

## Winter 2020 Newsletter

Dear to God, we greet you with the Nativity fast and the coming of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ in the flesh. The year 2020 has certainly had many trials and tribulations that we all have seen and encountered here at the monastery and together as Orthodox Christians in North America.



Since our last newsletter the monastics and community have been staying close to home due to COVID-19. We have been serving the full liturgical cycle, praying for the well-being of all, especially those suffering from the COVID sickness and those on the front lines of the medical profession who are helping those in need.

The summer feasts of the Church were radiant as always but we missed many of those who visit from far and near as we have been mostly closed since March 15<sup>th</sup>.



The Seminary has opened for class as usual with several restrictions for the fall semester. Our bookstore reopened in June with normal hours but due to PA law we can only have so many in the main monastery Church. We currently have two liturgies on Sundays and have split the community into two groups so as to adhere to PA laws. We hope to reopen the monastery Church to the general public as soon as the virus has passed so stay tuned to our website and Facebook page.

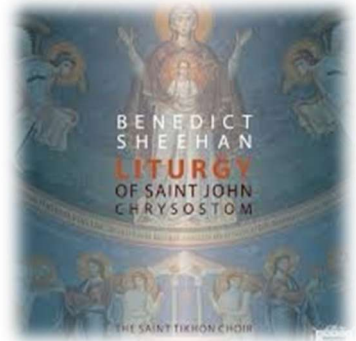
Fortunately, we are live-streaming Saturday night and Sunday morning services so tune in via our You-Tube or Facebook pages to join us!

We are grateful to God and your support that we have broken ground and are *actually* building our new monastic house dedicated to St. Nicholas. With your support we raised almost \$80,000 dollars towards the new house and we were able to secure a loan for the remaining \$500,000.



If you would like to help us pay down this loan we would be eternally grateful! It is through helping to build such houses for monastics that we can build for ourselves eternal houses in the heavens. If you wish to donate towards paying off the loan for the new monastic house, please put “new house” in the memo line of your donation. We are so very grateful for your continued support and remember we can’t do it without you! By your prayers, we hope to finish the house and move in by the end of the year!

Recently, the St. Tikhon monastery chamber choir released two new promising recordings: Kastalsky’s Requiem for Fallen Brothers and our own Benedict Sheehan’s Divine Liturgy, both of which have Grammy winning potential! Amazingly beautiful works of art, we are pleased to offer them to the Church and to the world as a wonderful opportunity for outreach and to showcase the treasury of Orthodox culture and life for America. Please check out the STM Press website or visit Amazon to purchase today!



Also at the press we have a new Vespers Book for choir that will be ready for purchase before the end of the year along with another new title in spirituality: The Cross of Loneliness; The Correspondence of St. Sophrony and Archpriest George Florovsky.

By God’s mercy, all of the monastics and community are still relatively healthy and COVID free! We are thankful to God for this mercy as many of our members are older and susceptible to illness. The monastics are continuing their labors of prayer and work, doing all the things that help keep everything at the monastery here moving forward. Most especially, the daily cycle of services with daily liturgy where we remember you and all of your requests. Please feel free to send in your prayer requests throughout the year via our website at [sttikhonsmonastery.org](http://sttikhonsmonastery.org) or by mail to: 175 St. Tikhon’s Rd. Waymart, PA 18472.



We thank you for all you do and have done for us. You are very important to us and we hope and pray you are all well. Be assured of our prayers for you and may the Lord keep you healthy, strong and positive during these trying times, knowing that “all things work for the greater good of those who love God.”

May God grant you a wondrous feast of the Nativity of our Lord and may His blessing be upon you always, now and forever. Amen.

In Christ,  
St. Tikhon’s Monastery Brotherhood