

Holy Transfiguration of Christ Cathedral Newsletter

349 E. 47th Ave., Denver, CO 80216

303-294-0938 / www.transfigcathedral.org

Great Lent, Holy Week & Pascha 2010

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Meeting

We held our annual meeting on December 6th with Father David. It was a brief, productive meeting. Reports from the various church organizations were presented. The 2010 budget was adopted and Parish Council members were elected. Congratulations to John Davis who is the newest member of the Parish Council. Existing members Erin Busken, Barry Myhr, Colleen Ramos, & Erik Slater were re-elected for another term.

DVD of Adult Classes

In lieu of "live" adult education classes this Great Lent, DVD's of the last year's classes can be made available. The topic last year was the Sundays of Pre-Lent, Lent & Pascha with their icons. If you are interested please see Erin Busken. You will need to provide your own DVDs, unless someone is interested in donating some DVDs.

Financial Update

Good news - we ended 2009 in the positive! Really this is due to the fact that we haven't been paying a priest's salary.

Just a reminder that we are asking that every Parish member to 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. FYI - In 2009 we budgeted \$14,700 of donations for this, which is conservative for the number of members we have, but we only received just over \$5,300. If every person committed to this above & beyond their regular offerings this would greatly enhance our finances. Think of it as \$19 / month. It would give us a great boost if people could do this in the first months of the year.

House Blessings

If you haven't had your house blessed & would like to, please get in touch with Becky Schilling (303-359-1545 or bschilling@colorado.wish.org) ASAP. All house blessings must be completed by the start of Lent & requests should be made by Feb. 11th.

Many years to Becky who coordinated this project during this transition year!

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.

Offering Envelopes

If you have not received your 2010 offering envelopes, please see Colleen Ramos. 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. This is our Parish's largest fundraiser and we count on every parishioners support. 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.

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.

Parish Operations During Transition

Father David is hoping to be with us every weekend until he is here permanently. If you need to reach him, you may at 415-474-4621 or on his cell at 303-909-7772.

Prospora Cards

For those of you that get weekly prospora, many of the commemoration books have become outdated. Please take a few minutes to review your book and make sure it is current. Even better yet, purchase a new book from the bookstore. Many of the books are on their last legs. This would make things much easier for all involved. For those that would like to offer a weekly prospora the cost is \$1.00 / week. You can talk to the greeters about how to do this.

Sunday School

To all the students, parents, and teachers that helped or performed in the St. Sava's Children's program....Thank You! A job well done again, you were all great!

Weekly Bulletin

Joe Hirsch will be doing the weekly bulletins. If you need something announced please let Joe know. His e-mail is joseph.hirsch@bvsvd.org

Winter Review

What a busy winter it was. We had a number of great programs including the Children's Nativity

Program, Old Rus Christmas Party & St. Sava's Day. Many years to all who made these events possible!

EVENTS

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 9th at Maggiano's Little Italy in the Tech Center. See the Parish Council update and flyer for all the details. Hope to see many of you there!

Pan-Orthodox Vespers

You will find included with this newsletter, a chart that shows the various locations where 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.

We need for our families to come through again this year with a Lenten reception for after the Service here on February 28th. 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 a good crowd.

Other Upcoming Pan-Orthodox Events

Pan-Orthodox Lenten Retreat with Fr. Meletios: "Renewing the Heart" -- Through Forgiveness, Confession & the Jesus Prayer This is Sat., Mar. 6th, 9 am to ~3 pm at St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church. The cost: \$15 (lunch included).

Schedule/Topics:

9 am, Morning Prayers; 9:30 am, Talk #1, Forgiveness+ Q/A; ~10:45 am, Talk #2, Confession + Q/A; ~12 pm, Lunch (catered); ~1:15 pm, Talk #3, Jesus Prayer + Q/A and Open Forum; ~3 pm, Closing Prayer .

Please Contact/RSVP by Wed, March 3: Alina at St. Catherine's: alina@stcatherinechurch.org



110 Years
1898 - 2008

The Very Reverend
DAVID LOWELL
ARCHPRIEST & RECTOR

The Very Reverend
EUGENE TARRIS
CATHEDRAL ARCHPRIEST
EMERITUS

The Very Reverend
JAMES WORTH
ATTACHED

Father
AVERKY DAVIS
PROTO-DEACON

Father
ALEXANDER VALLENS
DEACON

349 E. 47th Avenue
Denver, CO 80216
303-294-0938
303-295-2811
www.transfigcathedral.org
frjoehirsch@gmail.com

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

We are drawing close to Great Lent. I hope you will all join us on Forgiveness Sunday, February 14th, and for as many services as you can during the weeks leading up to Pascha.

On the Sunday of Orthodoxy (February 21st) we will celebrate Pan-Orthodox Vespers at Assumption Greek Orthodox Cathedral at 5:00 p.m. The following Sunday evening we will celebrate vespers at our own Holy Transfiguration Cathedral with many other clergy and faithful from around the area joining us, and a reception to follow which we will host. I hope many of you will join and help that evening, February 28th at 5:00p.m.

Take a look at the calendar in this newsletter. Think about what is going on in your life, and make plans to attend a number of these very special and beautiful services.

I will continue my commute between San Francisco and Denver throughout Lent and will be here through all of Holy Week and Pascha. By the time we draw close to that feast, I hope everyone will have given confession. If Saturday night after Great Vespers, or Sunday morning during Matins is not the best time for you, there are many other services, and I will be at most of them. Fr. James and Fr. Eugene are also available. Please don't put it off. Confession becomes easier through repetition and is the starting point for all other manifestations of spiritual healing which you frequently long for and need.

God bless us all in our preparations for the great feast of Pascha!

Your Brother in Christ,

Archpriest David Lowell

Parish Council Update

The Parish Council continues to do its best to hold things together during this time of transition. We had our first regular meeting with Father David in January. In future months I hope we can do some planning for future projects, etc.

Many of the usual items that would be reported here are included elsewhere in the newsletter.

As I prepared to put this newsletter together, I looked over last year's newsletter. In re-reading Father Joe's letter, I remember how much I enjoyed it last year. Like Father's sermons, the newsletter letters were always good but this one really stood out. In it he shared his "wish list" for Lent. I thought what a wonderful way to remember Father this Lent and Pascha than to grant his wishes. Here they are:

"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."

In the mean time, some upcoming events include:

Annual Bright Friday Pan-Orthodox Dinner Dance (PODD) - This has become a favorite event of many parishioners. Perhaps because everyone just gets to have fun which is how it was intended. If you've been before we want you back and if you haven't been before this is the year you should come. Father David and Elaine will be there. It will be a great chance to get to know them outside of church. It is Friday evening April 9th at Maggiano's Little Italy in the Tech Center. The cost is \$50 for a fabulous family style dinner with lots of delicious food 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 to 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!

Festival - The dates for the 2010 Festival are July 17th & 18th. 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.

Wishing you all a blessed Great Lent!

In Christ,

Erin Busken, Senior Warden