

Priest's Report for Annual Parish Assembly

November 20, 2022

We currently have 12 inquirers in various stages of their journeys to or inquiries about Orthodoxy. I have been having classes for them on Thursday afternoons with Zoom and on Saturday afternoons in person.

This past year we have had:

- 1 wedding
- 3 funerals
- 11 Chrismations
- 1 Baptism

Adult Education: We have about a dozen folks participating in the book study and the bible study that we have on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Dn. Igor has several people participating in his book, and bible study classes on Zoom.

Services: We try to maintain a regular schedule of services, the foundation of which are our Sunday Liturgy every Sunday, and Saturday Great Vespers. After that we celebrate every Great Feast, usually with vigil the night before, and Divine Liturgy the day of. We have also celebrated several minor feasts, such as The Protection of the Mother of God, St. Nektarios, and St. Demetrios. All these feasts are opportunities for us to grow closer in Communion with God and with His saints, to ask for the prayers of the saints, and to pray for others. To ensure the opportunity to worship the Lord and commune frequently, and to provide that opportunity to those who may have to work on Sundays, we have started the practice of celebrating Liturgy at least once during the week every week. Most often this falls on Thursday, but when there is a significant

feast or the feast of a particular saint, then we celebrate the Liturgy on that day.

This year the parish council, Dn. Igor, Fr. David, and I have been working hard to bring the parish back up to pre-pandemic “speed.” Thanks to our terrific parish council, including Janet Frazier, Amy Lines, Jan Bear, Tim Moore, Bobby Borisov, Joe Ediger, Cheri Wilson, Dn. Igor, and Fr. David.

You have noticed our Sunday lunches have gotten more organized and team arrangements have been made for lunches and church cleaning. Our new work groups have come up with very creative ideas and have begun meeting and putting their ideas into action. Some work groups are still developing their ideas.

In the Spring, our Annunciation icon panels were delivered to us from our iconographer Heather MacKean, completing our Royal Doors. And hopefully sometime soon she will join us in person to paint and install the Archangels in our apse, which will go on either side of the large icon of the Mother of God.

Thanks to the hard work of Stilian and Radoslav and others, we had a new safety railing custom made, and installed adjacent to the lower entrance to the Fellowship Hall.

In July I, Fr. David and Dn. Igor, as well as lay representaives Tracey Edson and Eldred Brown, traveled to Baltimore to take part in the All American Council.

Thanks to the initiative of Amy Lines and Janet Frazier, you have new furniture in the upper entry way to the hall and new carpeting on each of the stairways in the hall.

Thanks to Kathy Baghdanov for spending so much of her time working on our church property, and in particular taking care of the plants that grow next to the church building itself. Her husband, Bill, is often here with her working as well. She also coordinated with the roof maintenance company and the HVAC company when they came out to do maintenance on our property.

Thanks go to our hardworking choir director Tracey Edson. Most of us enjoy the fruits of his labor but don't realize how much time and effort he puts in. And thanks also to all the singers who dedicate their time to singing our services and helping to make them as beautiful as they are to the glory of God.

Thanks also to Jennifer who keeps up our St. Elizabeth prayer list and sends me lists every month and reminds me to send them out to all of you. She also coordinates the prosphora baking team, without which we would not have our bread for Holy Communion. And thank you to all the bakers who help supply our parish with prosphora and antidoron. Always remember your offering is to the Lord, and it is a holy work!

Thanks to Jim Thompson who started the ball rolling to have new cabinets and a countertop made for the beautification of the sacristy. And of course thanks to Bruce Petersen for making such beautiful cabinets for the sacristy. It's a very fine upgrade! And thank you also to Jason Rens and Steve Hall for their assistance in the project.

Thanks to our teachers, Barbara Eng, Matushka Eva Karcher, and Brian Edwards for making church school possible. Thanks to them we can offer some form of Sunday School and fellowship to a wide range of ages, from the youngest up to high school.

Thanks are also due to Reader John Komanecky, who makes all the candles that we light when we say our prayers. May you receive a blessing from the Lord for each candle that we light, John.

A special thank you to Amy Lines and Joseph Ediger who are coming off Council this year. And to Jennifer McDonald who came off council at the beginning of the year. Thank you for your services, and may the Lord bless you and your families.

And thank you to all St. Nicholas Parishioners. You are the parish; you are the Church. Thank you for your continued prayers, support, patience, love, and fellowship. May the Lord bless you for the rest of the year and the year to come. And may we all have the prayers of our heavenly patron, St. Nicholas the Wonderworker!