

# The Shining Light

Newsletter of Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church

June 2001

Vol. 1, No. 1

## God's Grace Shows in HTOC Growth



Holy Transfiguration continues to grow into its new temple. With Ikons being written for the interior of the church this summer, the parish is really taking shape.

### *New parishioners abound*

There are some new faces around HTOC. In fact, there are a lot of them.

The parish family has grown over the last few months. What a blessed Great Fast and Pascha it was this year with so many catechumens received into Christ's Holy Orthodox Church through baptism, chrismation. Let's not forget the faithful who have moved into the area and settled in here at HTOC.

Please welcome all those who have been received into our parish family over the last several months. Pray that HTOC will continue to grow spiritually and everyone will pledge to support the church by *their prayer, presence, gifts and support*.

If you have not done so, take a few minutes after Divine Liturgy to introduce yourself and welcome our new members...

## Vacation Church School Set for HTOC

### *Starts June 18*

Start the summer off with fun, fellowship and learning at HTOC's Vacation Church School. The week will be filled with crafts, song, prayer and more!

VCS will use the "Living in an Orthodox World" curriculum, complemented by the many talented HTOC parishioners.

A tentative schedule is as follows: Monday – Wednesday 9 a.m. until noon. (Pro-

gramming to include indoor and outdoor activities, projects, services and snacks.) Thursday through 9 a.m. Field trip to the Holy Dormition of the Mother of God Monastery in Rives Junction. At the monastery children will have an opportunity to meet the monastics, be part of a prayer service, visit the animal rock garden and see the everyday activities of a monastery.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Janet Ames at 248-594-6953 or [jdames@peoplepc.com](mailto:jdames@peoplepc.com).

**Ben and Judy Furman; Joel Ashton; Tim Grimske; George and Helene Haratsaris; Joel Hornick; Richard and Linda Janovich; Isaac Kirbawy; Matushka Linda Kozler, Jesse and Anna; Mike and Kim Laituri, Kathleen, Macallister and MaryEllen; David and Pam Langell, Mitchell and Josph; Elizabeth MacFarlane; Lisa Rasnick; Linda Saksa, Christine, Elizabeth and Jennifer; Susan Smereck; Curt Stinson; Alfred Tams; Mark and Marsha Vartanian, Alexander; Olga Walerych; and Sandra and Heather Wigley.**

God grant you all many years!

## Fr. Michael's Corner...

### Pentecost -- Birthday of the Church

"The time is fulfilled and the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the Gospel!" (Mk 1:15)

With the revelation of the "good news," our Lord Jesus Christ inaugurates His Church on Earth. He brings salvation to the world through His incarnation, His suffering and death on the cross, His resurrection from the dead; together with His ascension and glorification at the throne of God; and His sending the Holy Spirit into the world to continue His work in His Kingdom which is the Church. This Kingdom, which He tells us "is not of this world, (Jn 18:36), is the fruit of God's Love.

As we celebrate with joy the great feast of Pentecost, let us ponder God's words: "Fear not little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom." (Lk 12:32) The Kingdom is a "spiritual" Kingdom uniting heaven and earth. It is the ultimate value of our life – it lives within us. St. Theophan the Recluse teaches: "The Kingdom is a spiritual state in which God begins to rule in our souls through the Lord Jesus Christ. God comes into living contact with the soul, making it His abode..."

We know, however, that the devil, "the father of lies," comes upon us when we attempt to draw near to God and live a spiritual life filled with goodness and righteousness. As members of the Church we can become "lukewarm, neither hot nor cold." (Rev 3:15) Abandoning God's grace, we even leave the Church and live according to our flesh and according "this world which is passing away."

As summer dawns upon us, let us fight the temptation to be absent from the holy Church, "where with the martyrs and saints we ascend to heaven, elevated and lifted up by Christ to His table in His kingdom." In the sacrament of the Eucharist, the divine power, unity life and love of the Kingdom of God is present in this world in all its fullness. Don't reject it for a world that is "passing away."

Fr. Michael

## Miraculous Myrrh

The Wonder Working Livonia Icons of the Mother of God continue to pour forth the miraculous Myrrh sent from heaven.

We pray the Akathist service to the Mother of God every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. Please invite your friends and neighbors to enter into the mystery of this great miracle. Better yet, bring them to the service and anointing so that they may receive this wonderful grace from God.



## Mother Olga Group

HTOC has a very active mom's group that meets once a month. The Mother Olga Group is a wonderful opportunity for fun, fellowship and support of one another. The meetings are held at a different mom's home each month. The Mother Olga Group also maintains the Mother Olga Room where mothers, infants and young children can enjoy a peaceful place to take a "time out" to nurse, change diapers or calm down during services and activities. For more information about the Mother Olga Group, please contact Janet Ames at 248-594-6953 or [jdames@peoplepc.com](mailto:jdames@peoplepc.com).

## Youth Group Makes Mark At HTOC

HTOC has a very active Youth Group Under the direction of Fr. Deacon Jacob Frimenko, the Youth Group has grown.

In coming months, Youth Group members will write a column highlighting their activities.

Upcoming Youth Group activities include:

**June 8** – Teen Dance @ HTOC

**July 27-28** – Overniter at Holy Dormition Monastery.

**Aug. 3-4** – Canoe excursion and overniter at HTOC.

Every first Sunday of the month is Youth Sunday. Youth Group members serve as greeters, ushers, cloth bearers and clean up after coffee hour. The group also holds a meeting following this coffee hour.

## Many Years, Graduates!

May and June are graduation months the HTOC parish family and extends its best wishes to all high school and college graduates. High school graduates are: **Stacey Beck, Stephanie Krstevich, Alex Matsko, Stephanie Soloko, Larisa Szwast and Steve Szwast.** College graduates are: **Helene Dallas, Brandy Ann Lapko, Sara Rogozan, Gretchen Stinson and John Szwast.**

# Stewards of God's Gifts

Every member of the Church is called to be part of a priesthood of all believers, "the Royal Priesthood" as it is called in theological terms. And at HTOC, everyone is a priest offering him or herself, their family and this parish to God.

This is the basis of all ministries in the Church.

Over the past few years, by God's grace, HTOC has experienced tremendous growth. Every week there are new faces at Divine Liturgy. Yet with this growth the parish must work ever harder to make sure that everyone is able to participate fully in this Royal Priesthood.

Over the last few months, Parish Council members have been discussing stewardship as it pertains to HTOC's short- and long-range financial concerns and goals. Fr. Michael and the council agree that high priority be given to the development of a

strategic plan that would allow all parishioners of HTOC to become involved in **meaningful ministry**.

Financial stewardship can only be incorporated into a program of **total stewardship** involving more than just money and finances. The question is one of how do we incorporate our new people into the total life of our church?

The answer seems obvious. Every HTOC member makes a pledge to support the church through *prayer, presence, gifts and service*. Taking this biblical imperative a step further, HTOC must build its stewardship ministry on these four aspects, which touch on **complete commitment** to Christ and His Church.

If you feel that God is calling you to use your gifts to build Stewardship Ministry here at HTOC please see Dave Homyak, Dan Ames or Fr. Michael.

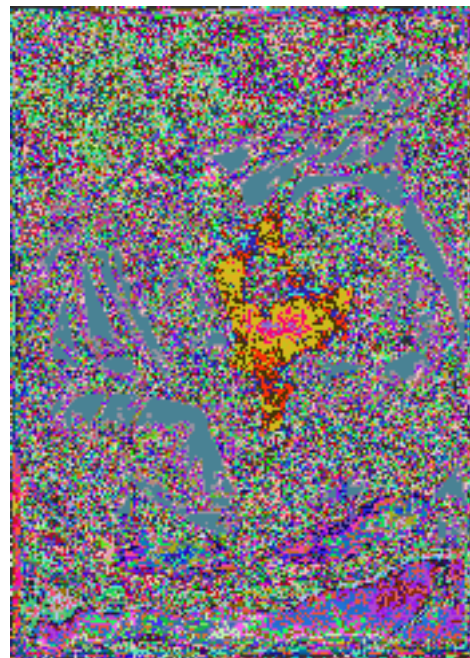
## St. John the Theologian Fellowship Organizes

Is God calling you to a more committed life within the Church? The St. John the Theologian Fellowship is a movement dedicated to enhanced knowledge of the faith, spiritual growth and evangelization. Members embrace the following spiritual disciplines:

1. Daily Prayer: Morning and Evening
2. Daily spiritual reading and reflection
3. Intercession before the Lord for parish members and for all in need throughout the world.
4. Fasting as prescribed by the Church.
5. Acts of charity and consistent participation in the liturgical life of the Church.

In addition, the Fellowship will be responsible for organizing lectures, seminars,

bible studies, book discussion groups and retreats. If you are interested in membership in the Fellowship please speak with Fr. Michael or e-mail him at [mmatsko@hotmail.com](mailto:mmatsko@hotmail.com).



## Noteworthy...

### Summer Service Schedule

Matins – Wed. 6:45 AM

Akathist – Wed. 7 PM

Great Vespers – Sat. 5 PM

Divine Liturgy – 9 AM

Confessions: Saturday evenings following Great Vespers; also following any other church service or by appointment. Every parishioner must repent of his or her sins daily and come to private confession as needed, the absolute minimum being four times a year or once every quarter.

### Bible Study

The Fellowship of St. John the Theologian is organizing a Bible Study. If you are interested in joining us, please e-mail Fr. Michael at [mmatsko@hotmail.com](mailto:mmatsko@hotmail.com). Please indicate which session you are interested in attending: a weekly morning session; or a weekly evening session. Also indicate books or topics that are of interest to you.

### The Fellowship of Martha, Mary and Lazarus

Meets the first Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. This organization is open to all parishioners. Next month's newsletter will carry list all the various committees and ministries of this Fellowship. Al Orloff and Debbie Lindholm coordinate this ministry.

### Prayer Remembrances

Please remember in your prayers those who are in need of God's healing grace, especially: Metropolitan Theodosius, George Shishkovsky, Nina Isagholian, Ursula Ivanikiw, Anna Hirko, and Dolly Nazak.



## Mark Your Calendar

**June 2** –Vigil for the feast of Pentecost:  
5 p.m.

**June 3** – Feast of Pentecost – Divine  
Liturgy 9 a.m.

**June 4-8**– Pastoral Ministries confer-  
ence at St. Tikhon's Seminary

**June 9**– Fellowship of Martha – Mary  
and Lazarus meets 7 p.m.

**June 11** – The Apostles Fast begins

**June 18-22** – Vacation Church School

**June 19** – Parish Council Meeting

**June 29**– Feast of Ss. Peter & Paul

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## Deadline For Newsletter Submissions Is June 20

### Receive TSL Via E-mail

You can help HTOC save money by receiving each month's edition of **The Shining Light** via e-mail. Send your e-mail address, and that of others who would be interested in receiving the newsletter, to Bill Nowling at [nowling@prodigy.net](mailto:nowling@prodigy.net).

We are excited to bring you this first edition of our new HTOC newsletter – **The Shining Light**. Bill Nowling is the newsletter's editor. We invite and encourage all parish organizations to supply Bill with information regarding activities and events in your respective area of parish ministry. **Deadline for submission is the 20<sup>th</sup>** of each month. You can e-mail your submissions to Bill at [nowling@prodigy.net](mailto:nowling@prodigy.net). Time-sensitive notices also should be submitted to Dorothy Zayan for inclusion in the HTOC bulletin.

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