

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

Great Lent / Holy Week & Pascha-2009 A.D.

Winter in Review

As we move into the Season of Lent (Lengthening of Days or Springtime) it is a joy to look back upon our 2008-2009 Winter events and to give thanks for the joy and material as well as spiritual success we have experienced.

On St. Stephen's Day, Saturday, 27 December, we held our Children's play rehearsal after Liturgy and then took a crowd of about three dozen to "Chuck E Cheese" for an afternoon of mediocre pizza and great fun for all of the kids. It was a wonderful to see so many of our young people shoulder to shoulder in joy filled activity. We are grateful to the Church school teachers and to all of the parents who helped with the day

The next day, the children acquitted themselves well in presenting the traditional Nativity Play for the 25th consecutive year. Then, we shared an ample pot luck banquet for charity and all of the children received presents from Santa, delivered, once more through the kind heartedness of one of his chief helpers, Dana Gall. Another helper, Sandie Kennedy, helped Santa provide dozens of wonderful bags of holiday candy as she has done for almost two decades. We made over \$500 for our Romanian Children's Memorial Fund and this will be sent for OCMC mission projects for children and mothers in Romania. There were extra presents which were given to the Russian, Ukrainian, Bulgarian and Serbian children who attended the Slavonic Liturgy on 7 December.

Sunday, January 11th was the date of our Annual "Old Rus Holiday Party". The children performed a Yolka program under the direction of Matushka Masha, the Russian ladies provided a wonderful luncheon and bake sale and around \$1,500 was collected for the St. Petersburg Orthodox Children's Hospice. Many years to Antonina and our crew of Russian ladies for a terrific event.

The month of January ended with our 111th St. Sava Celebration. This year, all of the food for the Slava was donated by our 2009 "Kumovi", Dusica and Emelia Muntean who concluded the Slava Service by presenting a small Kolach to Sam Ivkovich and the Cahenzli family who will be the hosts for 2010. There were many compliments for the food, all of the which was prepared by Emelia and Magda Blagalia. The music was provided by the Barbelfish band. The children presented the best St. Sava's Day Program in years and praise was heard from almost everyone for food, program and music alike.

Finally, we observed the Fast Free Week of the "Pharisee and Publican" with a Friday night Bar-b-q and pot luck and our quarterly Family Fun Night. The participation was the best so far and we have had requests to schedule some more in the year. We are grateful to Gari and Marko Lukich who organize these events.

And looking forward

It is not too early to be thinking about the 5th Annual Bright Week charity event which we call, Pan-Orthodox Dinner Dance. This is a charity event and the ticket price barley covers the cost of the venue, dinner and DJ. All of our "profits" are derived from our famous Silent Auction and Prize Raffles.

There is a flyer attached with information and directions to "*Maggiano's Little Italy Restraint.*" 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.

Thank You to Matushka Kedrann Dotson

Who enriched the liturgical life of our Parish by donating about a dozen sets of Sacred Vestment and Liturgical items which had previously belonged to her late Husband and our Brother and Concelebrant, Fr. Nicholas Dotson.

Palm, Willow and Flower Fund

Once more, during Great Lent, we will have baskets at the candle stand and drink counter for 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.

Land Purchase

With great difficulty and much complication, we have acquired the old Mamsuch property immediately across from the Church and Rectory. The address is 348 East 47th Avenue. The purchase price was 40% of the asking price and your continuing offerings to the "Land Acquisition Fund" enabled us to make the required 25% down payment.

This property will require some work but should be ready for rental by April.

We are most grateful to Doug and Erin Busken who devote and have devoted many hours of work and abundant talent to help the Church make and execute good business decisions.

ADULT CLASSES

On four consecutive Monday Evenings during Great Lent we will have a series of Adult Classes in the Church. They will be held on the 15th, 23rd & 30th March and the 6th of April. There are presently two possible topics:

The Sundays of pre-Lent, Lent and Pascha with their ICONS.

or

A brief survey of the Old Testament.

If you have any other ideas, please feel free to offer them to Fr. Joseph. Every year we get requests for Lenten Adult Classes but, when it comes down to it, attendance is irregular. That is why we are sticking to 4 sessions with one hour of presentation and 15 minutes for questions. This is also why we want your input as to the topic.

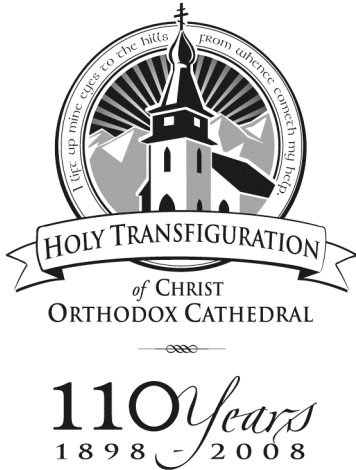
Pan-Orthodox Vespers

You will find included with this newsletter, a chart that shows the various locations at which Sunday night Pan-Orthodox Vespers will be held on Lenten Sunday evenings. The first week, as usual, we will all gather at the Assumption Greek Cathedral. On St. Gregory Palamas Sunday (The second Sunday of Orthodoxy) all of the Churches North of Castle Rock will gather, as usual, at our Cathedral. For the rest of the weeks, the parishes will break into five circuits. Fr. Joseph will be attending the Vespers at our Church in Colorado Springs on the 22nd of March, at Pueblo on the 29th and at Calhan on April 5th.

We need for our families to come through again this year with a Lenten reception for after the Service here on 15 March. Fruit, Vegetables, non dairy dips, chips, nuts, spring rolls, and other Lenten foods are welcome. Please fix and bring something to share with our guests that night.

We usually have the a good crowd. Vespers at Holy Assumption and Transfiguration will take place at 5:00 p.m. The services in the South will be held at 6:00 p.m.

Many Years! To Matushka Masha who will be taking over our Primary Sunday School Class for the rest of the School year.



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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21 February, 2009

Beloved in Christ,

In June of 1984, during the week following St. Thomas Sunday, I flew out to Denver from Kansas City at the request of His Grace, Bishop Boris. What I discovered was a small group, a faithful remnant, of about 40 souls whose average age was around 60 years but who were motivated by a profound love for God and for the House in which God had first made His Holy Name to Dwell in the Rocky Mountain West.

I can not and will not attempt to recount the events that lead to Matushka and I and our three boys coming here. I will say that the assignment from His Grace was to stabilize the Parish and then come back to the Midwest where he had other plans for me.

But, as it is said, "Man proposes and God disposes". Glory to God Who not only brought us here but Who set our feet in concrete in this little bit of land which is sanctified by the tears, the sweat, and, yes, the blood of our founders.

This year will mark our 25th Great Lent, Holy Week and Holy Pascha among you and on the last weekend in July we will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of our arrival here.

So, having been here longer than any previous Priest, I have a "wish list" for this Lent. I would be delighted to have so many people in Church for Forgiveness Vespers that we have to form a circle within a circle to ask and receive forgiveness from one another. I would be so pleased if our attendance at Sunday Matins were doubled during the *Post* or Great Fast. I would rejoice if we could average 30 souls at each of the wonderfully beautiful Pre-Sanctified Liturgies during Great Lent. Finally, I wish, I pray that I may be blessed to celebrate this holy Week and Pascha surrounded by the little children, now adults and parents, who have been the hearers of my preaching and teaching for a quarter century.

If God wills, Matushka and I will be here for several more years but there will never be a prouder moment for us than seeing a new generation succeed to the leadership of this community and knowing that, in their memory, all of the generation who are past are united to those who pray here today and that, by God's Grace, this Temple and its congregation will remain unmoved "Unto the consummation of the Ages."

Sincerely Yours in the Love of our Risen Lord,

Archpriest Joseph Hirsch

Archpriest Joseph Hirsch
Dean of the Holy Transfiguration Cathedral

Parish Council Update

In our February meeting we brainstormed ideas for events, projects, etc. for this year. We came up with some great ideas. Once again, there seemed to be a repeating theme of more social / fellowship events. I anticipate that you will see more of these events this year. We will continue the brainstorming and then we will prioritize the projects we will work on.

In the mean time, some upcoming events include:

Annual Bright Friday Pan-Orthodox Dinner Dance (PODD) - Mark your calendar for this exciting event. 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!

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 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. In the next couple of months, we will receive a free recycling bin from the City that can be used to recycle many items that are used during coffee hour & around the hall. Please keep an eye out for this in the future. 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.

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 😊

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 also discussed the idea of a 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. All money goes to the church operating budget.

In Christ,
Erin Busken, Senior Warden

*Holy Transfiguration of Christ Cathedral invites you to
celebrate Bright Friday with Bishop Benjamin
at our 5th Annual*

Pan-Orthodox Dinner Dance Fundraiser



Friday, April 24th 2009

Maggiano's Little Italy

Cocktails & Hors D'oeuvres start at 6:00pm

Sit-Down Dinner at 7:00pm

Dance & Mingle until 10:30pm

Door Prizes, Raffle, Silent Auction & Cash Bar

Tickets \$50 per person (18yrs & older only)

Make your reservations by April 10, 2009

Space is limited!

You must have a pre-paid ticket to attend the event

Please see other side for purchase information & directions

Tickets & Questions: email erin.busken@gmail.com or call 303.477.3946

A portion of the proceeds will support Orthodox Charities!

How To Purchase Tickets By April 10th:

- Email erin.busken@gmail.com (or call 303.477.3946) to make your reservation with your **name, church, contact info**. Email is preferred~ thanks.
- Mail cash or check to: Holy Transfiguration of Christ Cathedral, c/o PODD 349 East 47th Ave. Denver, Colorado 80216
- After your payment is received, you will receive an e-mail confirmation. Your name must be on the guest list to attend. (There are no physical tickets)
- You may purchase a whole table for 10 people for \$450.00. (A \$50.00 savings) Payment **must** be in full with all names of guests. The table will be marked as reserved. (All other seating will be open.)
- If you park in the Pavillions parking garage, a parking voucher will be provided at check-in.
- The meal will be served family style. There will be plenty of choices and lots of food.
- Questions ~ email erin.busken@gmail.com (or call Erin Busken 303.477.3946)
- Can't wait to celebrate with you!



Directions: Maggiano's Littly Italy is located in the Denver Pavillions at 500 16th Street Mall Promenade. For more detailed directions, call Maggiano's 303.260.7707 or go to www.maggianos.com