

## Holy Transfiguration Cathedral Newsletter

349 East 47th Ave. Denver, Colorado 80216

**Phone** (303) 294 0938 **Email** [jbirsch@sprintmail.com](mailto:jbirsch@sprintmail.com)

**Web Site** [www.transfigcathedral.org](http://www.transfigcathedral.org)

**Archpriest Joseph Hirsch - Dean**

**Archpriest Eugene Tarris - Assistant**

**Fr. Averky Davis - Proto-Deacon**

**Fr. Alexander Vallens- Deacon**

---

### Church Preservation Project - Phase 2

At long last, the contracts are signed and, after the first of the year, we should begin taking bids on Phase Two of our Historical Preservation and Restoration Project. The project is scheduled through 2009 but we thoroughly expect to have the work finished by our 110th Anniversary Celebration next fall. We have about 20% of our required matching funds already on hand and are hoping that our people will come through again with the \$35,000 we need for our quarter of the project cost. It has been a real blessing to our Church to have been awarded over a quarter million dollars in grants from the State Historical Fund of Colorado.

### Sisterhood Annual Meeting

Our Sisterhood held its 110th Annual Meeting on the Sunday following 1 October (*The Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos*). As you will discover in the enclosed abstract from the recent Board minutes, work is well underway toward a very productive year. New officers are Matushka Maria (Masha) Vallena- President, Carla Elizabeth Scott- Vice President, Gloria Rogozik- Secretary and Colleen Amelia Ramos- Treasurer. Ladies are reminded that 2008 voluntary Sisterhood Dues of \$20 a year, will be gratefully received at any time. The Sisterhood conducted a very successful

pre-Holiday bake sale the weekend of 8-9 December.

### Annual Parish Meeting

On Sunday, 18 November, the Parish convened in its 110th Annual Membership and Corporate Meeting. Within the space of one hour and eleven minutes, members received about a dozen well prepared reports, approved the report of the Treasurer and adopted a budget for 2008, took action on the ongoing issue of property acquisition and elected Parish Council Members and Auditors.

The four Council members whose terms had been completed were unanimously reelected and Marco Lukich and Erik Aiden Slater were chosen to complete two vacant partial terms. At a special Parish Council Meeting held on the following Sunday, Erin Elizabeth Busken was reelected as Senior Warden, Erik Slater was designated as Jr. Warden and Chairman of Property Maintenance, Carol Elizabeth Montalegra was continued in the office of Recording Secretary, James Hartenbower was elected Parish Treasurer and Colleen Ramos graciously agreed to serve another term as Financial Secretary. We are most grateful to Chris Jobanputra, who retired from almost a decade of service as Parish Treasurer but who remains on the Council and on the Financial Advisory Board. Officers and Members will be installed, with His Grace's Blessing, on Sunday, 13 January,

### Four Holiday Parties

You will find four flyers in this Newsletter which describe four important Community events which will take place during the Holiday Times.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30th-** We will have our Children's Nativity Play after Liturgy. We will, then, assemble in the Hall for our Christmas Pot Luck Benefit for the Romanian Children's Memorial Fund. We will also have gifts and candy for all of our children and

young guests. Please bring a nice festive dish to share. Since the event began 18 years ago, we have raised at least \$2,000 a year for Romanian Orthodox Charities.

**SUNDAY JANUARY 13th-** We will hold our “Old Rus”, Holiday Party. We will have traditional Russian and Ukrainian holiday cuisine and a Children’s Holiday Program based on the theme of “The Nutcracker”. We need for parents to encourage their children to offer their talents for this annual Charity Project. Matushka Masha has graciously taken the lead on this event which has provided tens of thousands of dollars to Russian children’s charities, from our Parish, over the past 10 years.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 18th-** We will hold an event which has only one objective, bringing our people and their friends together to share fellowship and have fun together. For some time, our Parish Council has wanted to increase the number of occasions upon which we can simply get together to mix and socialize. The game is the popular form of Poker called, “Texas Hold ‘em” and there will be dealers present at each table to teach the uninitiated this simple and fun game. This is not a “Fund raiser” but there will be prizes for the big winners. We realize that we are on new ground with this kind of function but are hopeful the it will be a success.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 27th-** We will hold our oldest continuous event, The St. Sava Celebration and Balkan Winter Festival. We will start, as always, with the Slava Service following Sunday Liturgy. Sarma (Cabbage rolls), roast pork and traditional Balkan food will, of course, be served and there will be a children’s program and dancing to live music.

With the current persecution of our brethren in Kosovo and the recent return to America and veneration of the relics of our former Priest, Sabaste Daboviuch we are especially reminded of the part played by our Serbs in the 110 years of our Parish history.

### Bishop Benjamin to Serve January 7th Liturgy

Each year for a decade we have observed the 7th of January, (St. John the Forerunner on the Revised Julian Calendar) which much of Orthodox Christendom celebrates as the Feast of the Nativity, with a Slavonic Liturgy and Pot luck luncheon. This year, His Grace, Bishop Benjamin will be present and will serve the Feast Day Liturgy. We are hoping to have even a better than usual attendance for the day.

### PARISH SPONSORS SUCCESSFUL RETREAT

On Saturday, 8 December, the Parish sponsored a Christmas Lent retreat for over thirty adults. Proto Presbyter Michael Dahulich, Dean of our St. Tikhon’s Seminary shared meditations on the topics of “Living as an Orthodox Christian in a non Orthodox culture”, and “Raising our children as Orthodox Christians”. On Sunday, Fr. Michael preached at Liturgy and shared a short talk on life at St. Tikhon’s. Our Parishioners donated over \$700 to the Seminary.

### St. Philoftheia Project

At the suggestion of His Grace, we contacted the St. Philoftheia Society this year and provided “flat rate” shoe box sized containers to our children. In spite of the bad weather on 9 December, we received 30 boxes stuffed full of practical and luxury items for little ones in Romanian orphanages and foster homes. If that is not enough, Carla Scott’s and John Frederics’ employers and co-workers donated enough money to provide another 15+ boxes for the project. This means that we will send well over our goal of forty parcels for this wonderful charity. Sandie Kennedy checked and taped up the boxes and Carla’s company is paying to U.P.S. them to Illinois in time for them to be taken to Romania and distributed on Christmas Day.

## **Parish Council Update**

I would like to start by welcoming Erik Slater and Marko Lukich to the Council. They were elected at the annual meeting. For the next year, the Executive Committee will be **Junior Warden: Erik Slater, Secretary: Carol Montealegre, Treasure: Jim Hartenbower, myself as Senior Warden and Father Joseph.** We will kick off the new year with some brainstorming and goal setting for the year.

In the mean time, some upcoming events include:

**Poker Tournament** - Barry Myhr is organizing a Poker tournament for January 18<sup>th</sup> . Please see the flier for all the details. This is a great opportunity for fellowship outside of our normal Sunday routine & a great chance to play or learn poker in a “fun, low-risk” environment. Please see additional details elsewhere in the newsletter.

**St. Sava’s Day Celebration** - Our annual St. Sava’s Day celebration is January 27<sup>th</sup> . Please plan to attend. It will be an afternoon of great food, fellowship and dancing.

**PODD- Our Pan Orthodox Dinner Dance** -on Bright Friday, 2 May, 2008

**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 STILL 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. We would hate to drop this profitable feature of the Festival because we don’t have a Coordinator.

- **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 one of these positions, 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 events, have any ideas or input on these projects or additional projects, please let me know. We hope to see many more people attending and helping with upcoming events and projects.

In Christ,  
Erin Busken, Senior Warden

**The Report on the Altar Society Board Meeting Minutes-, Sunday December 1, 2007  
Present: Gloria Rogozik, Masha Vallens, Colleen Ramos**

**We discussed Fundraising:**

- **We hope to promote coffee hour donation setting a goal of \$150.00 weekly.**
- **Continue to be proactive in getting donations from stores and businesses.**

**We want to focus on 2 charities for the upcoming year and to add additional ones as we are able and have the resources to do so.**

- **Raphael House in San Francisco, CA- this was a directive from the Bishop**
- **Continue with Holy Protection Monastery in Lake George, CO—presently we give \$100.00 per month and will continue with that.**

**We hope to discuss in the near future fund raising activities to promote those two charities.**

**We discussed the Pot luck luncheon and kids Christmas Party. We have asked Father Joe to advertise this in the upcoming weekly bulletins. In addition to that we have requested that Father remind the congregation that we are in need of donations for the decorating of the church, greenery, flowers and such for the beautification of the temple for Christmas. Gloria will purchase from Sam's Club or Costco 9 large poinsettia plants and Matushka Paulette will get the 9 smaller ones for the church. (She has already ordered the greenery)**

**We discussed plans for the December Bake Sale the weekend, December 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.**

**The Church cleaning and decorating day will be December 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. We will verbally ask for participation in an attempt to get firm commitments for help. Matuska Paulette said that Father has talked with Tracy Powell and that she plans on decorating the Christmas tree for the Church with the crosses.**

**We have also asked Father Joe to put in the bulletin that we are raising funds for a new refrigerator in the kitchen that is ready to go out. We presently have \$150.00 towards our goal of \$500.00. We hope to run the fundraising until 1/30/07 unless we receive the total before that time to purchase a new one.**

**Masha has indicated that she has asked Mira to head the cleaning teams for the temple, Erin will be in charge of Charities and Gari will be in charge of the King Soopers certificates. All have graciously accepted.**

**The Russian holiday party is scheduled for January 13<sup>th</sup>, and St. Sava is January 27<sup>th</sup>. We will check with the team leaders of these events to see how the Sisterhood can bring in more participation from the ladies in the church.**

**We hope to start planning for additional children's programs for the year. We hope to have some type of program for each major holiday/event on the church calendar.**