

2018 Winter Newsletter



St. Tikhon's Monastery community greets you as we begin the Fast in preparation for our Lord's Nativity. The past six months have been very full: the Lord has been generous in the opportunities He has given us! In July, the Monastery was represented at the 18th All-American Council in St. Louis. Archimandrite Sergius was blessed by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon to offer a report on monasteries in the OCA and the importance of the monastic tradition for the Church today. The full report can be found on the Monastery website, sttikhonsmonastery.org. During the trip to St. Louis the monastics were also blessed to make a weekend visit to visit Holy Annunciation Parish in Rolla, Missouri with Fr. Joel Wilson and his family.

In early September, Hieromonk Herman brought the St. Anna Icon to the Primatial Cathedral of St. Nicholas in Washington, D.C. for their annual outreach and festival. Fr. Herman gave several talks, and services for healing were served for all those in attendance over the two-day event. Special thanks to the Cathedral staff, Fr. George and Fr. Valeri for hosting.



Metropolitan Tikhon visited the Monastery community for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Life-giving Cross on September 13th and 14th. His Beatitude greeted the incoming class of eighteen new seminarians along with the returning students, and also welcomed the new Seminary Dean, Fr. John Parker and his wife, Matushka Jeanette. We warmly welcome them and ask God's strength and blessing for them as they begin this new work for the Lord!

At the end of September, the icon of St. Anna visited St. Gabriel's Orthodox Church in Ashland, Oregon with Archimandrite Sergius. The weekend retreat went well and was attended by many visitors from the local area.

In October, the Seminary celebrated its 80th anniversary. Metropolitan Tikhon presided at the week of festivities culminating with a beautiful hierarchical Liturgy on Saturday the 13th. Many were in attendance, and we extend congratulations to the Seminary along with our thanks to all those who made these events so memorable. May the Lord prosper the good work of the Seminary and its partnership with the Monastery for many more years! Also in mid-October, we were blessed by a visit of the Hawaiian Icon of the Most Holy Mother of God, which brought much joy both to the community and to pilgrims from near and far.



On October 21st, a project of the Monastery Chamber Choir (two years in the making) in collaboration with several other musical and choral organizations came to a successful completion. At 6:00 PM at the Episcopal National Cathedral in Washington D.C., the Kastalsky *Requiem* in honor of the centenary of the World War I Armistice was performed by more than 150 singers and a hundred-instrument orchestra. The event was magnificent and was attended by a capacity crowd of over 2,000. The performance was conducted by the well-known Leonard Slatkin and was an excellent opportunity for the monastery to be seen, heard, and have a far-reaching outreach.



During the last week of October, Hieromonk Herman, Hierodeacon Marc and Hierodeacon David visited the Hermitage of the Holy Cross in Wayne, West Virginia, with the Icon of St. Anna and the epitrachelion and a relic of St. Seraphim. The visit was a great consolation for the monastics of both communities; We are very grateful to Archimandrite Seraphim and his Brotherhood for their warm hospitality, and we hope to continue this new and positive relationship for many years!



The monastics here continue their labors for the monastery and the Church at large. Fr. Gabriel continues to work at Holy Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Wilkes-Barre serving many Sundays and assisting in the pastoral duties there. Fr. Herman, the Monastery Dean, works with liturgical publications and editing for the Press. Fr. Innokenty diligently packs all your packages shipped from the bookstore. Fr. Nicodemus as Church sacristan is always in the Church preparing for the next service. Fr. Marc continues to work with artistic design for the Press and is also in charge of training newly-ordained deacons along with Fr. David, who continues as Monastery Steward and is in charge of the cemetery. Fr. Cyril lives in his hermitage on the hill behind the monastery praying for us all. Fr. Michael continues to work and serve at the Seminary library. Fr. Anton works with art in the studio and painting the chapel at the Skete. Br. Stephen continues to work as our guest master; Br. Stephanos is in charge of the candle factory; Br. Paul cooks, bakes, and works on various projects; Br. Michael works in the candle factory, is studying to become an editor for our Press, and works around the grounds. Finally, our new postulant Patrick helps with various obediences while continuing to work locally for two days a week as a medical doctor.

We want to thank you for all your continued support and prayers. We cannot do this work without you! We especially thank our millennial benefactors who go the extra mile to make our work possible. Thank you! Please follow us on the Monastery and Bookstore websites and Facebook to see all new forthcoming titles, our iconographer Ivan's new work and the retreats and presentations we might be doing in your local area. Be assured of our continued prayers and best wishes for you and your families during this Nativity season. May God bless and keep you all!

In the Newborn Christ,
St. Tikhon's Monastery Brotherhood