



110 Years
1898 - 2008

The Very Reverend
JOSEPH HIRSCH
DEAN

The Very Reverend
EUGENE TARRIS
CATHEDRAL ARCHPRIEST
EMERITUS

The Very Reverend
JAMES WORTH
ATTACHED

Father
AVERKY DAVIS
PROTO-DEACON

Father
ALEXANDER VALLENS
DEACON

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Holy Transfiguration Cathedral Newsletter

Holy Week, Pascha & Summer, 2008

Our Lent

Our Lenten observance had a beautiful start this year with the Vespers of forgiveness at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, 9 March. For the first time in memory, the Church was full for this beautiful service and the participants had to form a spiral as we more than circled the interior of the Church.

Later, on Sunday, March 23rd, we hosted our largest congregation in many years for our annual Mission Vespers. Following the beautiful service sung by our Choir, we heard from one of our IOCC missionaries, and then filled the Parish Hall for a very nice reception, hosted by our Sisterhood.

As we are now approaching The Great and Holy Week and Holy Pascha, we are hopeful that this wonderful beginning will foreshadow a large number of our people taking time to participate in the many services which mark that sacred time.

Holy Week & Pascha Details

Flowers, Palms and Willows- Please remember that we are dependent upon the free will offerings of our people to provide the Palm Branches and Willows which we bless and distribute on Palm Sunday and with which we decorate the graves of our departed founders and family members on St. Thomas Sunday. The Sisterhood, also spends hundreds of dollars for flowers to decorate the Lord's Tomb on Holy Friday and the entire Temple on Holy Pascha. There are baskets, for your donations, at the candle stand and on the counter in the Parish Hall.

Colored Eggs- We ask every family that is able to do so, to color a dozen eggs for Holy Pascha. We bless and distribute these eggs at every service during Bright Week and then carry the remaining eggs to the various cemeteries that we bless during St. Thomas Week. Red eggs are the norm but we also bless any colored eggs.

Lamb for Agape Breakfast- We started out roasting a lamb or two for Pascha Breakfast but have discovered that so many people look forward to this that we need to provide more meat. This year, we will be spit roasting legs of lamb in the Church yard before and during the Midnight Services. We have received some contributions toward the purchase of the lamb and anyone wishing to participate should give his or her contribution to Gary or Diana Seurer who are coordinating the purchase and preparation of the lamb.

Candy Egg Hunt- Thanks to Sandie Kennedy, we have a large supply of candy for our traditional children's hunt during the Agape Breakfast. We take our kids down to the Sunday school area, beginning with the youngest, and everyone gets plenty of Pascha Candy.

Holy Week Candles- There is a list at the Candle Stand for anyone who wishes to provide candles for any of our Holy Week and Pascha Services. We, especially, need 13 Candles for the Holy Thursday Passion Gospel Matins and about six sets of the 12 candles which burn before our Lord's Tomb from Great and Holy Friday afternoon till Midnight on Holy Saturday.

Tomb Watch- There is a sign up sheet on the Church porch for the tomb watch. We like to have at least two or more persons to read Psalms and prayers and to keep the watch at Our Lord's Tomb from the end of Matins on Great and Holy Friday till the Liturgy of The First Resurrection on Holy Saturday morning.

PODD

And don't forget to make your reservations for our Bright Friday Pan Orthodox Dinner Dance. Those who have attended in the past will tell you that it is a great event. Bishop Benjamin will be our guest for Bright Friday Liturgy and at the Charity Ball. See this newsletter for more information.

Historical Preservation

As soon as Bright Week is past, we expect to have workmen once more in our Temple to replace the plaster, paint the Walls, repair the exterior stucco and repaint the entire Church exterior. While this is going on, Gabriel Hayman will be gold leafing the Iconostasis as part of the Catherine Rogozik Memorial Project. We also plan to add beautiful traditional Orthodox Stencil Work to the Church walls. We have never been able to do this before because of the perennial instability of the plaster. We are going to re-sash some of the Church windows so that they can once more be opened. We are also installing an Icon Rail around the Temple interior so that we will no longer need to pound hundreds of nails into the walls.

We will need to pay 1/4 of the cost of the repair and painting and all of the cost of the Iconostasis and windows ourselves so we are still soliciting and praying for donations to the 110th Anniversary, Church Preservation and Restoration Fund. We presently have about \$11,000 for that purpose and will probably need another \$10,000 to \$12,000.

We Own Two Houses

We now own two restored and redecorated homes near our Temple. The Homes on 47th and Grant and 46th and Logan are both corner houses and are both immediately adjacent to the Church. They are two-bedroom dwellings originally built by two of our founding families. We are currently offering both residences for rent and would prefer to offer them to members of our own parish. We purchased and rehabilitated the houses at a very reasonable cost and with a lot of donated labor from parishioners. We would have kicked ourselves five or ten years from now had we failed to do so. Still, we need to start bringing in some money to make the payments. Up till now, we have funded our purchases and work from our people's generous donations,

over the past five years, to the Land Acquisition Fund.

Festival #5

July 19th and 20th we will hold our 5^h annual Orthodox Food Festival and Old Globeville Days. This year we are using the Festival as the "kick off" of our 110th Anniversary as well as the 120th Anniversary of the "Globeville" Neighborhood and the 150th Anniversary of the City of Denver.

It is our hope to improve our publicity in order to increase public participation. We also anticipate that our Phase II historical preservation and restoration project will be completed at this time.

The Orthodox Food Festival has been a success each year, primarily because of the high level of Parishioner participation we receive. Between 70 and 80 of our people have regularly carried one or more of the tasks which are involved over the Festival weekend and we rely upon our earnings from the event to balance out our budget during the summer months.

Everyone should mark their calendar for this weekend and the sign up sheets for various tasks will be posted in the Parish Hall shortly after Pascha.

Observance of Our 110th Year

We will culminate the celebration of our 110th year with a festal weekend the 11th and 12th of October. We will mark the weekend with a visit from our Bishop. There will be a Vigil on Saturday night and a Hierarchical Liturgy and a catered banquet on Sunday.

Other Upcoming Events

Rocky Mountain Orthodox Youth Camp at Glacier View Ranch will be held 3-6 August. Forms will be available this Spring.

The All American Council of the OCA will be held in Pittsburg PA on 10-13 November.



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Sunday, St. Mary of Egypt
13 April, 2008

**Dearly Beloved in Christ,
Kalo Pascha!
May you have a beautiful and Blessed Pascha!**

I greet you for the 24th time in the anticipation of The Paschal Joy.

This year will mark the beginning of my 25th year as your Pastor and the 110th year of our Parish and temple.

The last 10 years, the time following our Centennial, have, perhaps, been the most active time in the history of Holy Transfiguration. In that time, we have come to appreciate an old building which some simply wanted to knock down, to be an historical and spiritual treasure house. We have gone from a community of middle aged and elderly folks to a congregation which is literally crawling with infants and toddlers. Our inner city poverty neighborhood has become the cutting edge of development in Denver and we have begun to enlarge our own footprint in the Neighborhood which was founded by and which nurtured the founders of our Temple.

In 1998, I launched our Centennial celebration with a prayer for a \$100,000 endowment fund to guarantee the ability of our Community to preserve and maintain our aging infrastructure. On second thought, I should have prayed and asked for a million because, within a year, God gave us exactly \$100,000 which we have doubled through wise investment and used to help purchase and rehab our new properties.

Anyway, our parish survey indicates that the purchase of more land and the building of a larger Temple is the preferred option for our people. Thus, having learned from experience and God's providence, I am using this Pre-Paschal letter to pray and ask for one million dollars to pay off our new land, finish our match for the Historical Preservation Grant and build the second Temple which will accommodate our growing congregation and guarantee our Holy mission in Globeville down through the remainder of our second century.

Then again, my future successors may look back on my Paschal Prayer and, like Fr. Anthony Karbo who has just built a million dollar Church in Colorado Springs and is now braking ground for a 1/2 million dollar Hall may say, "What a timid fellow this Hirsch was". Still, in the Power of this Holy Time and in the Grace it brings, I cling to the promise, "Ask and ye shall receive", and will be ecstatic and content with the 1 Million.

I hope to be and anticipate being around here for a few more Bright Paschas and to complete my service here with my participation in the consecration of our second, spacious Temple, perhaps dedicated to St. Sebastian Dabovich, our second Pastor and candidate for Canonization. Or, perhaps, it will be Ss. Tikhon and Sabasitan. Anyway, I am commissioning and Icon of St. Tikhon delivering our Temple to Archimandrite Sebastian and will be calling upon the Holy prayers of these two patrons of our congregation to bring our visions to reality by the power of Christ's all conquering and triumphant resurrection.

Yours in the Saving Passion and Resurrection of Christ Our God:

Proto Joseph

Parish Council Update

The Parish Council is hard at work implementing the following events / projects:

Annual Bright Friday Pan-Orthodox Dinner Dance (PODD) – Time is running out to get your tickets for this. It is Friday evening May 2nd at Maggiano's Little Italy in the Pavillions Downtown. We are thrilled to announce that Bishop Benjamin will be attending the event! The cost is \$50 for a fabulous sit down dinner and a great time. Many people will win a door prize valued at \$30+ just for being there. There will also be many 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. Please see the flyer in the newsletter with the details. We hope to see many of you there!

Transfiguration / Orthodoxy Cookbook – Erik Slater is putting together a cookbook of the best recipes from our Parish community and we need your help. We plan to sell this, hopefully at the Tattered Cover Bookstore as well as the Festival. If you have a recipe you would like to contribute please get it to Erik (otherwise he will be coming to you to ask for a recipe), along with the ethnicity/background of the recipe.

Game Night & Potluck – On Friday June 20th we will be having a potluck and game night. It will be a night of fun games, good food & socializing. We plan to have a variety of games (card games & board games) out that everyone can rotate through. We hope to have some of the teens there to babysit & play games with the kiddos so it can be a family event. Details will be coming soon but mark your calendar.

Kids Camp-out – We are tentatively planning a kids camp-out on Saturday June 28th. The details are still being worked out but we are thinking an activity during the day, dinner and Vespers and then a sleep-over at the church. If your kids are interested in participating or you have ideas, please talk to Gari or Marko Lukich.

Bell Ringing & More for the Girls – I will be training girls to ring the bells, take the collection and pour the communion wine in May. Please keep an eye out for the exact date in the bulletin and via e-mail. If your girls are interested in learning how to do any, or all, of these important jobs please let me know & I will be sure they know about the training. Once everyone is trained we will create a schedule for the girls to do these jobs on a regular basis.

"Lightening Father's Load" – One of the projects that is a top priority for the Parish Council is to work to lighten Father's load. There are many tasks, many of which are administrative, that Father doesn't have to be the one to do them. Shifting some of the responsibilities from Father will free him up to do possibly do other projects that only a priest can do as well as give him some well-deserved down time. We are working to compile a list of these tasks and will be working to find people to help with the tasks. If you have any interest in helping, please see me. More information about the specific tasks and time commitments will be coming soon.

Communion Traffic Flow – As you have probably noticed things can get pretty congested during communion. In attempt to make things move more smoothly Father has moved the location of the chalices. When going TO communion please go the RIGHT of the icon stand. This will leave the area to the LEFT of the icon stand for those getting the bread and wine and going back to their seats after communion. We ask that no one go to the communion in the area to the left of the icon. Think about one-way traffic moving counterclockwise. If there are two chalices near the base of the stairs, one line can form to the right with people splitting off to either chalice near the choir.

Festival – The Festival will be here before you know it. The dates for this year's Festival are July 19th & 20th. Mark your calendar! Remember this is a parish wide event that requires a lot of help from everyone in the Parish. A huge thank you to Erin Schwartz who has graciously agreed to be our Vendor Coordinator. We still could use a Raffle Coordinator and we especially need leads for businesses to approach for sponsorships. **A personal contact makes the "sell" much easier.**

In Christ,
Erin Busken, Senior Warden