

*Annual Assembly, 2010*

I begin my second year as Dean of the Philadelphia Deanery with grateful thanks to Almighty God for all the blessings He has bestowed upon our Deanery. In my travels and visitations I have met with many Christ-loving people, both laity and clergy who all work for the glory of God's Holy Church.

Highlights this past year include, but are not limited to the following:

- We welcome our newest member of the Deanery, Fr. James Weremedic and Matushka Lisa who moved into the Rectory in Wilmington, DE, this fall. Fr. James replaces Fr. Andrew Anderson who is on a leave of absence. Fr. Andrew remains attached to St. Stephen's Cathedral in Philadelphia during his leave.
- St. Michael's Church in Wilmington, Delaware have put their faith in God by moving forward with the construction of a new Parish Hall. This work began under the direction of their former Rector, Fr. Andrew Anderson and continues under the competent leadership of Fr. James Weremedic. The finances for this undertaking are underwritten in a unique way by the Russian Brotherhood Organization, who secured over \$500,000 at a very reasonable rate to the parish. It will be their continued faith in God that will bring them to the day when that mortgage will be burned. We pray for God's blessing on their endeavor. A Blessing of the new hall was held on October 10, with His Beatitude, Metropolitan JONAH, and His Grace, Bishop TIKHON, along with the Rector Fr. James Weremedic and other area clergy present. During that same weekend, His Beatitude also met with the OCF of the University of Delaware for a retreat.
- Lectures were a prominent occurrence in the deanery as well. Fr. Theodore Heckman held several all day retreats on a variety of subjects (see the section on St. Mark's, Wrightstown for details), Fr. John Bohush, Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk, Fr. David Mahaffey and Fr. Andrew Bartek also had special retreats in their respective Parishes.
- Special Lectures on a Deanery-wide level were held in cooperation with the Lecture Series of St. Tikhon's Seminary.
- Holy Trinity in Catasauqua held their first Annual Community Meet & Greet to make the local community more aware of Holy Orthodoxy. Over 80 people attended the event.
- The Icon, "She Who Is Quick To Hear", of St. Tikhon's Monastery made to appearances in the Philadelphia Deanery. During Great Lent it was part of a weekend of activities at St. Herman of Alaska in Gradyville, and during the September Russian Days in Bethlehem it was venerated by thousands of visitors. A special remembrance of 9/11 was held before the Icon as well.
- St. Nicholas in Bethlehem also reached a milestone with the burning of the mortgage on the Chernay Fellowship Hall this past week.

The Philadelphia Deanery as been truly blessed this past year with many achievements of merit and true Spiritual Growth. It is our continued prayer that we will be faithful in all our endeavors to God's purpose and will in our lives.

Respectfully submitted,

Fr. David Mahaffey, Dean

### **Holy Trinity, Catasauqua, PA**

- 1) Instituted a full Liturgical cycle.
- 2) Instituted weekly adult education / Bible study.
- 3) Instituted a monthly Community healing service with Moleben to St. Nectarios
- 4) Outreach: Miniature golfing with neighborhood children and their guardian.
- 5) Outreach: First Annual Community Meet & Greet with 80+ community members attending.
- 6) Outreach: Neighborhood children attend our Church school program (contact with parents has resulted in consideration of both children becoming Orthodox)
- 7) Instituted weekly bulletin mailing to all our shut-ins. Due to continual visitation of shut-ins, 3 have begun more regular attendance.

### **St. Nicholas, Philadelphia, PA**

Parish Sponsored:

Maslenitsa

Water Blessing

Bishops Visit

Annual Picnic

Nut and Poppy Seed Roll Sales

Great Lent Eggs-Stravaganza

Easter Egg Decorating Demonstration and Lessons

Mother's Day and Father's Day Recognition

Memorial Day Parastas for those Killed in all wars, including live taps at south lawn cross

Holy Night Supper for those families and individuals who do not have one at home

Annual Parish Picnic

Mongolian Bar-B-Que and Fajita Fest

An every Sunday Family Hosted Luncheon

The Big Event recognizing those 80 years old plus, presenting placques and certificates

Sportsmen's Club Sponsored:

Annual Crab Fest

Sunday School:

Yolka

Hay Ride and Hot Dog Roast

Great Lent Retreat

Advent Retreat

Sisterhood Sponsored:  
 Annual Pokrova Dinner  
 Regular perogi, clam chowder and borscht sales  
 General Major Maintenance  
 Professional Floor Cleaning  
 Major Roof and Gutter/Spout repairs  
 Deacon Joe's Weekly 10 minute Discourse  
 Parish website: stnicholaseoc.org.

### **Holy Trinity Orthodox Church Pottstown, PA**

***Metrical Records:***

Baptisms: 6; Chrismations: 1; Catechumens: 2; Inquirers:1; Marriages: 1; Deaths: 3 and 2 non-parishioners; 3 new families; 2 new parishioners

***Events:*** Spring Bazaar (successful); Summer Yard Sale (successful); Fall Bazaar (pending)

***Education:*** 3 Sunday-school age groups with weekly classes, 1 first confession class meeting independently; 1 monthly adult education class; 1 25-week catechumen class completed, 1 catechumens class reconvened with 2 classes completed

***Miscellaneous:*** Narthex Painted and Remodeled; New Vestibule doors in process. Eight Iconostasis-sized Icons adorning Church Vestibule.

### **St. Mark's Church, Wrightstown, PA, 2010**

This is the 36th year of St. Marks in Wrightstown' continuing our ministry in the heart of Bucks County' Our three-fold focus this year, as ever' is worship, education, and charity" Our program of worship continues as fully as possible adding to the observance of the Great Feasts many saints days as well, with vespers and Liturgy or Vespers and Matins. Services for the Departed are held throughout the year on the appointed days as well as by request" We have a full schedule during the Great Fast, Holy Week, Pascha, and Bright week. A special celebration of our Patronal Feast was held, as it fell on a Sunday this past year, with Vigil, Liturgy and a Dinner.

Remembrance of our beloved Father Vladimir and Matushka this year marked the 20th and 10th anniversaries respectively. The Memorial Service on September 12 was followed by a luncheon, readings from Fr. Vladimir's writings and a discussion of the Borichevsky legacy.

Our excellent choir continues its program of responses at the Services as well as singing at special events. On April 13th we participated in a local ecumenical Festival of Music, "God is love" at Trinity Episcopal Church in Buckingham, PA --as part of our community outreach -

Our educational program includes regular Sunday classes for the youngsters and a class on Wednesday evenings for adults and inquirers. Presently we are working with three catechumens " The education program this year included four full-day Retreats:

1) Advent (Nov. 21) : Christmas in Music, Art, and Liturgical poetry--featuring materials by St. Romanus the Melodist 2) Great Lent (Mar. 13) "The Eleventh Hour"--centered on our Lord's parable of the Ten Virgins " 3) Youth Retreat (June 19) : "Angels--Our Elder Brethren, based on the writings of St. Nicholas of Zicha. (Very well received by our youngsters.) 4) Summer Retreat (Aug. 7): "The Cosmic Liturgy of St. Maximus the Confessor" based on his Mystagogy.

Our youngsters also presented carols, performances and stories, as usual, at the annual Christmas Yolka (Dec. 13). Our Charitable efforts include donations to a) The American Cancer Research Center) Vietnam Veterans of America c) The Haitian Relief Project (through the IOCC); The annual OCA Mission Appeal; and a local food cupboard. Fund-raising projects include our Christmas baked-goods and pirogie sale (Dec. LZ), and a similar sale in the Great Fast (Mar. 27); Pysanki sale (March 28); a new "Scriptt' Orogr"\* for retail purchases a "flower-power" project in the spring and in autumn; and an Autumn Buffet Dinner (Nov. 13). A Marriage Service was conducted on November 7 for Natasha Galavodas and Graeme Macdonald--who are presently residents in Scotland" We are ever grateful for the hard work and good will of our faithful members and for the blessings and abundant mercy of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Who sustains our lives both corporately and personally.

### **St. Stephen Orthodox Cathedral: Report for Diocesan Assembly 2010**

This past year was marked with many events and activities that took place at St. Stephen Cathedral in Philadelphia. For the first time in the history of the Cathedral we have a permanent deacon. Fr. Dn. George Zlatkowski was ordained by our Diocesan Hierarchy, His Grace Bp. Tikhon on Meatfare Sunday of this year. Fr. Dn. George, himself a son of a priest, is a long time member of our parish community. This year he graduated from St. Tikhon's Deacon Formation Program which is hosted at St. Stephen's.

Our parish continues to be blessed with many children. This summer over 20 children participated in our annual Vacation Church School. The kids had an opportunity, among other things, to be involved in a special project of preparing the food for the homeless in Philadelphia and distributing it with King's Jubilee, a charitable organization run by the Orthodox Christians in the area. Also we are encouraged by the activity of the teens from our Junior group of local FOCA Chapter. The teens had a number of fundraising events dedicated to charitable purposes which allowed them to work together and establish even closer friendship.

One of the most recent events that took place at the Cathedral was the visit by the Myrrh-Streaming Iveron Icon of the Theotokos. Although it was on a weekday and in the first half of the day, many people came to venerate the Icon and ask the Theotokos for help and intercession. We pray that the Mother of our Lord, Holy Protomartyr Stephen and all the saints will continue to intercede for our parish community and that we will continue to serve our Lord Jesus Christ in providing spiritual nourishment to all who come to us.