

## SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2024

**I**t's SUMMERTIME here again at the monastery. We have had a busy Lent but things have been going well by the mercy of God (along with the usual spiritual struggles.) It is so often we believe that when we follow God things should get better. However, the saying is more appropriate for spiritual life: smooth seas never made for a skillful sailor. God knows we need challenges, difficulties and even failure to bring us closer to Him and more humble and lovingly empathetic towards those around us. As Saint Sophrony says, "the most difficult times in our lives will often prove the most spiritually fruitful for us." And indeed, these fruits included the twelve priests from the seminary, who were ordained and are being sent to new parish assignments.



In March, the Sitka Icon of the Mother of God visited the monastery to the delight of all. With the blessing of Bishop Alexei of Sitka and Alaska, this historic icon, known for being miraculous, was here for a day shortly after the feast of the Annunciation and was a great blessing. Let us remember the Diocese of Alaska in our prayers and its bishop, Alexei, as they continue to struggle for the renewal and growth of the diocese in that historically Orthodox land.

On the fifth Saturday of Great Lent, after the akathist to the Most Holy Mother of God, Father Sophrony (formerly Father Cyprian) was tonsured to the small schema by Archimandrite Sergius. Father Sophrony is a joy and blessing to the community, helps in so many ways at the monastery and

seminary, and is greatly loved by all. We rejoice that he has been newly added to the monastic ranks. May God save him in the angelic schema!

Metropolitan Tikhon was present for the entirety of Holy Week and Pascha this year. On Holy Thursday, Metropolitan Tikhon and nine members of the Holy Synod were present to consecrate Holy Chrism for the Orthodox Church in America. This is a wonderful event that happens every five to seven years here at Saint Tikhon's



Monastery for the entire OCA. It was estimated that upwards of twenty thousand people can be chrismated from this recent batch of chrism that was made this year. The event was a blessing to all who were present and was indeed a moment of Pentecost.



Memorial Day weekend, this year, was the culmination of many wonderful events. First and foremost was the blessing and dedication of the new icon school, studio, and chapel. Solely through the generosity of the Reader Theodore and Victoria Kulik, the icon school has been made a reality for Saint Tikhon's Monastery. The teachers, Anton and Ekaterina Daineko, and seven students have already completed the first year of studies and on Memorial Day moved their classroom from the monastery dining hall to the new building. The program is accepting new students; to make inquiries about the program please contact Father Sergius at [abbotsergius@gmail.com](mailto:abbotsergius@gmail.com). Special thanks to David Tatich,

the executor, who has been instrumental in accomplishing the project! The building, designed by Andrew Gould, is paid for and has a chapel, a gallery, a large timber framed studio, a wood shop and gesso area downstairs, and more. Please feel free to come by to see the magnificent work!

Also, on Sunday of the Memorial Day weekend, Riasaphore monk George was ordained to the Holy Diaconate by Metropolitan Tikhon. Igumen Sophrony was awarded the jeweled cross and Father Innokenty was elevated to Igumen. We congratulate them all. Axios! Axios! Axios!

The brotherhood continues to pray and work. By God's mercy and your prayers, they continue to prosper. We number twenty right now, leaving no more space! Laboring to teach, preach, serve, make candles and icons, and to publish, the brotherhood makes its offering to the Church in so many varied and multi-faceted ways.

On Memorial Day itself, three students graduated from the monastery's music residency program. The program is now already in its fourth year and



continues to produce well trained choir directors for the Church, who are informed by the rich and deep musical tradition of Saint Tikhon's Monastery. We congratulate them and wish them well in all their new endeavors for the work of the Church. We encourage those who are interested in the one-year residency program to inquire online at [sttikhonmusicprogram.com](http://sttikhonmusicprogram.com). Students are still being accepted for the fall, so let someone who might be interested know today!

The new Psalter, which has taken almost ten years to produce, should be coming out any day and Millennial Members will be the first to get them (along with those who pre-ordered.) We hope that everyone enjoys this liturgical translation, since its goal has been to combine poetic sensibilities with faithfulness to the Greek original, with a result that feels both fresh and familiar. This Psalter will be used for all upcoming

liturgical publications including an forthcoming *Horologion* and Holy Week services.

The garage was recently moved to a position right outside the back of the main monastery. This was in order to provide safer and easier access, especially for the older monastics, during the winter and when there is inclement weather. The garage was also moved due to the placement of the new icon studio, which it blocked and made it harder to access. In its place there is now a garden. So, come and see! If you are able to consider helping with the ever-ballooning cost of the garage project, please note it in the memo line of your check. The cost has doubled from our original budget as a result of rising inflation and construction problems. Thank you for the consideration!



We give thanks to God for you and your love and support of America's oldest Orthodox monastery, founded by Saint Tikhon of Moscow. We continue our work because you are working with us to make this dwelling place of God the very best and most beautiful it can be, and to help the Church in every possible way with daily Liturgy, personal prayers, training priests and choir directors, and now even iconographers. We can't do this work without you; we don't want to! You are our joy and consolation. Be assured of our prayers and best wishes during these beautiful summer months and may God bless and keep you all,

In Christ,  
*Saint Tikhon's Monastery Brotherhood*