

The Shining Light

Newsletter of Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church

July 2001

Vol. 1, No. 2

Bishop JOB to visit HTOC

A full slate of services are on tap for Bishop JOB's first visit to HTOC's new Temple. His Grace's visit begins with Great Vespers on Saturday, Aug. 4 and will culminate with a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy the following Monday, Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord, the parish's patronal feast.

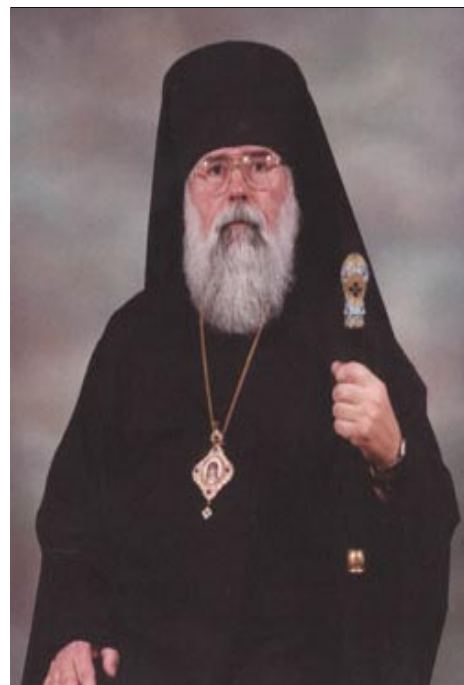
"It is always exciting to celebrate the parish's patronal feast day," Fr. Michael said. "Making it especially meaningful this year, will be the Archpastoral visit of His Grace, Bishop JOB. His visit marks the thirteenth anniversary of the founding of our parish; and the first time he will celebrate divine services in our church."

Great Vespers with His Grace will begin at 5 p.m. Saturday. Sunday Divine Liturgy will begin at 9 a.m. The Feast of the

Transfiguration beings at 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 5 with the Vigil for the Feast of the Transfiguration. A festal Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 9 a.m. Monday, Aug. 6.

"We have been worshipping in our new temple for fifteen months; celebrating an entire yearly cycle of services, as well as weddings, baptisms and funerals," Fr. Michael said. "Bishop JOB's visit will mark the first visit of an Orthodox Hierarchy to our new church. This is truly an historic occasion. Please be with us for as many of the holy services as you can."

The Fellowship of Martha, Mary and Lazarus will host a luncheon following Divine Liturgy on Aug. 6 at which members of the HTOC family can share fellowship with His Grace.



His Grace JOB
Bishop of Chicago and the
Diocese of the Midwest

Icon Fund; \$52,000 And Counting

Through God's grace and the generosity of so many parishioners, HTOC has \$52,000 in its Icon Fund. An initial payment of \$5,000 was sent to iconographer Dennis Bell, who has begun writing the icons for the church.

As was discussed at last month's parish council meeting, Dennis is about two months behind schedule on the HTOC icon project. He expects to have some icons ready for instillation by year's end.

The parish council now is looking at additional designs and pricing for an altar table, table of oblation, baptismal font and icon screen. Please remember to indicate on your offering envelope what portion of your weekly offering should be applied to the Icons/Church Furnishings fund. Every dollar donated brings us closer to our goal — the consecration of our new Temple! The children's recent talent show raised \$375 for our new icons. Way to go kids!

Summer Schedule

Great Vespers – Sat. 5 p.m.
Divine Liturgy – Sun. 9 a.m.
Matins – Wed. 6:45 a.m.
Akathist – Wed. 7 p.m.

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.

Fr. Michael's Corner...

“It is good for us to be here”

Last month we visited the Orthodox Monastery of the Holy Dormition as part of the parish's week-long Vacation Church School. Mother Gabriella greeted us with her usual warmth and loving monastic hospitality, and led us to the chapel to teach us about life in an Orthodox monastery. The children had spent three days preparing gifts – crafted with their own little hands and hearts – to give to the nun. In a way, Mother Gabriella and the nuns at Holy Dormition Monastery have been giving us all wonderful gifts of wisdom, love and monastic piety cultivated through many years of prayer and ascetic effort.

As I observed the glow in Mother's face, and the sweet innocence and holiness in the faces of our children, I thought, “It is indeed good for us to be here!” Here in His quiet, holy presence – where God truly reveals Himself – we were feeding our souls.

Going to the monastery usually means leaving behind our daily, earthly responsibilities to concentrate on our spiritual needs. Our monastery meant, however, taking our responsibilities with us. Mothers hoping for a little spiritual refreshment still had to pause to take their children to the bathroom, to remove them from the chapel when they became too noisy, and to run after them when their little legs took them in the direction their wondering little eyes and minds needed to explore. A mother's work is never done, indeed! Yet, each of them was able to “taste and see,” if only for a brief moment, the spiritual beauty and glory of our holy monastery.

The monastery gardens are very beautiful. The “monastery garden for children” is a very special place where God's presence is truly felt. The mosquitoes made their presence felt, also. If you go to visit on a muggy day, don't forget the Skin-So-Soft.

Visiting the monastery reminds us that we are each created in God's image and that we are each special and unique persons who are loved by God. God especially loves the innocence and holiness of the children. Jesus admonishes us to “bring the children unto me, do not hinder them.” We were especially obedient to his commandment last month. What we did was good. We need to do it again, and again and again...

+Fr. Michael

Memory Eternal

+**Dymtro Czan**, father of Mary Jane Tsoukalas, fell asleep in the Lord.

+**George Shishkovsky**, husband of Kate and father of Ann and Laura, our dear friend, strengthened in the Holy Sacraments, fell asleep in the Lord.

+**Peter**, father of Valerie Grimske, fell asleep in the Lord in Phoenix, Arizona.

We thank all the family members and friends who made donations to the Icon fund in their memories. “Grant rest, O Lord, in blessed repose, to your servants and make their memory to be eternal!”

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 *The Parables*, by Archbishop DMITRI (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. Pizza and beverages will be provided and others may bring a salad or dessert to pass. Bible study dates and topics are as follows:

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

Mother Olga Group

HTOC mothers will meet at 10 a.m. July 18 at the home of Janet Ames. ALL MOTHERS AND CHILDREN ARE WELCOME. The Mother Olga Group is a wonderful opportunity for fun, fellowship and support of one another. The 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 this month's meeting, please contact Janet at (248) 594-6953 or jdames@peoplepc.com.

Prayer Remembrances

Please remember in your prayers those who are in need of God's healing grace, especially: **Met. THEODOSIUS, Nina Isagholian, Ursula Ivanikiw, Anna Hirko, Dolly Nazak and Alexander Serowoky.**

THEODOSIUS Recovering

Doctors for His Beatitude, Metropolitan THEODOSIUS, who began a four-month medical leave on May 4, 2001, are "pleased with the Metropolitan's recovery and physical condition," according to the Very Rev. John Matusiak, OCA Communications Director.

"At the beginning of May, Metropolitan Theodosius requested and was granted a four-month medical leave from the Holy Synod of Bishops in light of a series of minor strokes he had experienced," explains Father Matusiak. "His physicians recommended a brief leave from his primatial duties in an effort to avoid additional or more serious strokes."

Metropolitan Theodosius' doctors expressed confidence that his physical condition is "headed in the right direction, thereby reducing his chances for subsequent strokes."



Metropolitan THEODOSIUS

His Eminence, Archbishop HERMAN of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania, is serving as Temporary Administrator during His Beatitude's recuperation.

Cookies, Cookies, Cookies

Plans for the 9th Annual HTOC Cookie Walk are underway. This year's cookie walk will be Saturday, Dec. 15 from 9 a.m. until sold out.

The annual cookie walk is an important parish fund-raising event. Last year, the walk raised more than \$13,000!

Last year, the big demand was for ethnic and European cookies. This year's group cookie baking session is going to double the amount of these type of cookies. So, find Baba's or Ya-ya's favorite recipes and get them to Arlene Sudia.

To make the group baking sessions easier, the cookie walk committee seeks donations of the following items:

- One heavy-duty Kitchen Aid mixer — \$250
- 20 air-baking cookie sheets — \$15 each
- 20 cooling racks — \$12 each

Donations toward the purchase these items, along with other supplies, are greatly appreciated. Your donation can be included in your weekly offering; be sure to mark "Cookie Walk" and the amount on the outside of the envelope.

Committee Co-chairs Anne Jury and Arlene Sudia would like to thank all the parishioners who supported the cookie walk last year and they extend a special welcome to two new committee members: Lisa Nowling and Suzanne Zayan.

Noteworthy...

Many Years

To parish newlyweds: **Sharon Crenshaw and Alan Robinson; Roxana Popescu and Matthew Bueter; and Lisa Rasnick and Alfred Tams** who were all united in the sacrament of marriage at our church. Sharon & Alan are living in the Chicago area. We pray that God will grant them all Many years!

HTOC Bible Study Meets

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.





Mark Your Calendar

July 27-28 -- Youth overnighter at Holy Dormition Monastery, Rives Junction

Aug 4-6 -- Bishop JOB visit

The Fellowship of Martha, Mary and Lazarus

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

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www.geocities.com/Orthodoxy.geo

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Deadline For Newsletter Submissions Is July 23

All parish organizations and ministries are encouraged to keep Bill Nowling informed about recent and up coming activities. **Deadline for submission is the July 23** 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.