

The Shining Light

Newsletter of Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church

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HTOC Thanksgiving Dinner Planning Underway

By Kari Teknos

Every Thanksgiving Day, the parishioners of Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church sponsor a dinner and outreach program for many people who have no place to go. Many are homeless, some come from abuse shelters and others from group homes for the mentally and functionally disabled. Some even come because they have no one with which to share the day and give thanks to God for the gifts He provides us.

Over the years, this program has expanded to include more than 200 guests. This ministry allows the entire HTOC parish family to fulfill what our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ commanded us: to love one another.

I have been fortunate to be involved in this program for four years now, and I can tell you that it has the most rewarding spiritual experience of my life.

Words cannot describe the feelings of love and warmth of the day I see in my fellow parishioners and our guests. I particularly remember watching parishioners feeding some of the guests who could not feed themselves. And I will not forget the smiles on the faces of the children when we gave them gifts for Christmas after dinner.

In addition to feeding so many, the parish also provides much-needed clothing for at least 50 homeless guests to help them stave off the cold winter months.

As you can see, this program truly benefits all involved – guests and servants alike.

Our guest list included residents from the Macomb Oakland Region Centers, children from Vista Maria, homeless men from Moorehouse, abused women and children from Lutheran Social Services of Wayne County, and outpatients from various psychiatric programs.

To give you an idea of what is involved, here is how our Thanksgiving Day comes together. The day starts with a Thanksgiving service, followed by dinner, fellowship, gift giving and the singing of carols.

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Church school off to great start

Nearly 60 children have enrolled in this year's Church School program. It is wonderful to have Sharon Zabinko, Mary Louise Opaitz, Barb Walsh, Janet Ames, Anna Meyendorf, Nika Matsko and Gretchen Stinson back again to teach this year. We have also been blessed with Sam Warbel, Laurie Snyder, Joel Ashton and Wally Bondar. Thanks to all of you for your time and efforts in sharing the love of God and His church with our children.

Everyone please mark your calendars with these important dates:

Oct. 21 Church School Bake Sale.

Oct. 27 Autumn Fest

Nov. 16-17 Youth Group Retreat at HTOC

Dec. 22 Church School Christmas Program

Thanks to all parents who have paid the \$15 per-family Church School registration fee. This fee helps offset the costs for materials needed for school and helps ensure the high-quality of HTOC's Church School program.

Memorial Liturgy Set For Oct. 20

Holy Transfiguration parish will remember the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks during a special memorial liturgy Saturday, Oct. 20.

The memorial liturgy will start at 9 a.m.

Oct. 20 is St. Demetrius Memorial Saturday and marks the 40th day after the attacks. Orthodox communities across the nation will gather that day to pray for those who perished on Sept. 11.

THEODOSIUS Resumes Archpastoral Duties

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius, returned to his duties as Primate of the Orthodox Church in America on this month following a four-month medical leave of absence.

"It is with deep gratitude that I offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone who remembered me in their prayers and through the countless cards and letters I received during my medical leave," Metropolitan Theodosius said as he resumed his busy schedule. "I am especially indebted to His Eminence, Archbishop Herman, who fulfilled his duties as Temporary Administrator in an exemplary manner, despite his own hectic schedule. Archbishop Herman's diligence and well-known attention to detail has made my transition back to active ministry a smooth one."

Physicians for the Metropolitan report that they are "more than satisfied" with his condition and are confident that he is in no danger at this time, said Protopresbyter Robert Kondratich, Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America. He said, "His Beatitude will continue to undergo regular examinations as a precautionary measure."

Metropolitan Theodosius' Fall 2001 schedule formally opens with the celebration of the Feast of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary on Sept. 8, 2001 celebrating the Hierarchical Liturgy at St. Mary's Albanian Orthodox Church in Worcester, MA where he will ordain Deacon Theodore Sakellar to the priesthood. On Sunday Sept. 9, he celebrated the 100th Anniversary of Saint Nicholas Church, Salem, MA. It was also the nameday of His Beatitude.



Metropolitan THEODOSIUS

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But that covers just a few hours of the hundreds of hours of planning and work that go into each Thanksgiving dinner, none of which would be possible without the generosity — in the form of time, talent and treasure — our parish family.

As with years past, our need is great. We must purchase the equivalent of 40 turkeys, 150 pounds of potatoes, 60 pounds of canned corn, 50 pounds of sweet potatoes, 30 pounds of salad fixings, 40 pounds of cookies and ice cream, 40 loaves of bread and 24 pies. And this

doesn't even include the Christmas gifts and other niceties we give to your guests. Whew!

Over the next two months, I, along with my co-chairs for this event, Jane Hinshaw and George Jacobs, will be asking for your help. Please be a generous as you can be.

The Thanksgiving Dinner is a great opportunity for the HTOC family to give thanks to God for His many blessings and to help spread the Gospel in our community.

HTOC Bible Study Meets Every Tuesday

HTOC Bible study meets Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the parish hall. All are invited to attend the first meeting on July 10. The group will address questions and requests submitted by parishioners. Please bring a Bible and your coffee, juice or snacks.

Ann Arbor Bible Study

West side parishioners have formed a Bible study that meets at 5 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month at the home of Dan and Jane Hinshaw.

The group will be using *On The Incarnation*, by St. Athanasius (SVS Press), as an outline for the study. Other readings from the Church Fathers will be incorporated.

Children are encouraged to attend Bible study with their parents. Supper, a short, teen-led Bible study and supervised playtime will follow.

The Hinshaw home is located at 3626 Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor, (734) 663-0277. Ann Arbor Bible Study

SVS Hosts Ed Day

New John G. Rangos Library Opens

St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in Crestwood, NY, will hold its 32nd Annual Orthodox Education Day Saturday, Oct 6. Father Thomas Hopko, dean of the seminary, said this year's theme will be: "Serving Christ in Our Neighbor: Reflections on Matthew 25."

The day will begin with Divine Liturgy starting at 9:30 a.m. After the service, the participants may enjoy delicious foods from different cultures. Father Thomas then will deliver a main address.

Specific workshops led by those working in the fields of prison ministry, philanthropy, and ministry to those suffering, will be scheduled throughout the day and will be repeated. The schedule will allow visitors to attend at least two different workshops. Concurrently, workshops for high school and college students, a children's activity booth, as well as a Festival of Music are planned.

In addition, tours of the new John G. Rangos Family Foundation Building will run throughout the day.

"We welcome everyone to this very special open house at the seminary where people can worship, have fellowship, and learn about the Faith," Father Thomas said.

Although Orthodox Education Day is not a major fund raising event for the seminary, donations are welcome and will be earmarked to offset the costs of subsidizing off-campus married student house. The event is free to the public. For more information call the seminary at (914) 961-8313 or visit its Web site at: www.svots.edu.

OCA Creates Sept. 11 Relief Fund

We do not yet know the full magnitude of the loss of life or injuries that will finally be measured as a result of these inhumane and cowardly acts. However, in addition to our prayers for the innumerable individuals who have been killed or injured and for peace and reconciliation throughout the world, we must also respond in action by showing our loving support to those who have been touched by this horror.

In the days and weeks ahead, your support will be directed to the most appropriate public and private agencies who are currently assisting and will be assisting with the relief efforts in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania. Indeed, in the days and weeks ahead, these organizations will be in need of funds to help

attend to the physical and emotional wounds of the innocent victims of today's irrational acts of violence.

The assistance of the Church is being counted upon by our civil authorities to work hand-in-hand with them in responding to this tragedy. All the faithful of the Orthodox Church in America are now being called upon to witness to the love of Christ by taking an active role in helping our fellow citizens who have fallen victim to this evil and senseless act of terrorism.

Please send your gifts to:

The Orthodox Church in America
Emergency Relief Appeal
PO Box 675
Syosset, NY 11791

Feast of the Protection Oct. 1

In 911, in the reign of the Emperor Leo the Wise, barbarians were besieging Constantinople. Thinking the city would fall, people gathered in the Blachernae Church of the Theotokos, where her robe, veil, and belt were treasured, and celebrated the services of the All-Night Vigil.

Early in the morning St. Andrew and his disciple, Epiphanius, saw a vision of the Theotokos: she entered the church, proceeding to the center, where she knelt and prayed for a long time, in tears. She was surrounded by the Apostles and saints.

She prayed again, before the altar. Finally, rising, she took off her veil — in Russian, the word "Pokrov" means both "veil" and "protection", from which we have the name of this Feast — and held it suspended over all the faithful, literally protecting them beneath her veil.

Saint Andrew and Epiphanius alone saw the vision — but everyone in the church felt her presence and the comfort of her protection. Not long after, for no explainable reason, the barbarians turned around and left the city.

This is the origin of the Feast of the Protection (Oct. 1). But this feast goes beyond mere history. This is the feast of the Theotokos as she lives today, for us, with us. We know this because it is the essential content of our prayers to her:

*Steadfast protection of Christians,
Constant advocate before the Creator:
Do not despise the cry of us sinners,
But in your goodness, come speedily to help us
who call on you in faith.
Hasten to bear our petitions and to intercede for us,
O Theotokos, For you always protect those
who honor you.*



Worship Schedule

Great Vespers – Sat. 5 p.m.
 Church School – Sun. 9 a.m.
 Divine Liturgy – Sun. 10 a.m.
 Matins – Wed. 6:45 a.m.
 Akathist – Wed. 7 p.m.
 Confessions -- Saturday evenings following Great Vespers or by appointment

The Fellowship of Martha, Mary and Lazarus

Meets the first Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Everyone is welcome.

**Holy Transfiguration
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 Fr. Deacon Jacob Frimenko
 Fr. Deacon James Rogozan**

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www.geocities.com/Orthodoxy.geo

Deadline for submission is Oct. 26. You can e-mail your submissions to Bill at nowling@prodigy.net. Time-sensitive notices also should be submitted to Dorothy Zayan for inclusion in the HTOC bulletin.

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