

Summer Newsletter 2018

Beloved of God! We greet you during this post-Pentecost season when we settle into the summer routine and rhythm here at America's oldest Orthodox Monastery. The monastery continues to be a place of learning, struggle, and work as we all progress towards the kingdom together. We have many visitors throughout the year and we hope that you will be one of them. Our guest house facilities, bookstore, museum, grounds, and daily services all provide a wonderful opportunity to refresh and renew your spiritual life. Please contact the guest master at monasteryguesthouse@gmail.com for information.



In December, Metropolitan Tikhon visited for the feast of the Nativity of our Lord. His Beatitude served the full cycle for the feast and enjoyed Holy Supper with the Brotherhood and community of the Monastery. Holy Supper is served at 5 pm on Nativity eve and we invite everyone to join us again this year for the special meal and the festal cycle.

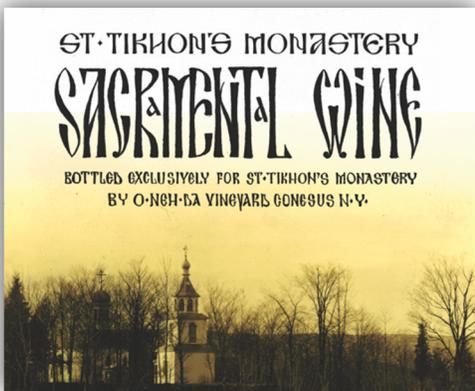
In January, Fr. Archimandrite Sergius and Seminary professor Dr. David Ford went with a group from Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church to Mount Athos in Greece. Fr. Theodore Petrides led the group to 14 different monasteries over the course of 10 days. Fr. Sergius noted that the Holy Mountain and indeed all older monasteries "have a light that is gifted freely to all that visit and which they in turn can return home with to bring that light to their personal world."



The winter was long and cold but the monastery saw the edition of a new member during the winter months: a Karelian Bear Dog named Kuma who will help keep the monastery relatively free from the threat of bears (which we often times have many).

The new greenhouse continues to supply the monastery with vegetables and flowers throughout the winter and now summer months. We thank everyone who helped to make that project a reality!

The Bookstore recently published a new edition of the Liturgy book (large and small edition) which has been long awaited. Fr. Herman and many others contributed much to the project which was blessed by Metropolitan Tikhon in consultation with the Holy Synod, and received many positive reviews.



Recently, the bookstore has been granted a distributorship of our sacramental wine from America's oldest and last sacramental winery, O-ne-da Winery. We hope to make our sacramental wine available to more Churches in other states by the fall. Please contact the bookstore to find out where your parish can purchase our custom wine blend from the last sacramental winery in America that makes our wine in accordance with the canons and Church traditions. The bookstore also reprinted Archbishop Alexander's book *Living Witnesses of the Holy Mountain* and has a new Seminary/Monastery CD of the Divine Liturgy. Both are beautiful offerings and we hope they will greatly edify the Church!

The monks continue their work: Hieromonk Herman was recently appointed second in charge of the Monastery as the Dean. He will work closely with Fr. Sergius to continue the good order of the day-to-day operations of the Monastery. Igumen Gabriel is still serving Holy Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Wilkes-Barre and was formally appointed Monastery Confessor. Hieromonk Innokenty is in charge of shipping at the bookstore working hard to make sure your packages are shipped in a timely manner. Hierodeacon Marc is the Artistic Director of St. Tikhon's Monastery Press and works in the garden and greenhouse. Hierodeacon David was recently ordained to the diaconate and was appointed Steward of the Monastery as well as directs the choir and is in charge of the cemetery. Monk Nicodemus is the Sacristan and prepares the Church for each service. Monk Kyril is our hermit who lives in the forest (formerly the bee keeper). Riassaphore-Monk Michael works at St. Tikhon's Seminary Library assisting students and upkeep with the library collection. Riassaphore-Monk Anton is in charge of restoration and painting around the monastery; Novice Stephen is the guest master and roasts coffee. Novice Stephanos is in charge of the candle factory; Novice Paul assists with cooking a few days a week, cleaning and general obediences; Novice Kevin helps with making candles, cleaning, and attends school; and Postulant Michael is transitioning from the Bookstore to grounds and maintenance and continues to discern his path.

Lent and Pascha were early this year but as always proved to be very fruitful. We had a glorious Memorial Day this year with the convergence of many events: The Feast of Pentecost, the visitation of the Miraculous Hawaiian Icon of the Mother of God, four ordinations (including our own Hierodeacon David), several awards (including Fr. Herman receiving the gold cross and Fr. Marc receiving the double orarion), the Choir workshop and concert by the Monastery Chamber Choir (performing Rachmaninov's Vigil) as well as the presence of many guest hierarchs and visitors. It was a beautiful event that we encourage everyone to come to at least once!



We want to thank everyone who continues to support the monastery by your kind words, your prayers, your donations, and your love. We love St. Tikhon's Monastery and we know and believe so many of you do too!

We especially thank our Millennial Members who every year offer \$1000.00 or more to the mission of St. Tikhon's Monastery. Millennial members receive all new publications, a special gift each year they renew membership and are remembered at every Divine Liturgy. Please consider yearly or monthly offering the monastery this support that enables us to continue to do everything we do!

On behalf of the entire brotherhood and monastery community we extend our best wishes and festal greetings for the coming summer: the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, the Feasts of the Transfiguration of Christ and the Dormition of the Most Holy Mother of God. Be assured of our continued prayers for you all and the entire Church and please remember and pray for us! May the Lord bless and keep you all.

With love in Christ,
St. Tikhon's Monastery Brotherhood