four lay delegates to the two day assembly and anyone who is in good standing and able to pay their own transportation is welcome to contact Fr. Joseph about attending. There will be a Grand Banquet on Tuesday afternoon which is already paid for.

Annual Sisterhood Meeting

The St. Mary's Holy Protection Altar Society (The Sisterhood) will hold its annual General Meeting on Sunday, 7 October, the Sunday following the Feast of the Protection. A budget will be adopted, officers will be elected and plans made for the upcoming year. All ladies of the Parish who are 16 years of age or older are welcome to participate. There are annual voluntary dues of \$20.00, which can be paid to the treasurer, Colleen Ramos, but this is not a requirement to vote or to hold office.

The Sisterhood is as old as the Parish and has been serving God and the Congregation for 109 years.

Annual Meeting 10

On Sunday, 18 November, immediately following the Divine Liturgy, we will convene the 110th annual meeting of our Parish and Corporation. We will be electing Parish Council members and auditors, adopting an annual budget, receiving reports and deliberating upon and resolving such issues as may come regularly before us. All members of the parish who regularly support the Cathedral and are over 18 years of age are en-

couraged to attend and participate in conducting the business of our parish.

Sunday, 28 October

Our Children's Fall Costume Party will follow Church school on Sunday, 28 October. There will be games and prizes for the best costumes. We request donations of wrapped candy from members of the congregation. No demonic costumes please.

New Icons on Wish List

As we renovate our temple and plaster our walls, we will be installing new shelves all along the walls to allow us to display our many Holy Icons for veneration without having to pound hundreds of nails into the new walls. At the same time, we hope to replace many of our old mounted laminated Icons with written Icons. In this process, there are several Holy images of which we have special need. Among these are St. Nectarios; whose holy relic we possess, New Martyrs Benjamin & Vladimir; Hierarchs martyred by the Bolsheviks for defending the Church, New Royal Martyrs of Russia; a large quantity of whose relics we received almost fifteen years ago and St. Elizabeth the Mother of St. John the Forerunner who is the patroness of several of our parishioners. These Icons can be obtained for about \$400 each if anyone is interested in purchasing one for the Church.



We could also use a written Icon of St. Sophia and her daughters, Vera (Faith) Nadesda (Hope) and Lubov (Love) who are patronesses of so many of our ladies.

A request from Gus and Demetra

Several months ago, our beloved in Christ, Konstandinos and Demetra Kalabokius contacted me from Pocatello, Idaho to ask about purchasing an electrified lamb spit like we have at the Church. Father has asked everyone he could think of and the company that manufactures them seems to be alluding us. If anyone has any information about where we got the spits, which several of our families ordered in the '80s, please let Fr. Joe know so we can pass the information on to our beloved Brother and Sister.

St. Philothea Project

His Grace, Bishop Benjamin, who recently returned from a pilgrimage to Romania, has called this project to our attention. We have already sent money several years ago to help Fr. Tanasi with his project to rescue and find homes for abandoned children. The St. Philothea project runs a number of institutions and we are requested to have our children pack shoe box sized packages, which the Post Office provides, with needed items and small Christmas gifts for the children. We will pay for the boxes, postage to the Illinois headquarters, and some of the items from money raised by our annual Sunday after Christmas benefit pot luck and program in memory of the children martyrs of the Romanian revolution. This is the letter we received:

Dear to Christ Father Joseph,
Greeting in the Name Of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit!

We have decided to make a December visit for the Saint Philothea Project. Please consider preparing gift boxes for a poor or neglected child. The Post office has made our job a bit easier. They have a flat rate box. It is good size for Christmas gifts. Saint Philothea Project's goal of 500 boxes filled with Christmas gifts for boys or girls from newborn to 14 years. Each box will be given to one child.

What should You put in the Box? Children in Romania are smaller than in America so only the small and medium sizes are needed.

Underwear/socks

Toothbrush and toothpaste

Comb/brush for hair

Soap/Shampoo

A small Icon will be nice

A Non-Battery toy or two good for the age of the child

OTC Cold medicine for children - poor children suffer colds and flue with no relief

Some candy

Anything you would like to put in the box to make it a personal gift from your hand to the hand of a poor Orthodox child.

Saint Philothea Project needs the boxes before December 15 to insure hand delivery before Christmas. Please pray and consider what you and your parish friends can do for your souls and the comfort of the poor in the household of GOD.

There are two principal place we distribute gift. First are the twin villages of Valea Plopului and Valea Screezii. With this stop there are always about 300-400 children to welcome our gifts. Second is the Diocese of Alba Iulia. Bishop Andrei has an office of Social Assistance. Through this office he oversees about 10 orphanages in the smaller town and villages. The orphanages range from 6 to 18 children. In addition in town of Aiud there is a after school program that prevents children from landing in an orphanage by providing lunch and dinner to neighborhood children and a homework program. There are about 15 children in this program. This facility also takes care of 12-15 abandoned babies they have found in the area.

Saint Philothea of Arges was twelve years old when she crowned with martyrdom while giving biscuits from her father's lunch to the poor children when saw on the road. After her death her body could not be moved until the bishop agreed to deliver her body to the city of Curtea de Arges. Saint Philothea Project striving to continue echoing her work by delivering gift of love from the hands of the Orthodox in America to the hands of poor children in Romania. In Romania there are Father Nicolae Tanase or Pro-Life Romania, Father Nicolae of the Office of Social Assistance in Alba Iulia, Father Florin of Almasu Mare (Big Apple) whose house take care of 8 teenagers. Please excuse the long meandering response to your short question.

God be with you and Peace All Ways

At Your Service

Timothy Farrell

Saint Philothea Project

2004 E. Whitmer St.

Decatur, IL 652521

217-433-0827



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

6 September, 2001

Fore-feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

Beloved in Christ,

As I prepare to Serve the Divine Liturgy on the 32nd anniversary of my ordination to the Holy Priesthood, I can only stand in wonder at how things have, "Come together" for our Parish Community. We have received notification that our second grant application has been approved by The State Historical Fund and that we are now ready to complete the renovation of our 109 year old Temple in preparation for our 110 Anniversary celebration.

We have been blessed by God with sufficient savings, with wise counsel and with strong backs that are equal to our purpose of obtaining the property which surrounds our God Protected Cathedral and we stand at the brink of an agreement which will transmit even more adjacent property to our ownership with the means to make the mortgage payments.

We have a Church literally crawling with infants and toddlers and a congregation which grows younger in medium age each year. When our Church School opens on Sunday, September 16th, we should have over sixty students enrolled.

Further, as I grow older and less able to bear the burden on our expanding congregation alone, God has sent Faithful Deacons and inspired lay leaders to help raise the load from my shoulders..

Still, it is the opportunity, honor and privilege of each of us to determine just how much of our substance and energy we are willing to pour into the building up of The Body of Christ in this place. If our people allow themselves to be, "Set on fire" with Divine Enthusiasm, and to take up the invitation of God to be his agents at this place and at this time, in the work which He has opened to us, then our children, God Children and grand children will declare a century from now, "This is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our sight". If, however, with whatever good intentions, we allow this moment to pass us by, our descendants in the faith will simply shake their heads and marvel at our short sightedness, selfishness and lack of vision.

"Now is the appointed time, Now is the Day of our salvation", "Let us rise up, for judgment is at the door!" Let us pray that our descendants in the faith will regard us with the same degree of awe and respect with which we regard or forbears in the faith who mortgaged the same little house which we are now purchasing and renovating, so that they might provide their children with a place to Worship God in the Orthodox manner.

Your Humble Servant in Christ,

Proto Joseph

hone- 303 294 0938

Email- jhirsch@sprintmail.com Web Site- www.transfigcathedral.org

Parish Council Update

The Council is well underway with a number of projects for the year. Some projects definitely in the works follow:

110th Anniversary Celebration - In the fall of 2008 we will celebrate the 110th anniversary of our parish! As you probably know we are the oldest Orthodox parish in Colorado and one of the three or four continuously used Temples in the lower 48 states and the oldest Church between the Mississippi and the West Coast. We plan to invite Metropolitan Herman as well as Bishop Benjamin thereby making it a significant Pan-Orthodox event. We will definitely have a dinner and celebration at the parish. A committee will be established to plan and implement the celebration. If you have an interest in being part of this planning committee or have ideas for the celebration, please see me. We will need a number of people to make this a special event and will need to start the planning very soon. This is our last call for help with this project.

Festival - Please see the post event summary below.

Lecture Series - Lidia Stcherbak is organizing a regular lecture series. This will include another retreat like we did in 2006 as well as additional lectures. She is planning the first retreat for early fall. If you have any ideas or would like to help, please see Lidia.

Property Acquisition - Please be sure to read Father's update on this subject.

Softball Tournament - Ben is organizing another Pan-Orthodox softball tournament. This will most likely be held in September again or early October. Stay tuned for more details.

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

Orthodox Food Festival & Old Globeville Days Summary

We did it again!! Our 4th Annual Old Globeville Days & Orthodox Food Festival was a tremendous success in so many ways. It is amazing to think that this was just our 4th year.

For the inaugural event, we came up with three goals for the event and we met them all again this year:

1. Raise money - Here is the preliminary breakdown of our fundraising efforts:
 - we collected just about \$10,300 in ticket sales!!!
 - we received \$5,000 in grants to off set entertainment & park related costs
 - we received almost \$2,000 in cash sponsorships as well as in kind donations
 - the final numbers are being crunched but we anticipate a net profit of close to \$6,000 for the operating budget
2. Parish fellowship and broad based involvement - there were at least 80 different people that contributed to the success of the event. This was truly a parish event.
3. Introduce Orthodoxy and our Parish to people - people were lined up and anxiously awaiting the church tours and were thrilled to have the opportunity to go into the church

We built on the success of the previous three years. We are hopeful this event will only get bigger and better. I can't tell you the number of people that complimented the food and wanted to make sure that we would keep doing the festival, because they couldn't wait for next year. I know you are all committed to the success of this event. (We want to hear your suggestions before we forget them. Please take a survey at church and share your ideas so the Planning Committee can debrief the event and be ready for next year.)

There are so many people to thank that it is impossible to name them all. A special thank you to:

- Everyone on the Planning Committee who spent many hours in meetings planning the details of the festival.
- Rupert Applegate, our bookstore and gift bazaar coordinator. He handled all of the details to make sure we had a fully functioning bookstore and gift bazaar booth.
- John Baird, our raffle coordinator. John stepped up to handle this new piece of the Festival.
- Doug Busken, my right hand man in the festival. He obtained all of the permits and coordinated the majority of the logistics and basically helped with whatever I asked, which ended up being a lot especially at the last minute.
- Gabriel Hayman who provided an iconography booth which introduced icons to many of our guests.
- Tom Hill, sponsorship coordinator and beverage co-coordinator. We developed a sponsorship program to help off-set some of the costs of the Festival. Tom successfully obtained over \$1,500 in cash donations as well as a number of in-kind donations. He also did a lot of the food shopping & helped to expand our beverage selection.
- Yana Kotic, our vendors coordinator. Thanks to Yana's efforts we expanded our variety of vendors this year which provided a nice opportunity to shop and brought in income.
- Colleen Ramos, our bake sale coordinator. She used her bake sale expertise to sell a lot of baked goods.
- Mike Rogozik, our beverage coordinator. He made sure we had what we needed to keep everyone hydrated and handled the paper products.
- Becky Schilling our children's activities and kids games coordinator. She used her contacts to provide the face painters, balloon artists, and to bring us the ever popular air castle. She also did dozens of other needed tasks.
- Diana Seurer, our food coordinator. What is a food festival without food. She worked with all of the food booths and manned her own "grill" booth the whole weekend.
- Lidia Stcherbak our entertainment coordinator. She made sure we had non-stop fabulous entertainment.
- To everyone who was at the festival from start to finish both days (you know who you are) ready to work wherever help was needed, especially setting up and cleaning up. We couldn't have done it without you.
- To everyone who baked for the bake sale. You satisfied everyone's sweet tooth.
- To everyone who cooked and served the food. There were so many people that helped with the food booths it was incredible. The food was amazing. There were nothing but good comments about the food.

Last, but certainly not least, thank you to Father Joe & Matushka Paulette for their continued leadership and enthusiasm to successfully implement the event. In addition to everything else he does, Father managed to send out dozens of press releases to make sure that we had great publicity. Matushka worked closely with the neighborhood group and made sure we got two big grants for the event. She also coordinated with the Globeville organizations who had displays on the church property.

Thank you again to each and everyone of you. Before you know it, we will be planning the bigger and better 2008 Old Globeville Days & Orthodox Food Festival. If you are interested in joining the planning committee please let me know. We are looking for a new Vendor Coordinator and Kids Games / Activities Coordinator as well as help with obtaining sponsorships / donations.

May God grant you many years!

In Christ,

Erin Busken, Senior Warden