

The Cathedral Newsletter
*(The Publication of the 110 year old
 Holy Transfiguration Orthodox
 Cathedral)*

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His Grace, The Rt. Rev'd Benjamin, Bishop
 of San Francisco & The West

The Very Rev'd Father Joseph Hirsch- Dean
 The Very Rev'd Father Eugene Tarris- Sub Dean
 Emeritus

The Very Rev'd Father James Worth- Attached
 The Rev'd Father Averky Davis- Protodeacon
 The Rev'd Father Alexander Vallens- Deacon

**Lent, Holy Week & Pascha
 March & April, 2008**

Our Church is on the Move!

After years of hard work and careful planning by your Clergy and Parish Council, the pieces of our ongoing Strategic Plan are coming together. Consider the following:

Phase II Historic Preservation

On Monday, 25 February, the workmen began the project of stripping away the lower 5 feet of plaster in our nave and Altar. This marks the start of work on PHASE II of our ongoing Historical Preservation Project in cooperation with The State Historical Fund. In PHASE I we stabilized the walls and took measures to reverse and eliminate the causes and effects of "Rising Damp" on our historic Temple. Through very careful management and the generosity of contractors, we were able to reconstruct the entire floor structure and to repaint the ceiling as well and to do all of this for about 2/3 of the budgeted cost.

In PHASE II, we will strip away the plaster, leave the walls for several weeks of drying and then, lath and re-plaster the walls installing a narrow Icon shelf around the perimeter of the Temple. Since the Rising damp has been an issue since the 1920s when the Church was covered with exterior stucco, the interior walls should be more stable than they have been in 88 years. We will, then, repaint the entire interior including the windows, with which the State will not help because they contain a Cross. We plan to repaint and gold leaf the Iconostasis through a generous contribution from the children and grandchildren of Catherine Rogozik, who also paid for the wonderful gold leafing of the cupola.

We will conclude by repairing the exterior stucco and repainting the entire Church. By our 110th Anniversary Celebration in October, we should have our Church in Pristine condition. We need to raise about \$35,000 in matching and other funds, but already have received about \$8,500 of this and trust that our people and friends will come through as they did with PHASE I.

Grant Street Property

We have come close to completing the rehabilitation of our two properties which we purchased on Grant Street, across Clark Place from the Church. We have demolished the burnt out house and have paved the surface with "Crush & run". You are now free to use this lot for parking.

The house next door to this lot has been completely rebuilt, largely through the volunteer efforts of our

own people, and is close to being ready for rental. We must apply the principles of good business but would love to rent to parishioners. See Doug Busken to see the house and to inquire about rental.

Logan Street Property

Glory to God! We were prepared to pay up to \$85,000 for the former Chura property which is on the opposite corner of Logan from our Church. At the time of closing, the deal fell through and we were very disappointed. Now, however, we see that God was with us, because we are able to buy this nice little house with a large yard and huge insulated and dry walled garage, for about \$55,000. This property is a terrific addition to our Church's holdings and is in excellent condition.

Of course, our acquisition of these three properties was made possible by the efforts of Doug and Erin Buskin and through the contributions of a few families: Jobanputras, Hirsches, Dyls and Buskens and of John Frederics and others, to the "PROPERTY ACQUISITION FUND".

CHURCH QUESTIONNAIRE

If you contributed using your envelopes, checks or Donor Number last year, you received, together with your 2007 TAX statement, a questionnaire which is intended to refresh our information as to the wishes of our people vis a vis our future. Now, as you probably know, there are a few un-crowded Sundays but, for the most part, our Sunday Liturgies are packed, The real questions are: should we, as we have planned in the past, build a large Church next to our historic Temple, should we start a Mission somewhere else in the Metropolis or should we bring in a second Priest to

serve a Liturgy on a second Holy Table on Sunday? Well, that is only a summary but we need your input, so, please pick up and mail out your questionnaire.

OUR CHARITY PROJECTS

St. Philothea Project

At the suggestion of His Grace, we assumed the St. Philothea Charity as our own this Fall. Through the generosity of our people and with the special help of Carla Scott and her employer, John Frederics and Sandie Kennedy, we sent 41 Christmas boxes to Orthodox orphans in Transylvania Romania. The contents of each box averaged over \$50.00 in value which means that we sent about \$2,000 in gifts. There is a nice letter from the St. Philothea Charity as well as pictures on the Parish Hall bulletin board.

Romanian Children's Benefit

We raised several hundred dollars for our ongoing "Romanian Children's Memorial Fund" at our Sunday after Nativity potluck benefit. Many years! To Dana Gall who has donated gifts for several years both for our children and for the adopted Romanian orphans who annually attend our commemoration. Over 24 children participated in the Nativity Program that day and this is a record.



Annual Russian Charity Party

On Sunday, 13 January, we held our annual Russian Charity Party and Yolka. We received over \$1,200 for our support of the St. Petersburg Orthodox Children's Hospice. Last year, our \$850 helped pay the salary of a physician. Many Years! To Matushka Masha Vallina who

coordinated the “Nutcracker” Tallent program and to Antonina Hartenbower and her wonderful cooking crew.



(Mathushka Masha as “Snow Queen” at Yolka 2008)



(Daniela Hirsch as The Sugar Plumb Princess at Yolka 2008)

“POKERPOLUZA”

Well, we held our first annual poker party in January. Some people called it a Male Chauvinist event and predicted its failure. Still, half of the participants and $\frac{3}{4}$ of the prize winners were women. The overwhelming sentiment was for a second event next winter.

ST. SAVA EVENT A WONDERFUL SUCCESS

It is hard to imagine how St. Sava’s Day could have been anything but a success with the wonderful Lukich Family as our Kumovi. We had terrific food, with the help of Marco’s Mom and our own Magda and Emelia. We had the outstanding music of the Balkan “Barbell fish” band and we had the coordinated work of all of our Parish members. We also had a nice article the next day in the Rocky Mountain News.

ANNUAL SNOW PACK BLESSING

On Tuesday, 8 January, after a beautiful Slavonic Liturgy on 7 January, His Grace, Benjamin, ascended the Colorado Rockies to officiate at the annual blessing of the Snow Pack at the Continental Divide at Monarch Pass. 38 Orthodox Christians including three priests assisted His Grace in calling down the Grace of the Holy Spirit upon the entire Eastern and Western Watersheds of the North American Continent.



(Fr. Joseph assists His Grace at the Blessing of the Continental Divide.)

ADULT CLASSES

We will be holding a series of five adult classes on Tuesday evenings from 18 March through 15 April. The classes will

be from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m. and will be entitled "The Lenten Journey toward Pascha." We will review the entire Orthodox Faith through the Services and traditions which are a part of the ancient season of preparation for Baptism.



LENTEN CHOIR PRACTICES ARE SCHEDULED

We will hold four major Choir rehearsals before and during Great Lent. Practices will be on Thursday evenings from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

6 March- We will work primarily on Forgiveness Vespers and the Presanctified Liturgy.

20 March- We will practice for our Pan Orthodox Vespers on 23 March and for other Lenten and Holy Week Services.

3 April- We will review the major services of Holy Week.

17 April- We will work more on Holy Week and review Holy Pascha.

Each of these practices is very important and every effort should be made by singers to be present.



4th Bright Friday PODD Planned

We will hold our fourth annual Pan-Orthodox Dinner Dance on Bright Friday, 2 May. This event, which has brought together parishioners from several of our congregations and has raised thousands of dollars for International Orthodox Christian Charities, for the charity projects of participating parishes and for our Historical Preservation project has become a highlight of our Bright Week celebrations. The big party will be held this year at Maggiano's Little

Italy. We are already receiving merchandise gifts and certificates for our famous door prize, raffle and silent auction tables. His Grace, Bishop Benjamin will be our guest again this year and we plan to invite His Eminence, Isaiah. See the enclosed flyer for details and mark your calendar now.

Two More Important Events in '08

Also, please mark your calendar for the following important dates:

19 & 20 July- The 5th Annual Old Globeville Days and Orthodox Food Festival. This is also the Kick off for our 110th Anniversary Celebration as well as the 120th Anniversary of Globeville and the 150th Birthday of Denver.

11 & 12 October- The official celebration of our 110th Anniversary. We are planning special programs, a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and a Festive Banquet in our Parish Hall. This should also mark the completion of our lengthy historical preservation and Temple Beautification project.

Fr. Deacon Alexander Assumes Temporary Duties

As if it were not enough for Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Boulder to have their beloved rector, Fr. Nicholas Dotson, afflicted with a series of severe heart attacks, just as his recovery was advancing splendidly, his wonderful deacon, Fr. Mark Spyro, was the victim of a series of debilitating strokes. Because we have so much love for both men and for their parish, we have received the blessing of Bishop Benjamin to allow Fr. Deacon Alexander Vallens to assist Fr. Nick on a long term temporary basis. Please continue to keep Frs. Nicholas and Mark in your prayers.

Also, thanks be to God, we have had Fr. James Worth blessed to carry out some priestly duties again after over a decade of medical disability leave.

Sisterhood

In light of her need to be of help and support to her husband in the in his present temporary assignment, the Sisterhood has chosen Chris Jobanputra to fulfill Matushka Masha Vallena as Sisterhood President. Carla Scott, Gloria Rogozik and Colleen Ramos remain as Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

The Sisterhood is delighted to announce that, because of two very successful bake sales and the donation of all of her poppy seed bread proceeds by Mira Hill, they now have sufficient savings to purchase a new refrigerator for the Parish Hall.

MANY YEARS!

To Archpriest Eugene Tarris who retired from his duties as Assistant Dean on February 1st and was awarded the Title, "Assistant Dean Emeritus" by the Parish Council with the Blessing of His Grace. Henceforth, Fr. Eugene enjoys the full privileges and none of the specific responsibilities or duties of an active Priest of Holy Transfiguration Cathedral.

To Proto Deacon Averky Davis, who was officially elevated to the Proto Deaconate by His Grace, Bishop Benjamin, during our Annual January 7th Slavonic Liturgy. Fr. Averky received the designation and elevation by the Holy Synod at the Spring, 2006 session but had not been able to receive the Blessing attached to the rank.

To Reader and graduate Seminarian, Michael Tarris, who has assumed the duties of Administrative Assistant to the Dean. Michael will work about 20 hours a week and will assist with and undertake some of the responsibilities currently carried by Fr. Joseph.

To Sandie Kennedy, Luminitza Gurau and Magda Blagaila who continue to bake

small and large prosphora for our many services.

To Matushka Paulette who was just reelected as President of the Globeville Civic Association, the official registered organization under the Denver City Charter. She has lead and nurtured the neighborhood for 18 of the past 23 years through this group which meets monthly in our Hall. During that time the Globeville Community has undergone many positive changes, acquired many amenities and seen its socio-economic status rise from poverty to middle class.

To Erik Slater and to Marko Lukich who have been proactive in making repairs and providing upkeep for our physical plant

Piroghi

Once more, Diana Seurer is taking orders for Pre-Lenten and Lenten Piroghi. They are \$6.00 per dozen and come stuffed with sauerkraut, potato & cheese or potato & saurkraut. The funds go to the Sisterhood. See Diana to place your orders.

A Call for Volunteers

Our Festival is one of the high points of our Summer if not of our whole year. Almost eighty of our people perform one or more tasks to help make it a success. We begin planning for the next year almost as soon as we finish the previous Festival. We usually have all of our bases covered long in advance. This year, however, we discover ourselves to be four months out and still lacking two important volunteer positions. We need a Vender Coordinator to solicit and sign up craftsmen and artists and to get the appropriate contracts signed. We also need someone who will manage the Raffle before and during the event.

Please contact Erin Busken if you are willing and able to fill either of these positions.