

Parish News

St. Peter & St. Paul Orthodox Church

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Pastor: Fr. Herman Kincaid, Editor: Shirley Bryar, Digital Strategist: Ervin (Rusty) Mihalko. A quarterly publication concentrating on the events of our church, on the lives of our parishioners, and interesting things in the world. Back copies of previous issues can be viewed in our church library, or on our web site.



SPRING 2021

Pastor's Corner

Now is the time!

"We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: 'In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you.' Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." (2 Corinthians 6:1-2).

When I was first assigned to our beautiful parish by Archbishop +JOB (of blessed memory), I was told that there would be challenges. Some of those challenges were unique to our community, others were universal to ministry. By God's grace, many of the challenges were resolved without great drama or emotional toll. We were also taught in seminary some of the unique challenges Orthodox churches face in our time. Again, some apply to our parish, others not so much. None of what I was told prior to 2020 would have prepared me for the Covid-19 pandemic. There was no real scenario I could have ever envisioned which would result in our parish not worshipping together in person for an extended period. No liturgy, no fellowship, no Lenten rhythm, no instruction, no smiles, no clear vision of what the future would hold: these were never taught in seminary or mentioned by seasoned clergy. On the contrary, we were told that we could always rely on and find strength in these critical elements. By God's grace, our parish community persevered and now we are at a point of reforming structure, and reconnecting to one another spiritually, emotionally and socially.

All of us certainly bear to some degree emotional, spiritual, physical and psychological scars from the past 18 months. With all the chaos placed into our laps by remote working, schooling, meetings, livestreaming, etc., we find ourselves in a state of apathy. The pandemic conditions and protocols associated with "remote" life have left many to be apathetic to do anything beyond their homes or in person. Further, while so many of us thought the extended time at home would result in more time for prayer and spiritual enrichment, we find this hasn't been the case. We've filled much of the time with many other pursuits, allowing our prayer corners to grow cold. Even the idea of our parish livestreaming, something that is a great outreach tool, has helped many to form bad habits like staying away from in person worship, fasting, confession and Holy Communion and communion with others.

When we look at St. Paul's words quoted above, there is no asterisk with a footnote that states "the part about 'now is the day of salvation' doesn't apply to you if your life is hectic, there is a pandemic, or you just choose not to act." Rather, St. Paul reminds us that our salvation is at hand. "THIS is the day which the Lord has made" (Psalm 117/118:24). In other words, there is never a condition which should come between us and our Lord. There is never a time when our Lord is not within us. There is never a time when the work of salvation pauses. Yes, the form of this work can change to accommodate temporary conditions, such as livestreaming, etc. There isn't a parish council member who would complain about meeting online from the comfort of their homes. This change saves gas, time, energy, but also robs us of truly seeing one another. I confess that I also enjoy this convenience, but it is bittersweet. The pandemic conditions have also introduced many of us to a wealth of online, spiritual resources. There are blessings in everything!

Looking ahead, let us not ignore the words of our heavenly patron, St. Paul and his timely reminder of our apostleship in this age. NOW is the time to work out our salvation. NOW is the time to pray. NOW is the time to pray for others. NOW is the time to confess our sins and receive the life-giving Body and Blood of our Lord in Holy Communion. NOW is the time to light candles. NOW is the time to reconnect with one another. NOW is the time to renew our baptism in Christ. NOW is the time for our parish family to reach out to the greater Burr Ridge area. NOW is the time for our parish to bring Christ to a world thirsting for Him (even if they don't know it). NOW is the acceptable time to push ahead as a parish family, supporting and encouraging one another, despite our apathy. NOW is the time to re-enter our Lord's love for us. NOW is the time to push through our anxiety and smell the incense again. May God help us as we look forward, grant healing to those who are ill and strengthen everyone to bear each other's burdens.

*With Love in Christ,
Fr. Herman*

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT:

To manifest the Gospel of Jesus Christ within the Eastern Orthodox Christian Faith for the healing and salvation of the community



Our annual tree dedicated to our departed family members and limited Christmas 2020 church service. Christmas Day service limited due to pandemic.

1-6-21 Theophany, Liturgy & Water Blessing



1. Fr. Herman at our church 2. Archbishop Paul at Holy Trinity Cathedral 3. Ecumenical Patriarch,



Fr. Herman blessing the Red Eggs.



Wrapping the Red Eggs to hand out for Easter. Thanks to "O" Club.



Mount of Olives Site

In 384AD a pilgrim named Egeria found 2 footprints embedded in rock that she later claimed were those of Christ when he ascended into Heaven. At the end of the 4th C. St. Helena had a Memorial Chapel built here that was destroyed first by Crusaders, then again by Saladin under the Ottoman Muslim Conquest, and a mosque was built on the site. The second footprint was taken to Al-Aqua Mosque (see gold domed building in the upper left) during the Middle Ages. Some believe that this is the spot where Christ will return. See Acts 1:6-12



Archbishop Paul at Holy Trinity Cathedral



Holy Saturday May 1-2, 2021



Holy Pascha May 2, 2021



Why didn't Moses lead his people into the Promised Land? He had taken them out of bondage in Egypt, crossed the Red Sea, received the 10 Commandments on Mt. Sinai after spending 40 days & nights on the mountain and when they finally arrived at Mount Nebo to the top of Pisgah, which is across from Jericho, we read in Deuteronomy 34:4 "This is the land I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, saying, I will give it to your seed,". I show it to your eyes, but you will not go there." So Moses died in the land of Moab at the age of 120 but no one knows where his grave is to this day and it was Joshua who led the people into the Promised Land.



This is the what Moses saw.



There is a chapel on Mt. Nebo dedicated to Moses.



Interior of chapel



Memorial of Moses



Our group in 2019 got to see St. George Monastery but didn't realize that it was just west of Jericho.



Sailing on the Sea of Galilee

This is the kind of boat we rode on our trip to the Holy land in 2019



Afterward we visited the museum where this so-called "Jesus Boat" was found in 1986 in the NW shore of the Sea of Galilee. It was 27' long, 7.5' wide. Carbon dating of pottery found on the boat (including a cooking pot and a lamp) plus nails date the find to the time of Jesus, but there is no other evidence to connect this boat to Jesus, or his Disciples.



This is how they currently get into the caves. The original find was made by a Bedouin boy looking for his lost animal.

Ancient Finds



These are the arrowheads recently found.



There were also some ancient spearheads among the artifacts.

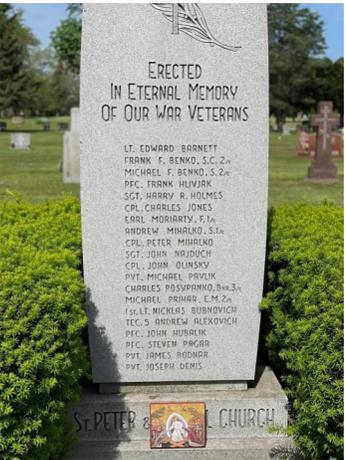


We saw this site on our church trip to the Holy land in 2019. They are the Qumran Caves, near the Dead Sea. It is where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in 1946.

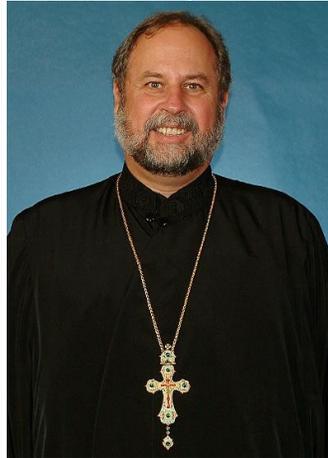


Now on March 16, 2021 Israeli archaeologists have found this basket with a lid in the Judean Desert caves. The basket contains fragments inside that are part of the name of God written in Hebrew & verses from Nahum 1:5

We held a memorial service at the Military Memorial and then blessed graves on May 22, 2021



Midwest Diocesan changes effective as of February 2021



Arch Priest John Zdinsk retired after 17 years as the Chancellor of the Midwest Diocese. In an interview he stated that the job of the Chancellor is being the eyes and ears of the Archbishop. He is his sounding board, his advisor, as we are no longer as once we were made up of several ethnic jurisdictions. We are the Orthodox Church in America.



V Rev. Paul Jannakos, rector of St. Luke the Evangelist Church in Palos Hills, IL is our new Chancellor.



A recent Diocesan Council meeting with Archbishop Paul at their new location in Burbank, IL.

Congratulations to Fr. Harrison, 50 Years of Service.



Fr. Andrew & his wife



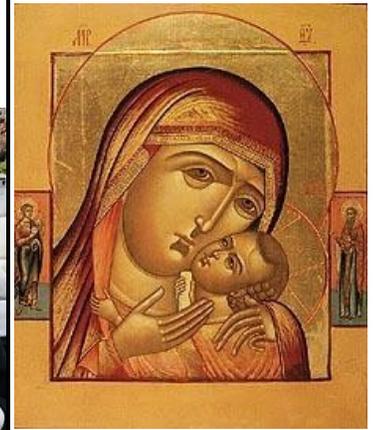
An award he was given for 50 years of service.



He was one of the organizers of our trip last year to the Holy land.



Fr. Andrew at the Chapel in New Lenox.



On April 5 we commemorate an icon of The Mother of God of Kasperov and her Miracle on Good Friday.

Tradition says that this holy icon was brought to the Ukraine from Transylvania by a Serb in the 16th c. to the home of Mrs. Kasparova. One night in 1840 she noticed that the icon was suddenly bright. Soon it was glorified by many miracles and people regarded it as wonder working.

During the Crimean War (1853-1856) the icon was carried through the city of Odessa, which was besieged by enemy forces, and the city was spared on Great Friday.

Since that time, an Akathist has been served before the icon, in the Dormition Cathedral of Odessa every Friday.

The child is holding a scroll. St. John the Baptist is depicted on one side of the border, and St. Tatiana on the other side. These were probably the patron Saints of the previous owner.



Fr. Herman's family spent a couple of Birthdays at Lemont's beautifully decorated downtown



The Gurnic's dogs



Adorable Daisy



The Kincaid family grew and Sammy got a roommate called Daisy. We think he likes her.

Sept 11 Pet Blessing, 5pm on the lawn area next to the church. Bring all pets on leashes, or cages if needed, lawn chairs & treats



James Vranas showing off his engineering talent.



Amy Belair became Mrs. Dailey



All of Deacon Dave's dogs love peanut butter including the new puppy.

Sept 18 Fr. Stephen Karaffa Golf Outing at Stoney Creek Golf Course. More info coming later.



Some decorated their apartments.



The newly wed Korandas went out for groceries & came home with a dog.



The Treanor children on Juliette's big day



Fr. Herman & family had a trip to Florida, guess where?



Haley Brown Graduation from York High School 2021



Volunteer Spotlight The Treasure Chest Foundation has been blessed with hundreds of volunteers who work tirelessly. Our volunteers will always be valued here in the lives of the children and teens the Treasure Chest Foundation serves. To show our thanks, for our volunteers, we created the volunteer spotlight to feature our amazing volunteers. Pediatric Oncology Treasure Chest Foundation volunteer Tammi Girten.



New dog Luna & little cousin Daisy Basso



Ella Kincaid at school



Dn. Mark's family had a walk in the northern woods



Gregory Ogurkiewicz graduation from College of Du Page on May 21.



This is Max, who graduated from Yale, class of 2021. son of author Mark Obmascik



Christening of Edison Szalko on 1-30-21. parents are Katie & Steven Szalko.



Andrew Kincaid's final middle school concert at the Forge in Lemont, playing the tuba



Natalia Ogurkiewicz said yes to Dr. Alex Crider. The wedding will take place at our church on June 4, 2022.



Orthodox priests celebrated Easter 2021 at monastery in Ukraine closed because of damage from 2014 war & virus restrictions.



Mary Dering was a long time member of our church and our church choir. She fell asleep in the Lord on December 28, 2020. She was preceded in death by her sister Elsa and her husband Anton. Visitation was at our church, followed by the burial at our church's section of Evergreen Cemetery.



Dr. Michael A. Polacek fell asleep in the Lord on December 31, 2020, was also a long time member of our church. He attended Gage Park High School and received a scholarship to Northwestern University, then went on with his education and became a doctor, whose specialty was General Surgery in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. He made frequent trips to our church and in 2008, along with Peter & Helen Milhalkanin they donated the pews to our church. Pete's parents and Dr. Polacek's parents were listed on the official church records of 1931 as being among the first group to establish our church. Dr. Polacek was buried near his parents grave at Evergreen cemetery.

Thanks to Larissa Ogurkiewicz for designing our Memorial Cross.



Blessing Bags was started by Jahkil Jackson an 8 year old boy in Chicago, who was helping his aunt distribute food to Chicago's homeless. He wanted to do more so he created Blessing Bags. These bags were filled with necessities such as wipes, socks, deodorant, hand sanitizer, toothpaste and toothbrushes, granola bars, & bottled water. He's 13 now and still doing what is called Project I Am. He has impacted people all over the world including our Church School children and parishioners who did a very big job this past season.



Congratulations to Holy Trinity Cathedral on their grant for repairs to the building.

Congratulations to St. Panteleimon on your Anniversary and new roof.

2021 First Confession class: Marjorie Haak, Juliette Treanor, & Preston Delgado with Fr. Herman, all obeying the rules of wearing masks during the Covid-19 worldwide crisis.



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