

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adopt-A-Family

This holiday season we are going to support the Rafael House, the Orthodox-run homeless shelter in San Francisco that Fr. David current runs. We are going to adopt several families and purchase their holiday gifts for them as well as collect other needed items for the shelter. By the time you get this newsletter, we should have more information about what items are needed, when they're needed, etc. Stay tuned for more information. You may contact Becky Schilling (bschilling@coloradowish.org) or Shannon Kash (shannonkash@yahoo.com) for more info.

Church Cleaning Teams – We Need You!

Looking for a way to contribute to the work of our parish family? Join a cleaning team. Each team cleans about once every 6 – 8 weeks depending on the number of team we have. The job takes about 45 minutes. If you are interested, please see Mira Hill(303 816 1661 / miratom@aol.com) by Christmas to get on the schedule.

Father Joe Memorial Fund

We are still collecting for the Father Joe Memorial Fund. We have received a lot of generous donations. Thank you to all that have contributed. We would like to collect several thousand dollars in order to do all we have planned to do. If you haven't already, please consider making a donation.

Financial Update

Year to date we are in the positive. Really this is due to the fact that we haven't been paying a priest's salary. We count on substantial offerings for Thanksgiving and the Nativity to come out ahead for the year. Please be generous with your year-end giving.

Looking ahead to the new year, we ask that every member of the Parish commit to making the annual fair share assessment of \$225 / person. This covers

the assessments the parish pays to the Diocese & OCA. We budget for this income but very few people pay this. (This year we budgeted \$14,700 of donations for this but have only received just over \$4,000.) If every person committed to this above & beyond their regular offerings this would greatly enhance our finances. Think of it as \$19 / month. Please consider making this one of your "resolutions" this year to help your parish.

House Blessings

Due to our current situation, house blessings will be a little different this year. Fr. James & Fr. David, on the weekends he is here, will be doing the house blessings. Fr. David plans to do as many as possible when he is in town so he can begin to get to know many of you. We are going to designate specific days for different areas of town and would like to do most of the house blessings this way. Please stay tuned for more details via e-mail as well as the weekly bulletin. Lastly, please be patient and flexible with your schedule as this will be new and different for all of us.

Offering Envelopes

If you are a member of the Parish & don't currently have offering envelopes, please see Colleen Ramos, Financial Secretary, so she can get you a box for 2010. Making your donations through the envelopes is important for the Parish's record keeping and can be very helpful your own record keeping.

Orthodox Food Festival & Old Globeville Days

Save the date our 7th annual Festival is July 17th & 18th. We would love to have some new folks join the planning committee. If you're interested, please talk to Erin to get details about the opportunities.

Parish Operations During Transition

His Grace has officially assigned Father David as Rector of the Cathedral. Starting in January, Father

David will be with us twice a month, most likely for long weekends. He will be here for all of Holy Week and Pascha. He will be with us full-time in mid-June. Fr. Eugene & Fr. James will continue to serve and take care of pastoral needs when Fr. David is not here. Many years for their dedication & hard work during this transition period. If needed, you may contact Fr. David at 415-474-4621

Sisterhood

Please see the separate article outlining the Sisterhood's upcoming activities. There will be a meeting on Jan. 3rd to elect new officers as well as plan upcoming activities. If you haven't paid your \$20 annual dues, please do so. All women are members of the Sisterhood.

Sunday School

The Sunday School staff would like to request that the parish allow the children and teachers to receive Holy Communion first as they have to leave immediately and have Sunday School. Thank you for your cooperation. See the separate article for more Sunday School news.

Weekly Bulletin

Joe Hirsch will be doing the weekly bulletins. A huge thank you to Joe. If you need something announced please let Joe know.

EVENTS

December 6th - Parish Annual Meeting

Our parish annual meeting is scheduled for December 6th following Liturgy. We will meet at 12:00 noon following Liturgy for a one hour meeting to adopt the operating budget, receive reports, elect Council members and officers and transact all other business which might come before us. To vote, or be elected to an office, one should be in good standing and should have fulfilled the

minimum "Fair Share" donation to the Church. Those who contribute regularly in any amount are automatically eligible. Father David will be here for the meeting.

Holiday Bake Sale – December 12th & 13th

The Sisterhood's annual holiday bake sale is Sat. 12 – 2pm and Sunday during coffee hour. This is a major fundraiser for the Sisterhood. If you can help bake, please see Antonina. (Baked goods should be in the hall by noon on Sat.) Please plan to buy your holiday baked goods here & encourage your family, friends, co-workers to do the same. What great gifts & your helping the Parish at the same time!

Nativity Decorating – December 19th

Please come help us beautify and decorate the church for the Nativity on Dec. 19th at 9:00am. This is a wonderful way to prepare for the Nativity. It is a great event for the whole family. As with any project, the more people we have the more quickly it will go & the more fun it will be!

December 27th – Children's Christmas Program & Romanian Charity Potluck

See the enclosed flyer for the details. There will be candy & gifts for the children. Donations go to our Romanian Children's Memorial Fund.

January 10th – Old Rus Christmas Party

Please see the attached flyer for the specifics. We ask for a small donation to cover the cost of the food and a "free will" offering to benefit a to be determined Orthodox charity in Russia.

January 31st – St. Sava Celebration & Balkan Winter Festival

The 112th Slava will be hosted by Sam Ivkovich and the Cahenzli Family. This is our oldest & most traditional event aside from Pascha. A flyer is enclosed with the details.

Holy Transfiguration of Christ Cathedral Newsletter

Nativity, Theophany & Winter 2009-2010

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

In every respect, the Christian mystery brings us closer together – not only in joy, but also in sharing struggles, enduring grief, being patient through illness.

This wonderful parish is full of people who care for one another, work and laugh together, and feel worry and concern for those who are suffering.

Whether you are in Church for the Divine Services or laboring elsewhere, please remember one another in prayer during this Nativity Season. Make this your spiritual discipline every day: ask God to bless every member of this parish. You will not be praying alone. God will hear these prayers not as separate pleas, but as a common prayer and will increase His presence in our midst.

I enjoyed meeting so many of you on November 15th – the snowy first day of the Nativity Fast. I look forward to meeting many more of you on December 6th, the Feast Day of St. Nicholas.

It will be still some time before I can make a final move from San Francisco, and it may take a while before I meet everyone and their extended families. It is still a shock to me that Archpriest Joseph Hirsch is taken from us, and it is even more so to those of you who knew him for years as your spiritual father and family member.

Is it too much to ask that God give us something in return? Is it too much to ask that God pour out His blessing on this parish and bring *every* good work begun here to fruition?

This is our prayer! May God bless each of us as we draw closer to the Holy Nativity of our Savior.

Yours in Christ,

Archpriest David Lowell

St. Mary's Altar Society



Sisterhood Activities for December 2009, January and February 2010:

1. December 2009:
 - a. Bakery Sale – *12th – 13th December*
 - b. Decoration of Church and cafeteria hall - *December, 19th*. Sisterhood will take care of ordering greenery with Matushka Paulette. Antonina and James Hartenbower will buy poinsettia flowers for decoration of church.
2. January 2010:
 - a. Sisterhood Meeting – *January, 3rd*
 - b. Celebration of Russian Christmas: *January 10th* – Russian ladies will prepare dinner; Matushka Masha and Gari Lukich (Vice President) will organize tradition holiday for children “Elka”
 - c. St. Sava Celebration (Balkan Winter Festival) – *January, 31st* - Sam Ivkovich, the Cahenzli family, the Seurers and Romanian ladies will prepare dinner (Traditional Feast – Cabbage Rolls & Lamb). The ladies will have a bake sale.
3. February 2010:
 - a. Traditional “Maslenitsa” – *February, 14th* - Ladies will cook dinner with many kinds of pancakes.

President of St. Mary's Altar Society,

Antonina Hartenbower

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Sunday school teachers are so thrilled to make this school year fun and exciting for our children!

We are grateful for the wonderful people who have volunteered to work with our children this year. Matushka Masha Vallena, Elizabeth Anton, Carla Scott, Gari Lukich, Michael Dawson, Ioana Anton, Lidia Stcherbak, Jessica Hirsch, and Michelle Dyl. If any member of the Parish is interested in teaching or being a sub, please contact Matushka Maria.

We have many programs prepared for the kids of our parish. By the grace of God, we would like to make these events annual and have more and more kids participate.

So far we have held the Archangel Michael party and Thanksgiving program. Since the Church celebrates the feast of the Archangel Michael a few days after Halloween, this party honors God and His Heavenly Hosts rather than witches, goblins, devils, and monsters. The party was a success with many children dressing as angels and their patron saints.

Thank you to everyone who made the Thanksgiving Program possible! A very special and heart-felt thank-you to the parents who did such a fantastic job making the costumes for their children! Kudos to Deacon Alexander for putting together and performing all the speaking parts! With a little more preparation and rehearsing, we can have the children deliver their own lines next time.

Coming up, we have the Christmas play on Sunday 12/27. Father Joseph wrote this play years ago. We hope to continue having the play for the enjoyment of the Parish as well as honor Father's memory. In January we have the Russian Yolka Celebration on Sunday 1/10 (both kids and adults will participate) and St. Sava Day Celebration on Sunday 1/31.

Dear parents, please please PLEASE, make every attempt to bring your children to the scheduled rehearsals! It is crucial for the programs to be successful!

Rehearsal schedule:

Sat. 12/26 -Christmas Play rehearsal followed by lunch and a fun activity for the participants

Sat. 1/9 -Russian Yolka rehearsal. There will be 2 additional rehearsals scheduled for the kids. Every Sunday for 10 minutes during/after coffee hour the adults will rehearse in the hall basement.

Sat. 1/30 - St. Sava Celebration rehearsal (parents can help with set-up while kids rehearse)

Lastly, we would like to request that children and Sunday school teachers would be allowed to receive Holy Communion first to ensure that classes can start and finish in a timely manner.