

Holy Transfiguration Cathedral Newsletter

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The His Grace Benjamin- Bishop of San Francisco & the West

Archpriest Joseph Hirsch- Dean, Archpriest Eugene Tarris- Sub-Dean Emeritus,

Archpriest James Worth- Attached, Father Averky Davis- Protodeacon, Father Alexander Vallens- Deacon

Holy Week / Pascha / Pentecost-2009 A.D.

Lent So Far

We entered Great Lent with a terrific start on March 1st when we shared a wonderful pancake dinner prepared by our Russian ladies and then went to our Temple for the Vespers of Forgiveness attended by almost half of our people. That evening, Fr. Joseph got to repeat the experience with Fr. George of the Greek Parish in Boulder when we hosted the members of The Orthodox Campus Fellowship for their Rite of Forgiveness.

All through the first week of Lent, Fr. Eugene and Fr. Joseph were blessed to serve the Great Compline and Great Canon of St. Andrew for fifteen to twenty worshipers. We had singers and readers who made every night's service beautiful and Fr. Deacon Alex was able to help with all 12 services that week.

Saturday morning, St. Theodore's Saturday, we ended our first Lenten Saturday Service with a Parastas and the blessing of two wonderful Koliva trays presented in the Romanian style by Luminitza Gurau and in the Serbian tradition by the Lukich family.

Sunday, 8 March, we met at the Greek Cathedral with two dozen local clergy and what looked like a record number of worshipers for our Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers. Fr. Evan Armatas spoke about our 2009 Pan Orthodox project through the St. Nectarios fellowship and International Orthodox Christian Charities to support work with unwed mother in Kluj, Romania.

On Sunday, 15 March it was the turn of our Cathedral to Host St. Gregory Palamas Sunday Vespers. This is often called, "The Second Sunday of Orthodoxy. Our Church and our Hall were packed and our ladies did a job of Biblical proportions in feeding the multitudes and letting no one go away hungry. Between our Parish Donation and the collection that night, we contributed about \$950 to the IOCC project in Romania.

And looking forward

Keep in mind our 6th Annual Bright Week charity event which we call, Pan-Orthodox Dinner Dance. This is a charity event and the ticket price barely covers the cost of the venue, dinner and DJ. All of our "profits" are derived from our famous Silent Auction and Prize Raffles. Collen Ramos has been doing an excellent job of soliciting prizes from local businesses and recreational venues.

Again there is a flyer attached with information and directions to "*Maggiano's Little Italy Restaurant.*" Everyone who attended last year was most complimentary of the food, fellowship, fun and music and about one out of four took home a door prize more valuable than the price of their dinner ticket. Reservations are limited and we would like to have all of them in by The Sunday of Palms.

Palm, Willow and Flower Fund

Time is running out for making our donations to the Sisterhood's fund to provide Palms and willows for distribution and decoration of the Church during Holy Week and flowers to adorn the Tomb and Temple for Great and Holy Friday and Pascha. Please be generous with this collection as the Sisterhood uses their meager resources to cover any shortfall.

Lamb for PASCHA "Break Fast"

Following our Paschal Matins and Liturgy at about 3:00 a.m. we gather in the Parish Hall to Bless Baskets and to share a meal which breaks our 46 day Lenten and Holy Week Fast. Everyone eats from and shares from his or her basket as they wish but we have a tradition of providing roast lamb as a special treat that night. The last couple of years we have elected to roast legs of lamb on our spits. This is because there is much less waste that way. Each leg costs about \$55.00 for a total of about \$275.00. Anyone who wishes to do so, is invited to buy one or more roasts for this event. Simply mark "LAMB" on your check and we'll know what it is for.

ADULT CLASSES

On four consecutive Monday Evenings during Great Lent we have a series of Adult Classes in the Church. One class remain on Monday the 6th of April. It is on the topic :The Week of Weeks” from Holy Pascha to Pentecost. The Class will be from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

HOLY WEEK / PASCHA CANDLES

During Great and Holy Week we use many sets of candles. Not only do we have 30 to 40 hours of services but we have special services such as the Holy Wednesday Unction, the Holy Thursday Night Passion Gospel Matins and the Holy Friday Vespers and Matins services, each of which require many tapers. In addition, there is the Tomb Watch through the Night following the Holy Friday Matins and Praises. There is a special calendar on the bulletin board at the candle stand where you may sign up to offer one or more sets of candles for any of these services you wish. The donation is \$16.00 per set.

TOMB WATCH

The night before his betrayal, Our Lord asked His disciples, “Could you not watch with me one hour?” year after year, we have an opportunity to answer this enquiry positively by keeping a one or more hour watch at Our Lord’s Tomb during the hours between the end of Holy Friday Night’s Matins and the Liturgy called “The First Resurrection” on Saturday Morning. There is a chart in the rear of the Church to offer an hour or more of watching and prayer. We always hope to have at least two persons each hour.

GREAT & HOLY FRIDAY CHURCH TRANSITION

...And, following the Holy Friday Evening Service, from about 9:30 p.m. till about 11:30 p.m. we change the lamps and covers in the Temple in preparation for Saturday Morning’s Liturgy when the darkness is taken away as the Lord enters Hell to raise up the dead from all ages. We need many hands on Friday Night to make this light work. Some families like to come and help and we can use anyone who would like to participate in this important job.

PASCHA BASKET BLESSINGS

Again this year, we will bless Paschal Baskets following the Saturday Morning Liturgy, Following the Midnight Matins and Paschal Liturgy as well as after the 1:00 p.m. Agape Vespers on Sunday. Baskets for the Saturday Morning and Sunday Afternoon Services may be left on the Church Porch. Baskets for the Pascha Night Services, should be brought to the Parish Hall where special tables will be prepared for them.

While we are on the subject, please remember to bring one or more dozen colored eggs to be blessed and distributed on Holy Pascha. Those not distributed will be used to decorate graves on St. Thomas Sunday.

ANNUAL GRAVE BLESSINGS

The Sunday after Pascha, St. Thomas Sunday and the days following, we observe by blessing graves. That Sunday, following coffee hour, we visit Riverside and Crown Hill Cemeteries and on the Tuesday and Thursday following, we visit Fairmont and Mount Olivet Cemeteries.

Immediately following Liturgy on St. Thomas Sunday, there is a Water Blessing and a General Parastas before the Troitsa for all of our departed parishioners as well as for the relatives and loved ones of our people who are buried throughout the world.

ANOTHER FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Our Spring Family Game Night will be a bit different this year. We will have a pot luck supper on Saturday Evening, 6 June at 5:00 p.m. and all attend Vespers together at 6:30. After Vespers, at about 7:15, we will return to the hall for a couple of hours of table games as well as movies for the kids in the Parish Hall. We hope, this way, to allow more time for eating together, a chance to pray together and a longer game time on a non working "No rushing" day.

THE FESTIVAL DRAWS NEAR

It is certainly not too early to be thinking about our 6th Annual Orthodox Food Festival and "Old Globeville Days". This year's Festival will also mark Fr. Joseph's and Matushka Paulette's 25th Anniversary in the Parish. The Dates are 18 and 19 July.

We will, as always, have as our motto, "All hands on deck and man your battle stations" for this monumental event. We need volunteer workers, cooks and booth manning personnel, ticket takers as well as set up and clean up crews. There will be sign up sheets in the Hall as the event draws nearer or just see Erin Busken to choose your job or jobs.

ARGO PARK RENEWAL

Argo Park, the park across the street from the Church, is in for a BIG MAKEOVER this summer. Topography will be changed, all kinds of "State of the Art", kids exercise equipment will be installed. There will be a large wet and dry sandbox area. A special feature will be a large Globe patterned Patio with benches and the flags of several

nationalities who played a part in the history of Globeville. This Park is going to be the theme of our Festival publicity this year.

ST. TIKHON'S TRAVELING CHOIR

Student singers from St. Tikhon's Theological Seminary will visit our Temple and sing the responses for Vespers on Saturday evening, 30 May. They will also sing a short concert of sacred music and will join us for a reception in the Hall after Vespers. We will take a second collection for the Seminary for two Sundays before this visit. It is the first time we will have had a visit from St. Tikhon's Seminarians who provide most of the clergy for our Diocese.

SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULED

Our RMOYC or Rocky Mountain Orthodox Youth Camp is scheduled for 2-5 August this Summer. Families with children aged 6-18 should mark their calendars for those dates. We also need some adult counselors and helpers. The Parish pays half of the \$110 cost for our own families.

SISTERHOOD

Antonina Hartenbower reports that our Sisterhood made about \$1,000 from their St. Sava's Day and pre-Lenten Bake Sale. Also Diana Seurer received \$437 from the sale of Lenten Piroghi. This was donated to our heavily stressed General Fund. Many Years! To our ladies.

About Finances

We don't like to talk too much about it, but, in spite of our having done about \$250,000 worth of work on our Church for about \$60,000 and having increased our Church's ASSETS by about 50% through prudent land acquisitions which are paying for themselves, we remain in the predicament of living from hand to mouth from our General Fund. It is our sincere hope that generous Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Pascha donations will provide us with relief from this situation.



110Years
1898 - 2008

The Very Reverend
JOSEPH HIRSCH
DEAN

The Very Reverend
EUGENE TARRIS
CATHEDRAL ARCHPRIEST
EMERITUS

The Very Reverend
JAMES WORTH
ATTACHED

Fr. Acher
AVERKY DAVIS
PROTO-DEACON

Fr. Acher
ALEXANDER VALLENS
DEACON

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25 March, 2009
The Feast of the Annunciation

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

As I write, we are at the exact center point of the 46 Day Lenten and Holy Week period. Coincidentally, this is also the Feast of the Annunciation, upon which we commemorate the Incarnation of Our Lord, nine months before His appearance to the world at His Holy Nativity.

Yet, even at this time, the Church has called our minds beyond the Passion as we venerated the Holy Cross through Whose efficacy, “The flaming sword no longer guards the gates of paradise”, and accompanied our Matins prayers with the Irmoi of the Paschal Canon, “This is the Day of Resurrection...”.

If the pressures of getting all of the information you want to know or need to know for your observance of the Holy Week and Paschal services and events, forces my mind to jump abruptly and perhaps prematurely to those sacred times, still, it does not seem totally out of place to address you with the traditional greetings which I, regularly, receive from our Greek Brothers and Sisters in anticipation of the “Feast of Feasts”.

Kali Anastasi! and Kalo Pascha!

May each and every one of you so follow the road which leads to the Resurrection Light that he or she may have “A Glorious Feast of the Resurrection! – A Beautiful Pascha!” This is my wish and that of Matushka for each of you and all of yours.

Sincerely yours in the Journey to Holy Pascha ,

Proto Joseph

Archpriest Joseph Hirsch
Dean of the Holy Transfiguration Cathedral

Parish Council Update

Hello everyone. Not much has changed since the last newsletter that went out about a month ago so if much of this sounds familiar that is why. 😊

Here's what we are up to:

Annual Bright Friday Pan-Orthodox Dinner Dance (PODD) – It is time to order your tickets – seating is limited. You don't want to miss this. It is Friday evening April 24th 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. There will be lots of great door prizes. 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. All you have do for this event is show up and have fun. Please see the flyer in the newsletter with the details. We hope to see many of you there!

Adult Education Classes on DVD – The recent adult education classes (“The Sundays of Pre-Lent, Lent & Pascha with their Icons”) conducted by Father Joe during Lent are available on DVD. Also available are the classes from last year's Lenten classes which was “The Lenten Journey Towards Pascha”. Coming soon will be some of the previous classes recorded over the last 7 years (as soon as I can figure out how to get them off 8mm tapes and onto DVD 😊) If you would like to make a copy or borrow the DVDs please let me know.

Community Service Project – We would like to plan a community service project where a bunch of us get together to help the community & socialize - a project like Habitat for Humanity or working at a soup kitchen. If you have any ideas or would like to help with this project please let us know.

Festival - The dates for the 2009 Festival are **July 18th & 19th**. Mark your calendar!

Our goal this year is to expand our sponsorships. We would like to establish a team of people 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 the key to the financial growth of the Festival. **If you are not willing or able to commit to this position, please share any contacts for businesses who we can approach to be a sponsor. This would be really helpful. Think about businesses your frequent or service people you use regularly. 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 or Erin Busken.

Going Green – We would like to become a little more environmentally friendly. We have received our recycling bin. Please pay attention to the “green” signs for what we can recycle. In the bathrooms there will be boxes for the toilet paper holders. Downstairs by the copy machine will be a box for office paper. There will also be a receptacle in the kitchen for all of the kitchen stuff that can be recycled like aluminum cans, water bottles, paper towel holders & more. Also, please be sure to turn off unused lights as well as do any other “green” things you are doing around your house. This will save energy & money.

Iconography Presentation - Depending on how quickly the mail delivers the newsletters this will either be an announcement of an upcoming event or something that just occurred. 😊 The Parish Council is pleased to announce a special Iconography presentation by our very own iconographer Gabriel Hayman. Most likely it will be an introduction / history, etc. to Orthodox icons. We thought this might be a nice event during Lent. It will be Saturday, April 4th at 4:00pm in the church. We anticipate it will last until 5:30ish depending on the number of questions. Then we would like to have a potluck dinner (so bring a dish to share) between the presentation and Vespers at 6:30. If there is enough interest we see there being subsequent presentations with additional information like how to write an icon.

Parish Property – I’m excited to share with you that all three of the houses the church owns are now occupied by parishioners – Rupert Applegate, Nick Fotinos & Anastasia (Sharon) Whitted! What great neighbors for the church to have. It is a blessing to know that these houses will be well cared for and that we have a stronger presence in the neighborhood.

Photo Board – We would really like to complete the photo board for the hall. This is an immediate way to help everyone put names & faces together. Erin Schwartz is working on this project. It seems as though some of you are “camera shy”. Please have your picture taken so we use this photo board to get to know each other better. Otherwise we may just snap a photo of you 😊

Pool Day – During the summer months we plan to schedule several family pool outings to the Globeville pool. We thought this would be a great chance for the kids and families to get to know each other better. It’s a great pool and the prices are very reasonable. (FYI – this is a family event meaning parents are responsible for their own kids. There won’t be anyone from the parish there to watch the kids.) Stay tuned for the dates.

Retreats – There continues to be a desire for spiritual & fellowship retreats. We have a couple of tentative retreats planned for late April / early May. Stay tuned for more details. We also discussed the idea of a day retreat to the monastery in Lake George. If you are interested in helping with this, please talk to me.

Transfiguration / Orthodoxy Cookbook – There are still some cookbooks available for purchase. They are \$20. All money goes to the church operating budget.

In Christ,
Erin Busken, Senior Warden