

2017 Monastery Spring and Summer Newsletter

Beloved of the Lord, Christ is in our midst! We greet you with the joy of the Lord at this special feast time of Pentecost. The monastery continues to offer its humble services in many ways to the Church and we want to update you concerning all our recent activities.

We had a long cold winter that seemed to stretch right up to Memorial Day weekend. In December, Hierodeacon Herman was ordained to the Holy Priesthood on the Feast of St. Herman.



We extend our congratulations to him and ask that God would strengthen him to serve the community for many years. The Feast of the Nativity was celebrated by Metropolitan Tikhon and the Monastery brotherhood. The Monastery brotherhood extended its usual hospitality to all, cooking and serving Holy Supper to the community on Nativity Eve. We invite all to join our community for Holy Supper before the Nativity Vigil and to enjoy this special Liturgical season with us.

In February, the Monastery hosted the Florovsky Symposium, a prestigious event that brings together many scholars and faithful from across the Orthodox Church to discuss current issues as well as to inspire and to edify each other in the common labor of theological study in the Church. This year, the keynote address was given by Fr. Nikolai



(Sakarov), the nephew of Fr. Archimandrite Sophrony of Essex England. The Monastery was blessed to have the Symposium here which testifies to our desire to be a center of learning and light for the Church and the world at large.



The Brotherhood continues to work diligently offering prayers and services to the community and to the Church: Fr. Gabriel is teaching this semester at the Seminary and serves at various local parishes on the weekends to help the Diocese of Eastern PA. Fr. Innokenty meticulously wraps and ships your packages from St. Tikhon's Bookstore. Fr. Herman offered a Lenten retreat at St. Innocent's Church in Macon, Georgia and continues to work in publishing and teaching at the Seminary. Fr. Nicodemus tirelessly labors night and day in the Church preparing it for each service. Hierodeacon Maximus graduated from the diaconal program this Memorial Day and continues to work on graphic design projects for the Monastery including our 2018 Lectionary Calendar. Fr. Michael works as an assistant Librarian at the Seminary. Fr. Daniel directs the choir and works engraving new and old music for publishing and general use. Br. Stephen is our Monastery Guest Master and one of our coffee roasters. Br. Anton has been beautifying the Church, restoring and renewing many of the frescos. Br. Stephanos is continually dipping the candles we have for purchase in the Church and Bookstore and recently renovated the candle factory. And, finally, a new postulant from the Maryland area, Pavel, joined us just in time for Memorial Day.



In February, the Miraculous Icon of St. Anna visited the Assumption of the Mother of God Greek Orthodox Church in St. Louis, MO. Many faithful from far and near came to venerate the Icon and to attend the retreat that Fr. Archimandrite Sergius offered. We thank Fr. Joseph and his entire community for their kind hospitality and look forward to visiting again.

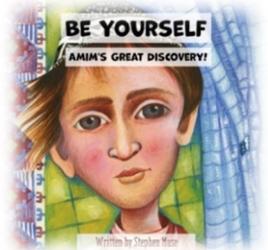
Holy Week and Pascha were wonderful with many visitors. This year, the Monastery community facilitated the consecration of Holy Chrism for the Orthodox Church in America. This wonderful event began on Holy Monday and culminated on Holy Thursday when the Chrism was consecrated by Metropolitan Tikhon. Visiting clergy included Fr. Philip from Kenya and two priests from Alaska!



The Bookstore recently published its first book for children "Be Yourself" and continues to labor with other new publications, making available to the Church all of the important historical texts that STS/STM Press have continued to offer for so many years (like the Triodion and others). By the end of summer, the Bookstore will hopefully have a beautiful edition of the Divine Liturgy ready for purchase, as well as other new publications soon to be released: Stay tuned!



Burning Bush Monastery Roastery continues to offer high quality, specialty grade coffees from around the world. Our coffee is manually roasted in small batches here at the monastery and can be ordered online at www.burningbushcoffee.com. We also now have our own Burning Bush Coffee Ice Cream available thanks to Keating's our local dairy so stop in and give it a try!



On Sunday night of the Memorial Day Pilgrimage, the Monastery Chamber Choir sang premier pieces by Tchaikovsky and Stephan Smolensky. This was the second annual concert and honored our departed loved ones. The Choir is composed of some of the finest solo and ensemble singers in the New York area and around North America. It is our hope that these concerts will be an opportunity to tell others about the Orthodox Church and our Monastery in a unique and powerful way.



Our Millennial Membership is still available and we extend our gratitude to all our members that enable us to continue to reach out to the world in so many ways! Millennial members give \$1,000.00 or more each year and are remembered at every liturgy, receive all new publications and a yearly gift when they subscribe. If you want to make a difference and enable us to continue to strengthen our outreach, please consider becoming a millennial member today!

We thank you again for all your love and continued support of America's Oldest Orthodox Monastery. Be assured of our prayers day and night for you and your loved ones and may the Lord bless and keep us all during this festal season.

With love in Christ,
Fr. Archimandrite Sergius
and the Monastery Brotherhood