

The Shining Light

Newsletter of Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church

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JOB Marks HTOC Patronal Feast



His Grace Bishop JOB celebrates Divine Liturgy in HTOC's new Temple Sunday, Aug. 5 as part of a weekend-long visit to commemorate the parish's patronal feast. Here, His Grace blesses the people after Holy Communion. Bishop JOB's visit was the first of an Orthodox hierarch to our new Temple. See more pictures on Page 3.

New Fellowship Meets at HTOC

The Fellowship of St. John the Theologian is a ministry that provides opportunities for prayer, learning and bible study.

This ministry is responsible for planning visiting speakers, spiritual-growth retreats, book discussion opportunities, marriage and bereavement seminars, late vocations program and future educational opportunities at St. Andrew House-Center for Orthodox Christian Studies, as well as other areas of interest. Father Michael and Leon Lysaght will cochair this ministry.

The next meeting of the Fellowship will take place 7 p.m. Aug. 13. Come to the meeting ready to discuss the parish's future: what is our vision of parish life over the next five years?

New Catechumens Study Faith

HTOC continues to grow through God's Grace. Please take a few moments at coffee hour to introduce yourself to **Mark Bonakowski, Sherie Sprague** and **Carl Rinne**. They are the parish's newest catechumens and are preparing themselves for entrance into the Holy Church. Please remember them in your daily prayers.

If you know of anyone who is searching, unchurched, or wants information on the Orthodox Church, please see Father Michael.

Teens Visit Dormition Monastery

by Kristine Kaczander

The first thing Father Deacon Jacob did when we arrived at Holy Dormition Monastery was put on his cassock.

"I do this because we are leaving the world, and changing our focus to the heavenly," he said.

The HTOC youth group had the privilege of visiting the monastics at the monastery in Rives Junction July 27-28. We came there primarily to work on the grounds, but were also given a wonderful gift of spiritual guidance from Father Roman.

See: Teens Page 4

Martha, Mary and Lazarus Fellowship News

“Well done, good and faithful servants.”

Those words only begin to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to Al Orloff and Debbie Lindholm, who, for the last several years, have co-chaired the Fellowship of Martha, Mary and Lazarus ministry. They have spent countless hours organizing and running meetings, taking minutes, planning, working and cleaning up after the various special and social events of our parish. They have provided vital leadership in an organization whose ministry is so very important to the life of our church. Thank you, faithful servants!

The Fellowship is now looking for two new leaders to step forward. We are looking for new leaders to chair some of the ongoing and new ministries that will be establish. Are you interested? Elections will take place at the September fellowship meeting.

Following is a brief summary of the nine ministries that make up the Fellowship of MM&L:

Altar Ministry

Co-chaired by Ann & Luba Smerechnak. This area of ministry includes: prosphora baking, vestment sewing/repair, ordering flowers for feast-day services, preparing the church for liturgical services, changing altar cloths, washing linens, decorating the church for Christmas, Pascha, Pentecost, etc., cleaning and dusting. Val Lovich solicits greeters, ushers, and those who assist with the communion cloth. Helen Hall sends cards to those who are hospitalized.

Kitchen Ministry

Co-chaired by Elaine Petouhoff and Helen Hall. Another ministry so vital to the life of our parish whose tasks are:

weekly coffee hour, breakfasts, luncheons, funeral luncheons, bread baking, Paschal Agape meals, Holy Supper, parish picnics, Lazarus Saturday breakfasts, pierogi making, Lenten fellowship following Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, and the Christmas cookie walk. These events provide social, physical and spiritual opportunities for everyone to work together in fellowship and love.

Maintenance Ministry

Co-chaired by Wally Bondar and George Jacobs. This committee has a daunting task. It is responsible for the upkeep of seven acres of land, which now includes landscaping, a new church building and annex, and a school and hall plant that is 42 years old and in constant need of maintenance and repair. This committee can use your help.

Good Samaritan Ministry

This group is responsible for Christian charity to those people and organizations in need. We have supported our own Group Home, Thanksgiving dinners, IOCC, COMC, Christmas donations of food, clothing and money to individuals from local community organizations. Donations have been given to the Holy Dormitio Monastery, Project Mexico, various missions and churches abroad, as well as individuals in need and our own seniors. We need to strengthen this ministry and our support for our own seminary scholarship fund, as well as St. Andrew House-Center for Orthodox Christian Studies and others. We need to develop this ministry and we need leaders to do it. Is God calling you to use your talents in this area of ministry?

Ministry to Children and Youth

Two groups currently make up this ministry: the Mother Olga Group and the

Youth Group. Janet Ames is the contact person for the MOG, and Jamie Lindholm and Rebecca Frimenko are the Youth Group representatives.

Young Adult Ministry

Responding to a need in our parish, we are announcing the formation of a ministry group for parishioners aged 18 to 35 years. Two areas of immediate responsibility will be to college ministry and the Mentor's group under the leadership of Father Deacon Jacob. Kristine Kaczander and Kim Latuiri have volunteered to get this group started.

Event Planning Ministry

Can be anything from a social outing, e.g, ski trip; to a fund-raising event such as a golf outing and etc. Event planning is a necessary part of our parish life. **We need two co-chairs for this area.** We need your ideas and leadership!

Evangelism Ministry

The heart of our mission as the Church of Jesus Christ is to “God make disciples.” Father Michael needs help with this work. Following up on visitors. Catechizing those who need instruction. Identifying those who are seeking info on Orthodoxy. Contact Father Michael if you are interested helping with this or any of the other ministries.

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, Viaka Bibicoff, Walter Hyrila and Michael and Alice Lusko.**

“Let Our Mouths Be Filled With Your Praise”



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 play-time will follow.

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

Parish Newborns

Gregory Joseph, born to Sloan and Gina Rolondo, will be baptized on Sunday, August 12th.

Nicholas Paul, born to Krysten and Paul Downs.

Amina Maria, daughter of Sylvia and Bassam.

God grant them Many Years!

The Fellowship of Martha, Mary and Lazarus

Meets the first Monday of every month at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Parish Directories

There are a limited number of extra parish directories available. See Nika Matsko at coffee hour.

Memory Eternal

- +**Helen Sudia**, mother of Al Sudia.
- +**Walter Leshok**, wife of Betty Leshok and brother of Olga Mason.
- +**May Vasil**, sister of Dorothy Pargoff.

Many thanks all of everyone who made donations in their memory to the HTOC Icon Fund. May God keep them in His loving care, and may their memory be eternal!



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 or by appointment

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Teens, from Page 1...

In a talk that lasted about two hours, Father Roman told us we need to thank God for making us unique from others. By recognizing our individuality we can live Orthodoxy and remain faithful to God.

“If you are staying true to the way God created you, you are able to listen to what He wants you to do,” Father Roman said. “That way, you will not feel the need to follow others in directions you should not go.”

He told us that to learn to be in constant communication with God, we must practice at praying without ceasing.

“Go someplace quiet and say to God, ‘I am here Lord. Find me. Please speak to me,’” Father Roman said. “Say to Him, ‘I am making a sandwich now. I am going for a walk. Please be with me.’”

After Divine Liturgy the next morning, we put on our work clothes and pulled weeds, hauled gravel, swept and washed windows – after the fed us very well! We were able to explore Sister Elaine’s lovely children’s garden, as well as walk through the beautiful cemetery.

Soon, much too soon for us, we had to pack our things and drive home. Mother Gabriella blessed us, hugged us, and invited our group back in late October when the fall is most beautiful.

Deadline for submission is Aug. 24 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.