

FALL NEWSLETTER 2023

AS WE ONCE again find ourselves in the chilly sunshine of late fall, the monastery brotherhood has been preparing both inside and out for the Nativity of Christ here at St. Tikhon's Monastery. The



grounds have been extensively landscaped by our new gardener, Michael Levine, who has worked wonders with the areas around the church and the pond. Michael is retired but helped design part of New York City's Central Park. We are blessed to have him and we will continue to landscape around the monastery grounds with his wise counsel, replanting the garden of Eden in the Paradise of St. Tikhon's Monastery.

The monastery rejoiced to have Fr. Zacharias for a visit this past Memorial Day Pilgrimage. What a wonderful blessing it was to have a grace-filled Elder who truly elevated the monastery during his time here. The brotherhood and community warmly received the Elder and were enriched by his presence and words. The bookstore continues to be the sole distributor of all the new books by Elder Zacharias, several of which have only come out this year. Please check the bookstore website (stmpress.com) for purchases, and to view all the titles, full of his wonderful spiritual wisdom.

The school year began well; in addition to the students from the Seminary, whom we help to teach and form, we also have four residency students in our one-year certificate program for training church musicians, now in its third year of operation. The program is run by the monastery and is a comprehensive hands-on opportunity for students to become proficient in choir directing in multiple musical settings. If you or someone you know wants more information for applying, or if you want to attend one of the weekend music workshops (available online or in-person), please visit us at stikhonmusicprogram.com for more information.



Concurrently, the monastery is beginning a school for iconography, giving artists the opportunity to study at the monastery for several years. We launched the pilot year of the program this fall, and already have six students working under the direction of internationally recognized iconographers, Anton and Ekaterina Daineko. The monastery has been excited to watch the progress on the center for liturgical arts and icon studio building, funded by a generous donation by Theodore and Victoria Kulik—we anticipate its completion by the spring, though we hope to have students working in it by the end of the year! Thanks be to God for this gift and for your prayers and support that make it possible!



The monastery brotherhood is currently made up of 18. We don't have room for many more, and thank God for all that we do have and for each one of us who are here. We continue to do the main work of prayer both in the liturgical life of daily prayer, and the life of prayer of the heart in the cell. Our work at the seminary and our relationship with its members continues to flourish by the mercy of God, and provides an invaluable way for us to help the Church in the world by forming her future priests, deacons, and workers.



St. Anna and Archimandrite Sergius continue to visit parishes across America and Canada. Their most recent trips include Ohio, Montana, Oregon, and Montreal. If you would like St. Anna to visit your church community please contact us online at stikhonsmonastery.org for more details and scheduling. Commemoration requests for both the living and departed at liturgy, as well as prayer requests for St. Anna, may also be submitted online. Please remember these resources and allow us to help in your time of need!

Pilgrimage is an essential part of Orthodox spiritual life and the monastery provides an unmatched environment for this experience, whether for a one-day visit or an overnight stay. Our Museum is one of the few in North America that has a large collection of icons and houses many artifacts of interest for the Orthodox Church in America. Know that you are always welcome to drop by the bookstore anytime during business hours to visit, or come to daily morning and evening services, where prayers are offered on behalf of all and for all. For scheduling overnight stays and tours, please use the monastery website.

The monastery continues to do all it can to support and build up in whatever way we can the life and culture of the Church in America. Your support and prayers are essential! Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for the varied and multifaceted ministries of St. Tikhon's Monastery! Consider becoming a millennial member and be commemorated at every liturgy, receive free gifts from the monastery and bookstore and know that you are making a big difference in the world through your kindness and support. Always know that whatever way you support America's oldest Orthodox Monastery, we are very grateful and can't do it without each and every one of you. Be assured of our love, care and appreciation for you and your loved ones— we ask God's blessing on you during this winter season of the Nativity and all its feasts. May God's light that dawned in the world in the Cave of Bethlehem continue to shine in your hearts and give you all life and peace.



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

