

St. Demetrius Messenger

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. DEMETRIUS

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TO THE MEMBERS OF ST. DEMETRIUS

The time of Great Lent is upon us – a time when all of us must physically slow down so that we can spiritually rejuvenate ourselves.

We slow down by curtailing our overly flamboyant lifestyles and physical activities, that we have become so accustomed to, and spend more time in a spiritual frame of mind, contemplating our inner self and asking ourselves – where am I going, spiritually? Is the time that I spend in church, partaking of the sacraments, in private and public, in living a chosen Christian lifestyle enough for me to achieve my salvation?

This is the time, the time of Great Lent, that we must ask ourselves these questions and then actively do something about it.

What can I do, you ask? There are more scheduled services to attend - every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday; there is quiet time to come to pray and participate in Holy Confession - every Saturday from 8:00 p.m.; there are scheduled mission services "Passias" scheduled every Sunday of Great Lent in our sister churches; there are a variety of lectures, in some of our other Orthodox churches, that may of interest to you; all of this information is listed in our parish calendar and also listed inside this Messenger and available to all of you.

All you have to do is take that first step and physically... slow down!

ДО ЧЛЕНІВ СОБОРУ СВ. ДИМИТРІЯ

Настав Великий Піст – час, коли ми всі маємо трохи сповільнити свою фізичну діяльність, щоби дати собі можливість духово оновитися.

Ми сповільнюємося, обмежуючи надмірну барвистість нашого способу життя та пригальмовуючи фізичну активність, до якої так звикли. Тож стараймося більше часу перебувати в духовому настрої, розглядаючи внутрішнє "я", запитуючи себе: "Куди я йду, духово? Час, що я віддаю церкві, таїнствам, молитві, живучи вибраним християнським життям, – чи досить мені цього, щоби досягнути спасіння?"

Час Великого Посту – це той час, коли ми мусимо задавати собі такі питання, а тоді, відповідно до них, активно щось робити.

Що я можу робити, питаєте? Є більше приписаних служб – кожної середи, суботи й неділі; час тихої молитви й участь у св. Сповіді – щосуботи о 8:00 год. вечора; приписані Місійно-Постові відправи „Пасії” – кожної неділі по наших церквах; інші доповіді по інших Православних юрисдикціях, які можуть вас зацікавити; всі ці інформації подані в нашому парафіяльному календарі й на сторінках цього Вісника.

Все, що треба зробити, - це ступити той перший крок і фізично... сповільнитися!

Постійна Конференція Українських Православних Єпископів поза межами України

Великий Піст 2008

*«Не відверни лица Твого від мене, бо я страждаю
Зглянься на душу мою і спаси її»*

Так звучить прокімен на Вечірні в Неділю Прощення. Царські ворота зачинені, Адама з раю вигнано, а ми, діти Божі, послідовники Христа – Світла світу – розпочинаємо цьогорічну Великопісну прощу.

Наша Церква-Мати знає, що Її діти часто-густо обтяжені земними справами, речами “...що їх їсть іржа, їдять молі, крадуть злодії”. Знову і знову ми підпорядковуємо наше життя повністю світським турботам, а Боже духовне творіння, покликане бути образом Божим і віддзеркалювати Його ... створене для того, щоб бути в постійному єднанні з Богом – тобто людину, – відсуваємо на задній план. Очевидно, що ми маємо зобов’язання щодо наших родин. Певно, що ми зайняті нашою працею, нашими школами та нашою товариською діяльністю. Але річ у тім, що ми всі ці справи ставимо на перше місце, а наше духовне «Я», покликане бути “світлом для світу” і засвідчувати Христа, або й стати мучеником за Нього – залишається “десь там” поза нашими щоденними турботами.

“Десь там!” Наша Церква-Мати свідомо цього і тому щорічно визначає певний час для відновлення, для оживлення, воскрешуючи ті прекрасні, бездоганні охрещені душі, що є носіями Світла Христового. Чудовий період покаяння! Покаяння вимагає, щоб кожний із нас виголосив: “Душе моя, душе моя, устань, устань, чого ти спиш? Пробудися!” Воно вимагає, щоби брати приклад із Закхеї, з Блудного сина та з усіх постатей Святого Письма, які на першому місці у своєму житті ставили бажання побачити Лице Господнє і тому звільняли себе від усього, що зв’язувало б їх із щоденними турботами.

Ми “... підносимо наші душі” постійною молитвою, утворюючи за допомогою утримання від усього, що може нас знищити, всередині нас порожнечу, яку заповнюємо дарами милосердя: постачанням їжі голодним, води для погашення спраги, одягу для нагих та допомагаючи тим, що караються у всякого роду в’язницях, а особливо у в’язницях самотності. Чи ж ми не прирікали при Хрещенні бути такими “носіями Світла Господнього”? А все ж дуже часто нас відволікають від цього земні турботи і приємності.

Ідімо ж тією “прямою, але вузькою” стежкою, що зветься “Великим Постом”, прямуймо нею до нашого дійсного покликання – шукання Господа Бога і перебування з Ним у всі дні нашого життя. Великий Піст нагадує нам, що ми сотворені для того, щоб віддзеркалювати Божественну уяву, Світло Христове любов’ю, дбайливістю, обняттям страждаючих, мирним і гармонійним життям та стриманням наших облудних язиків.

Биймо ж покійно поклони перед Хрестом Господнім, Владикою і Спасителем нашим та прославляймо Його Світло, що сяє зі спорожнілого гробу.

Ми, що покликані Господом нашим Ісусом Христом до служіння Йому як ваші Архипастирі, молимося, щоб у цей святий час усі ми відчули дійсне християнське покаяння. Нехай Світлий Празник славного і переможного Воскресіння Христового застане кожного з нас готовим і охочим нести Світло Христове всім людям і бути гідним знаряддям, за посередництвом якого це Світло просвітить інших.

У постійній молитві за вас,

† КОНСТАНТИН,
Митрополит Української Православної Церкви в США і Діаспорі

† ІВАН,
Митрополит Української Православної Церкви в Канаді

† АНТОНІЙ,
Архієпископ Української Православної Церкви в США

† ІОАН,
Архієпископ Української Православної Церкви в Діаспорі,
Єпархія на Австралію і Нову Зеландію

† ЮРІЙ,
Архієпископ Української Православної Церкви в Канаді

† СРЕМІЯ,
Єпископ Української Православної Єпархії на Південну Америку
(УПЦерква в США)

† АНДРІЙ,
Єпископ Української Православної Церкви в Діаспорі,
Західно-Європейська Єпархія

Permanent Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops Beyond the Borders of Ukraine

Great Lent 2008

*“Turn not your face away from me, for I am afflicted.
Tend to my soul and speedily heal it” (Ps 26:9).”*

Thus, the Great Prokeimen of the Forgiveness Sunday Vesper Service is chanted as the Royal Doors are closed. Adam is expelled from Eden, and we, the children of God, the followers of Christ Who is the Light of the world, begin our pilgrimage of Great Lent, the Great Fast.

Our Mother Church realizes that her children too often get bogged down with the temporal, with the concern of things that “rust corrupts, moths eat, and thieves break in and steal (Mt 6:19).” Time and again, we incorporate the totality of our lives to mundane earthly concerns, while the spiritual creation of God...called upon to be an icon of or to reflect God...created to be in constant communion with God – man – we place in the background. Yes, we have responsibilities to our families. Yes, we are so involved with our work, our schools and our social activities. We do not deny the necessity of such concerns.

However, all of these responsibilities are placed in the foreground, whereas man, the spiritual being, who is called upon to be the “light of the world” and to be a witness and even a martyr for Christ is, oh, somewhere “out there” beyond our daily concern.

Somewhere out there! Our Mother Church realized this and annually sets aside for her children the Great Lent as a time for renewal, a time for resuscitation, a time for resurrecting the beautiful and spotless Chrismated souls who are the “light-bearers of Christ”. The wonderful season of repentance! Repentance demands that each of us must declare – “Sleep not, but arise my soul” – taking the examples of Zacchaeus, the Prodigal Son and all that the Holy Scriptures offer us, those who place in the forefront of their lives the desire to see the Face of God, and release themselves from everything that would shackle them to the here and now.

We “raise our souls” by praying unceasingly, by creating a vacuum within ourselves through abstinence from that which would destroy our being and filling that vacuum with the gifts of charity: food to feed the hungry, water to quench the thirst, clothing for the naked, reaching out to the other that is shackled in any kind of prison, most especially the prison of loneliness. Did we not all take the baptismal oath to be such “light-bearers for our Lord”? Time and again we are distracted by earthly cares and pleasures.

Let us take “the straight and narrow path”, which is the calling of Great Lent, our true calling, seeking God and being with Him every second of our lives. Great Lent reminds us that we have been created to reflect the Divine Image, the Light of Christ, through loving, caring, embracing all who suffer, living in peace and harmony and stilling the deceitful tongue.

Let us prostrate ourselves in humility before the Cross of our Lord, Master and our Redeemer and glorify His Light that proceeds from the Empty Tomb. We, who have been called by Our Lord Jesus Christ to this ministry as your Archpastors, pray that in this holy season we all shall experience true and genuine Christian repentance. May the celebration of Christ’s Glorious and Victorious Resurrection find each of us prepared and committed to having our ‘light shine before all men’, worthy instruments through which His true Light may illuminate others.

Those who pray for you unceasingly,

+ CONSTANTINE

Metropolitan, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and in Diaspora

+ JOHN

Metropolitan, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+ ANTONY

Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

+ IOAN

Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox in Diaspora, Eparchy of Australia and New Zealand

+ YURIJ

Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+ JEREMIAH

Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy of South America (UOC of USA)

+ ANDRIY

Bishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Diaspora, Eparchy of Western Europe

*From Parish Council Chair**Від Голови Парафіяльної Ради*

Dear Fellow Parishioners of St. Demetrius,
Lenten Greetings to each of you!

An update from parish council: Once again, our parish of St. Demetrius has held a successful annual meeting. A new parish council has been elected; we were presented with reports from last year's council members, Fr. Walter and various committees and organizations within our parish and, finally, we discussed future possible endeavours.

Thank you to Darcy Moskaluk-Rutkay for chairing the meeting and to George Andruszczenko and Constance Czorny for recording the minutes. Thank you to the Audit Committee (Bill Muchichka, Mike Demeda, Mykhailo Zienchuk) and the Nominating Committee (Andy Balaura, Olga Cybuchowski, Constance Czorny, Slawko Hluchaniuk and Borden Osmak). These members stepped forward to make the AGM happen this year.

Thank you to all who submitted reports – this was excellent and inspiring reading (and actually, we have included in this issue of The St. Demetrius Messenger some of the reports that were presented because not all of our members attended the meeting; please pay special attention to the Second V-P's report as it was inadvertently left out of the report package presented at the AGM).

Also, thank you for the questions and comments made during the AGM – healthy discussion leads to better understanding and a stronger parish!

Thanks to the PMC who gave us a comfortable set-up in the hall and of course, to the Gala Committee for providing us with great food for Fellowship!

A thank you to last year's council members and Fr. Walter, for all their efforts towards a smooth running AGM. And to the new council, welcome on board and thank you for accepting this challenge! I look forward to working with you in the coming year! And, I'm sure, our parishioners are looking to us for strong leadership, innovative ideas and a productive year.

I look forward to seeing all of our members and youth at our upcoming Business Meeting, where we will be discussing changes in the By-laws (and workings?) of our church in Canada, the up-coming Extra-ordinary Sobor in August and the more mundane but very necessary capital expenditures for our parish.

*Your servant in Christ,
Natalka Olynyk Kowalenko
Parish Council Chair*

Дорогі парафіяни собору св. Дмитрія,
Прийміть вітання з нагоди Посту!

Хочемо всіх поінформувати, що в парафії св. Дмитрія ще раз успішно відбулися Загальні річні збори. Була вибрана нова парафіяльна рада, ми ознайомилися зі звітами членів минулорічної парафіяльної ради, о. Володимира та різних комітетів і організацій при нашій парафії і, нарешті, ми обговорили наші майбутні кроки.

Дякую Одарці Москалюк-Руткай за те, що провадила збори, а також Юрієві Андрущенко і Констанції Чорній за ведення протоколів. Висловлюю подяку Контрольній комісії (Василь Мучічка, Михайло Демед, Михайло Зінчук) і Номінаційному комітетові (Андрій Балаюра, Ольга Цибуховська, Констанція Чорна, Святослав Глуханюк і Богдан Осьмак). Вони зробили все для того, щоби ці загальні річні збори відбулися.

Дякую всім, хто подав звіти – читати їх було цікаво й захопливо (до речі, ми вмістили у цьому випуску "Вісника парафії св. Дмитрія" деякі з цих звітів, оскільки не всі члени були присутні на зборах; особливу увагу просимо звернути на звіт 2-го заступника голови ПР, який через недогляд не увійшов у сукупність звітів, представлених учасникам зборів).

Я вдячна всім за питання і зауваження під час річних зборів – адже здорове обговорення сприяє кращому порозумінню і зміцнює парафію!

Дякую Комітетові з догляду за парафіяльною власністю, який зручно розмістив нас у залі, й, звичайно ж, Гала-комітетові – за те, що подбав про смачні страви під час недільної зустрічі парафіян!

Щира подяка членам попередньої ПР та о. Володимирові за їхні зусилля для того, щоби річні збори успішно відбулися. Радо вітаємо нових членів ПР і дякуємо, що взяли за цю справу! Чекаю на плідну співпрацю з вами у цьому році! Я впевнена, що парафіяни очікують від нас сильного керівництва, нових ідей і продуктивного року.

Чекаю нагоди побачити всіх наших членів і молодь на наступних кварталних зборах, де ми обговорюватимемо зміни до Статуту (і роботи?) нашої церкви в Канаді, запланований на серпень надзвичайний Собор і більш мирське, але таке важливе питання, як капітальні видатки парафії.

*Ваша слуга у Христі,
Наталка Олійник-Коваленко
Голова Парафіяльної Ради*

*AGM-2007 Reports**Звіти з Річних Загальних Зборів-2007***COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT**

It has been two years since I accepted the nomination as Parish Council Chair. It was not something that I looked for but something that came my way. What I felt and obviously many others in our parish too was that there was something pushing us to take our parish in a different direction. And though previous councils have kept our church going through thick and thin with many hundreds (thousands?) of hours of dedicated hard work, there was an underlying urge to step out to a new level. What level was that? That was and is a good question – we were stepping out into the unknown.

We wanted something more; and it was stated as such: specifically we needed

- 1) More focus on the maintenance of our premises and
- 2) That we needed more two-way communications between parish council and the membership-at-large.

But there were also questions about

- 3) Not having enough of our large membership working within the parish and
- 4) An even more subtle one; was our St. Demetrius parish life giving strength to our current members and attracting new members or was it scaring off potential members and allowing current members to drop off?

The first two items were relatively easy to address because it involved physical things; the latter two concerns were more abstract and this is where, I believe, parishioners were looking and needing something more.

It was therefore council's quest to re-think everything that we did as a parish - how we fund-raised, how we welcomed and integrated new members into our membership and into volunteer activities, how we as a parish supported our members through their joys and hardships, how we could best administer and maintain the physical needs of our premises and how we could support Fr. Walter in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Thus was born the visioning process.

How have we done? A group of about 30 church members worked through the first stage of this process over the first half of this past year. We have not yet got our Vision Statement; however, we do have a list of recommendations from the Visioning Committee. With these recommendations, and the work done by parish council these past two years, it is becoming much more obvious to me where our focus should lie.

Basically, and the Visioning Committee has put this into greater detail, we know the following:

1. We want to be stronger in our faith; we want to understand and know more about Orthodoxy especially in our Ukrainian Orthodox church.
2. We want a stronger parish by having more active parishioners
3. We want a suitable facility for our activities
4. Not getting side tracked by politics in the Orthodox world

Over the past year, Parish Council has addressed the above categories in the following ways:

1. This is Fr. Walter's department with his role as a spiritual Father and spiritual advisor to the parishioners of St. Demetrius. As we draw to a close Phase 1 of the Visioning Process, we look forward to supporting the projects to be instituted in Phase 2; we await his lead.
2. Stronger Parish and Parishioners:

- a) Supporting and encouraging our youth to become involved in all aspects of life at St. Demetrius - church services, dinner functions and concerts. Supporting our CYMKivtsi who in turn host events and activities which welcome all of the youth in our parish to become involved.
 - b) Encouraging well-run and well-organized parish events. We have been collecting protocols or procedures for running events etc within our parish. With the new By-laws in our parish which limits time served on council by any one individual to four years, there will be a larger number of our parishioners serving on council; therefore to prevent having to reinvent the wheel for each function every four years, we now have the protocol book as a guide for future councils.
 - c) Attending events in the Ukrainian Orthodox community: Khram at St. Volodymyr Cathedral, Khram at St. Andrew's in Toronto, Khram at St. Michael's in Bradford, Forgiveness Vespers, Sunday of Orthodoxy, Passia Services throughout the Toronto deanery, Eastern Eparchy Conference, Ohienko Conference in Toronto, Banquet for Metropolitan Adrian, Fellowship for Sts. Cyril & Methodius Bursary Awards, Casino Odessa which is a fund-raiser for St. Vladimir's Institute, CYC National Convention in Winnipeg, CYC Symposium in St. Catharine's, TYC speaker series, as well as the parish dinners, concerts, bazaars, dances, Gala, Golf Tournament, Turkey Roll, Apple Picking, Bowling Tournament etc at our own parish.
 - d) Staying on top of Finances: not letting our spending exceed our incoming funds; being good financial stewards.
 - e) Communicating through Business meetings, St. Demetrius Messenger, mail outs, annual calendar.
 - f) Communicating with our sister parishes across Canada through articles printed in Visnyk, greetings at Christmas and Easter and in Ridna Nyva a listing of our activities and our parish group photograph.
 - g) Communicating with the Consistory as a resource regarding our own parish growth, procedures within the UOCC, discernment in conflict cases, and giving our opinions on matters of UOCC matters.
 - h) Respecting and thanking our volunteers through Volunteer Appreciation Day and thank you notes and letters.
3. Keeping our premises fully functional and available for our needs. Thankfully, we have a very strong committee and committee chair working towards keeping our premises pristine clean. A walk-in cooler has been installed and work is continuing towards renovating the washrooms. As well, safety issues have been addressed by 2nd VP with respect to overcrowding on Easter and CPR and AED training for parishioners. Security has also been addressed with the soon-to-be completed re-keying of our outer doors.

As you can see and of course as you know, there is much happening at St. Demetrius. And of course it is thanks to all of you that this is happening, for without volunteers and participants it would be very quiet. I thank you for your confidence and for your support these past two years. I thank you for your leap of faith as we work towards that new level. I ask for everyone's participation in this work. For those frustrated by our seemingly slow progress, remember Kyiv was not built in a day. For those thinking that not everyone is pulling his or her own weight, maybe those people need to be inspired to go forward through your volunteering. For those who feel they don't have time, please remember the work that one does for God, will come back to bless you multi-fold. For those who are giving and working to their utmost for the church, God bless you!!!

Thank you to the volunteers who serve on the many committees, groups and organizations for supporting Parish Council. Thank you as well to those who receive financial recompense in their duties to the church and parish – for your work, for your expertise and for your efforts in making things happen. And finally, to my fellow council members, it has been an honour and a privilege to serve with you; your dedication, your opinions, your experience and your commitment have been invaluable to me and to this parish – my thanks to all from the bottom of my heart.

*Your servant in Christ,
Natalka Olynyk Kowalenko*

ЗВІТ ГОЛОВИ ПАРАФІЯЛЬНОЇ РАДИ

Два роки тому я погодилася обійняти посаду голови парафіяльної ради. Я не прагнула цього, але така нагода сама трапилася в моєму житті. Я та й, очевидно, багато інших парафіян відчували, що для нашої парафії назріла потреба рухатися в іншому напрямку. І хоч попередні парафіяльні ради самовіддано й наполегливо працювали сотні (тисячі?) годин, допомагаючи нашій церкві переживати як погані, так і добрі часи, все ж запанувало загальне переконання про потребу виходити на новий рівень. Що це за рівень? Добре питання – адже ми вступаємо в щось, досі нам не відоме.

Ми хотіли чогось більшого; насамперед нам довелося визнати, що ми особливо потребуємо:

- 1) повніше зосередитися на догляді за нашим приміщенням;
- 2) якіснішого взаємного спілкування між парафіяльною радою і членством на загал.

При цьому виникали певні труднощі:

- 3) брак достатньої кількості членів, охочих працювати задля парафії;
- 4) і ще одне, набагато делікатніше, питання. Чи життя в парафії св. Димитрія дає силу нашим теперішнім членам і приваблює нових, а чи, навпаки, відлякує потенційних нових членів і призводить до втрати теперішніх?

Два перші пункти були порівняно легкими, бо стосувалися конкретних речей. А от два останні виявилися дещо абстрактнішими, але власне вони були найголовнішими, бо саме в них, на мою думку, відображено пошук і потребу парафіян у чомусь більшому.

Отже, перед парафіяльною радою виникла потреба переосмислити все, що діється в парафії: як ми збираємо фінанси на потреби церкви; чи ми гостинні до нових членів, як ми інтегруємо їх у своє середовище й залучаємо до добровільної діяльності на користь парафії; як ми підтримуємо своїх членів у їхніх бідах і радощах; як найефективніше господарювати й розпоряджатися нашим приміщенням, а також як ми можемо підтримати о. Володимира у поширенні Христового вчення. Це все змусило задуматися над нашим спільним майбутнім.

Як ми це зробили? Протягом першої половини року група з майже 30-ти наших членів працювала над цим питанням. Ми ще не маємо остаточного бачення ситуації, проте ми вже отримали певні рекомендації від Комітету з візії нашого майбутнього. Завдяки цим рекомендаціям і досвіду, здобутому за два роки роботи парафіяльної ради, для мене стало набагато очевиднішим, на чому нам слід зосередитися.

Скажу на загал – а Комітет із візії нашого майбутнього може описати детальніше, – що:

1. Ми бажаємо зміцнитися у своїй вірі; ми хочемо краще зрозуміти і більше дізнатися про Православ'я, особливо в нашій Українській Православній Церкві.
2. Ми потребуємо сильнішої парафії за наявності активніших парафіян.
3. Ми хочемо мати відповідне приміщення для різних заходів.
4. Ми не можемо собі дозволити, щоби політика в православному світі звела нас з обраного шляху на манівці.

Протягом минулого року парафіяльна рада розподілила вищеназвані категорії таким чином:

1. Це питання перебувало у віданні о. Володимира, адже саме він є духовним наставником і порадиником парафіян собору св. Димитрія. З наближенням до кінця етапу №1 візії нашого майбутнього ми з нетерпінням чекаємо на його підтримку проєктів, запланованих на етапі №2; ми хочемо, щоби він був нашим провідником.
2. Сильніша парафія і парафіяни:
 - а) Підтримка й заклик молоді до співучасті в усіх ділянках життя собору св. Димитрія – церковні служби, обіди та концерти. Підтримка наших СУМКівців, які беруть участь в організації деяких заходів і запрошують всю парафіяльну молодь долучатися до них.
 - б) Заохочення до проведення добре керованих і добре організованих парафіяльних заходів. Зібрано протоколи організації різних заходів для ще успішнішого їх проведення. Новий статут нашої парафії, який обмежує право перебування однієї особи в парафіяльній раді до чотирьох

років, дає можливість більшій кількості парафіян спробувати свої сили у складі ПР. Щоби нова парафіяльна рада кожного разу не винаходила заново колесо, ми запровадили книгу протоколів і директив, у якій зібрано робочі вказівки для наступних парафіяльних рад.

в) Участь у подіях ширшої української православної громади: Храмові свята катедри св. Володимира, церкви св. Андрея в Торонто, церкви св. Михаїла в Бредфорді, Вечірні Прощення, Неділі Православ'я, Пасії в межах Торонтського Благочиння, конференції Східної Єпархії, конференція в Торонто, присвячена І. Огієнкові, бенкет із нагоди відвідин Канади митрополитом Адріаном, присудження стипендій Братства Кирила і Methodія, казино "Одеса", яке є засобом збору фінансів для Інституту св. Володимира, Крайовий з'їзд СУС у Вінніпезі, симпозиум СУС в Сейнт-Кетеринс, серії лекцій ТУС, а також наші парафіяльні обіди, концерти, базари, танці, ґала-прийняття, турнір із ґольфу, "індичка" ТУС, збирання яблук, турнір із кеґлів і чимало інших заходів.

г) Правильне розпорядження фінансами: не дозволяти нашим видаткам перевищувати доходи; вдумливо і розумно розпоряджатися фінансами.

д) Спілкування через бізнесові збори, видання "Вісника св. Димитрія", розсилання пошти до всіх членів парафії, щорічний календар.

е) Контакткування з православними парафіями по цілій Канаді через статті, надруковані у "Віснику", різдвяні і великодні привітання в "Рідній Ниві", котрі інформують про нашу діяльність і містять групові фотографії парафіян.

є) Спілкування з Консисторією як засіб зростання і розвитку нашої парафії, заходи в межах УПЦК, поради в конфліктних ситуаціях, і висловлення нашої думки з приводу питань, пов'язаних з УПЦК.

ж) Визнання та подяка нашим добровольцям під час Дня вшанування добровольців, листи подяки.

3. Утримання нашого приміщення в доброму стані та пристосованим до потреб громади. Богу дякувати, ми маємо дуже сильний Комітет із догляду за власністю і голову комітету, які дбають, щоби наше приміщення завжди перебувало в абсолютній чистоті. Недавно було встановлено кімнату-холодильник, а зараз триває робота щодо повної реставрації туалетів. Комітет так само хвилює питання безпеки, тому він звернув увагу 2-го заступника голови ПР на велику переповненість людьми на Великдень і на потребу навчити парафіян проводити серцево-легеневу реанімацію (CPR) і користуватися автоматичним дефібрилятором (AED). Питання охорони церковного будинку також важливе, тому незабаром буде проведено заміну ключів до зовнішніх дверей.

Як ви добре знаєте, в парафії св. Димитрія відбувається багато подій. Всі вони є можливі завдяки вам, бо без добровольців і учасників тут було би надто спокійно. Дякую за вашу довіру та підтримку протягом цих двох років. Я дякую за спалах віри, продемонстрований вами під час нашої праці для виходу на новий рівень. Я прошу всіх долучитися до спільної справи. Той, хто розчарований зовнішньою повільністю процесу, згадайте, що Київ також не був збудований за день. Можливо, ті, кому виконання обов'язків добровольця бачиться важкою ношею, насправді потребують лише натхнення. Тих, кому здається, що їм бракує часу, прошу пам'ятати, що праця на Божій ниві воздасться вам сторицею. А тих, хто присвячує себе церкві й самовіддано працює для її добра, нехай благословить Господь!!!

Моя подяка добровольцям, які трудилися в різних комітетах, групах і організаціях, за всіляку підтримку парафіяльної ради. Так само дякую тим, хто отримує платню за виконання своїх обов'язків у церкві та парафії – за вашу працю, компетентність і зусилля у втіленні задуманого. І, нарешті, я вдячна своїм товаришам по парафіяльній раді. Спільне з вами служіння громаді я вважаю для себе великою шанєю та честю. Ваша відданість справі, ваша думка, ваш досвід і самовіддача були неоціненними як для мене, так і для нашої парафії. Ще раз щиро дякую всім від цілого серця.

*Ваша слуга у Христі,
Наталка Олійник-Коваленко*

REPORT OF THE FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

To be called upon to service our parish of St. Demetrius was an exciting venture that I accepted after careful consideration. The requirements of this position as I understood it was to support our Parish President first and foremost. I also understood that membership was under this portfolio. During my duration I was to find that this position encompassed more than was understood when I considered this position. It was painfully clear to me that a written protocol and explanation of the position is vital to a proper understanding of the position and execution of the position.

In September, due to circumstances beyond any one persons control it was necessary for me to undertake the role of secretary as well.

I have notified through letters our parish membership their obligation to pay their membership on time to enable the financial stability of our parish. I understand the difficulty of some to be able to make a lump sum payment and have encouraged people to make incremental payments. It would seem easier for some to pay in small increments rather than lay down the entire amount.

I have coordinated thru the consistory the mailing of visnyk for those whos issues have gone missing and were not mailed.

I have made enquiries of the consistory regarding the blessing of the baskets and have received an official letter from His Eminence Metropolitan John. This is the official response to the question why do we not bless our baskets before Easter Sunday.

I have tried to be present at all Parish council meetings and contribute my ideas and know how for the good of the parish. I found it difficult to keep up with the requirements of writing protocols etc. and hope that I may catch up within this next year.

I acted as the secretary to the Eastern Eparchy meeting which took place in November at our parish.

During a very difficult time in my personal family life I did participate as I could in the visioning process. I have been enriched by this process and thank those who put so much time and effort into this process, as I now know that I want to remain Ukrainian Orthodox. I do not want to assimilate into a general Orthodoxy, I need the nationalistic and Orthodox traditions of my father and mother and their parents and their parents before them, where being Ukrainian Orthodox is important to me and my family as this is what we are, and it must be preserved.

At the same time I know that it is important for my children to be able to understand and participate in the liturgy in a language that is comfortable for them, and that language is English. There needs to be a way that we can preserve our Ukrainian Orthodox heritage yet be able to have our children participate in our services in English, with out loosing the Ukrainian language and traditions.

I worry about what goes on at our Consistory and the directions our leaders in Winnipeg are taking. I feel that there are too many foreign traditions being introduced into our Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

There are so many issues that I have learned about while on parish council. I hope that my work will not end with our church but that I can lead by example by not being on parish council and still being active within the church. I hope to be called upon, however I will volunteer where I see my strengths are necessary outside of the parish council. I hope that the new council will see me fit to help and assist. Our parish and our church needs to grow. Our children are falling away from the church we need to find a way to bring back our youth, bring back people of my age group who have gone to other churches. We have a rich and wonderful church and parish. We all need to pitch in and volunteer and not wait to be asked to do things. This parish is our physical home of our spiritual Father. It is the physical home of our spiritual Family. We need to be comfortable and welcoming. We need to nurture it and treat it as our own home.

Darcia Moskaluk-Rutkay, 1st Vice-President

REPORT OF THE SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

I had the honour and pleasure of serving in the position of 2nd Vice President on the St. Demetrius Parish Council. It was my responsibility to ensure the safety and security of parish members, and visitors who attend our church and/or social functions.

We were able to resolve the following tribulations:

1) The problem of possible unauthorized entry. This was precipitated by the missing and unaccounted keys to the entrance doors and inside lock and room keys. The following resolution will be enforced after February 2008, with the new St. Demetrius Council. With the help of The St. Demetrius Property Maintenance Committee a rekeying of non duplicable master keys for the building and new entrance protocols will be implemented in February to control access by individuals and to deter "Lock Bumping" This will be followed by rekeying of internal locks and doors to control access into areas of the building. Each key issued will be individually coded by the maintenance committee and recorded so that if found at a future date it can be traced to the individual who it was assigned to and which door it opens. Each year these storage areas and meeting room's access will be re-assessed by the property maintenance committee and council to determine compliance. Your access to these storage areas and meeting rooms is a privilege not a right. Council members may still be issued master keys if necessary, but they must be individually coded.

2) Parish Council has purchased an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and is renting two emergency oxygen units. One is located in the Lounge with the AED unit. The second oxygen unit is located in the choir loft. In addition, seven members of the church have taken the Emergency Response Training (CPR, AED, & use of emergency oxygen). They are now capable of administering First Aid, CPR, AED, & Emergency Oxygen to people who are injured or in distress. We also plan to train additional church members from various church groups to ensure that someone is always on site that is trained to use this equipment.

3) We also developed new security policies to relieve overcrowding inside the church during Christmas and Easter church services. This was done to be compliant with The Fire Code and ensure that the Fire Marshall would not close down the church.

4) The alarm system protocols have also been changed to control and restrict access to the property, specifically access to the Church, Office and Hall.

I also chaired C.O.R.E. meetings to keep our Church organizations informed, and was part of the Employee Review Committee.

I want to thank everyone for their support and hard work, especially members of the Property Maintenance Committee. With everyone's cooperation we will have a safe and secure church environment.

Bob Panczenko
2nd Vice-President

REPORT OF THE CHURCH CHOIR

The church choir has a signature motto 'Sing to the Lord our God, sing,' and we at St. Demetrius are joyfully fulfilling that function. We are a mature choir, at its core, whose members have for many years devoted time and talent to liturgical singing. A great credit must be given to our beloved and talented conductors – Victor Kowalenko and Zhanna Zinchenko. They are the ones that bring out the beauty of our liturgical singing that you hear on any given Sunday morning. Victor has given his all, including some of his health, and we treasure him for his devotion. Zhanna is relatively new to the choir. She is like a breath of fresh air and we expect great accomplishments from her in the future.

I mentioned the maturity of our choir, and it seems that they sing with joy, so naturally, like someone simply breathing. They seem to know all the prayer by heart, and they sing with love and joy. You can see it in their

faces. This is exactly the atmosphere needed in order to rear and develop new and young singers, and we do have them in our midst. The love of liturgical singing must be nurtured with great care for it deals with eternal values and a person's soul. 'Come and taste the Lord' [the word of the Lord] for it will be a sweetness to your soul.

We at St. Demetrius have a wonderful church calendar that marks most of the activities of the congregation for the whole year. However, of more importance are the spiritual observances of our faith that are marked therein. It is the life's journey of our Lord Jesus Christ. It unfolds before us like a mystery so compelling that if one enters into it, it becomes life-transforming. Eventually it becomes our own spiritual journey as well. It was the Lord's own invitation to His apostles and to us, 'Come follow Me', 'Learn from Me, for My yoke is easy and My burden is light.' It is - the faith that believes, obeys.

Sacred Music is the language of the soul. In prayers we use words and music to worship the Lord Jesus for He is God. All the other Saints of the Church we revere for their strong faith in the Lord. Therefore, the most important music is dedicated to the Lord. 'He is the head of the body, the church,... that in all things He may have the pre-eminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell.' [Col.1:18,19]. Our musical preparation for the approaching Passion of our Lord, His suffering, His death, and His resurrection is by far the greatest amount of music that we sing in our yearly cycle of services. It is glorious music and you must come to hear it's beauty. In past years we had many outsiders attend the Passion services and they speak highly of their experiences. Christmas and Theophany is another very important event in the life of the church with lots of beautiful music. We especially love to sing all those wonderful carols. What a rich and meaningful tradition we have been given to preserve and to pass on to the next generation. Countless martyrs and saints have died to preserve that eternal truth.

God is eternal, and God is everywhere. It is the love of God that compels us to serve one another. We serve when we sing at weddings and witness a covenant between two people. We serve when we give comfort to the grieving family at a funeral and we serve when we encourage a brother or give support to another congregation in their spiritual growth. Our God-given gifts of singing is to edify one another. Our singing should also be gracefilled. In such behaviour we act Godlike. Unlike the world, that marches to the beat of 'Open up your hart and let the sunshine in', and calls it joy. Our song is; 'Let your light [singing] so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.' Sing, sing, sing with real joy in your harts to the Lord.

Come pray with us.

How glorious and wonderful is the worship of a congregation that raises its voices in prayer to God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. As we enter the church we come before the throne of God in humble submission and in recognition that He is the living God, merciful and just and that we need His spiritual nourishment.

*... 'Come before His presence with singing.
Know that the Lord, He is God;
It is He who has made us and not we ourselves;
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.*

*Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
And into His courts with praise.
Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.
For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting,
And His truth endures to all generations.'*

(Psalm 100)

With this mindset and attitude we prepare ourselves for the liturgical service. As we begin our prayers, we enter into the spiritual realm.

*Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name!
Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will praise the Lord as long as I live!
Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever,
and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

We sing of His Holiness and we ask for His mercy and His blessing upon us. He communes with us through the Beatitudes and His word from the scriptures. We confess our faith in our God when we recite the Creed. We offer ourselves to God the Father through Jesus Christ, who offered himself as a sacrifice for us all on the Cross.

'We sing to You, we bless You and we thank You, Lord and pray to You, our God.'

With great joy we accept God's gift of eternal life and the forgiveness of sins as we partake in the Holy Communion. We are content and at peace for we have seen the true Light and received the heavenly blessing. But, should we close our eyes for a moment, we may have perceived that we were praying in the great assembly of Saints and Apostles, Angels and Archangels, members of one body, the Church and the Bride of our Lord Jesus Christ, all worshipping before the Living and Almighty God.

What a glorious and eternal sight and sound that is and will be! Alleluia!

Mykola Maskulka

REPORT OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

This school year the total enrollment for our Sunday school is 35 children. This is down from last year's 45 children. Many attend the Sunday school classes sporadically, so on the average Sunday we may be teaching only 15-20 students in the 4 age groups, between 3 and 19 years old.

The Sadochok is co-taught by Marusia Umanec and Ulana Sulatyski. The 6 to 10 year olds are taught by Ola Lukaczyn and Ivan Buciora. The 11 to 15 year olds are taught by Petro Umanec, Marta Bozdek and Vera MacIntyre on a rotating basis. The senior students are taught by George Andruszczenko and Ivan Franko, with the exception of the first Sunday of the month where the students participate in the Holy Liturgy by assisting the Elders, holding the candles and passing the collection plates.

The curriculum varies with the age group. The Sadochok and the second level students work on learning Bible stories and the various teachings and tenets of the Ukrainian Orthodox church. This is accompanied by crafts and illustrations.

The second level teachers, also prepare the students for their First Confession which is held the last Saturday in May. This year we had 9 students who attended classes and had their First Confession. Well done children!

The third and fourth level students partake in presentations and discussions on more advanced topics of Orthodox religious study, history and tradition.

All children sing "Otche Nash" the first Sunday of every month during the Divine Liturgy.

The children in the younger two classes worked hard to prepare a concert for "Sviatyj Mykolaj." Unfortunately, due to inclement weather, many could not attend the concert. Sviatyj Mykolaj, however, did arrive and left treats for the children which were distributed the following Sunday.

The children also participated in the Taras Shevchenko concert as well as the Mother's Day concerts which were capably organized by Oksana Balaban.

I wish to thank all the parents and grandparents who make the effort to bring their children and grandchildren to Sunday school. I also would like to thank the teachers who dedicated their Sundays throughout the school year to teach the word of God to our youngest members. Thank you for your time and patience.

Our Sunday School is always looking for volunteers who would be interested in assisting in the School.

For the Sunday School,
Vera MacIntyre, Director

PC MEMBERS

PC MEMBERS

**PROPOSED AGENDA FOR
QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING**

**To be held Monday, April 14, 2008
in the parish hall**

1. Call to order at 6 pm. If no quorum present, then meeting will be brought to order at 7 pm.
2. Opening prayer
3. Acceptance of Agenda
4. Acceptance of Minutes of last Business Meeting
5. Business arising from Minutes
6. St. Demetrius Retirement Residence
7. Easter Security
8. Financial Statements – Discussion
9. Capital Budget
 - Lenten linens
 - Banners
 - Chandeliers
 - Other
10. Election of Nominating Committee
11. Completing Election of Council Members – 2nd VP, Cultural and 2nd Alternate
12. Proposed UOCC By-laws
13. Extra-ordinary Sobor
14. Setting of 2009 Membership Dues
15. Other Business
16. Announcements
17. Closing Prayer

**ПРОПОНОВАНИЙ ПОРЯДОК
КВАРТАЛЬНИХ ЗБОРІВ,**

**які відбудуться у понеділок 14-го квітня
2008 року в парафіяльній залі**

1. Початок зборів о 6 год. вечора. Якщо не збереться належна кількість присутніх, збори будуть перенесені на 7 год. веч.
2. Молитва
3. Прийняття порядку зборів
4. Прийняття звіту минулих квартальних зборів
5. Справи, які впливають із минулих звітів
6. Резиденція для старших осіб при парафії св. Димитрія
7. Питання безпеки на Великдень
8. Фінансовий звіт – обговорення
9. Бюджет капітального розвитку
 - Постові покривала
 - Хоругви
 - Лампа-павук
 - Інше
10. Вибори Номінаційного комітету
11. Завершення виборів членів ПР – 2-го заступника голови, культурно-освітнього референта і 2-го додаткового члена
12. Пропонований Статут УПЦК
13. Надзвичайний Собор
14. Встановлення розміру членських внесків на 2009 рік
15. Інші справи
16. Оголошення
17. Завершальна Молитва

ТОРОНТСЬКЕ БЛАГОЧИННЯ

Порядок Місійно-Постових Відправ – „Пассії”

на 2008-ий рік

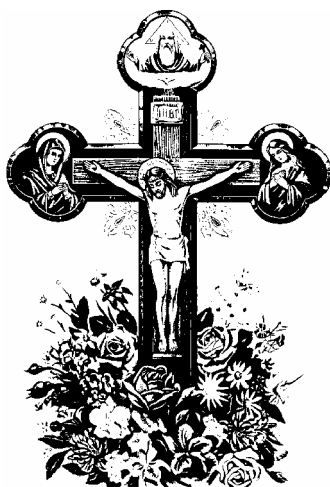
- 9-го березня - 5:00 год. по обіді - **Неділя Сиропусна** – Вечірня “Прощення”
Катедра св. Володимира
Проповідує: Архiepіскоп ЮРІЙ
Доповідає: прот. Володимир Макаренко
- 16-го березня - 7:00 год. вечора **1-ша Нeділя Великого Посту** – “Православ’я”
Антиохійська Православна Церква св. Юрія
9116 Bayview Ave., Richmond Hill, ON
- 23-го березня - 5:00 год. по обіді **2-га Нeділя Великого Посту** – Пассія
Церква св. Івана Хрестителя, Ошава
Проповідує: о. Андрій Мельник
Доповідає: митр. прот. Богдан Сенцьо
- 30-го березня - 5:00 год. по обіді **3-тя Нeділя Великого Посту** – Пассія
Собор св. Димитрія, Етобико
Проповідує: Архiepіскоп ЮРІЙ
Доповідає: митр. прот. Юрій Гнатів
- 6-го квітня - 5:00 год. по обіді **4-та Нeділя Великого Посту** – Пассія
Церква св. Анни, Скарборо
Проповідує: прот. Григорій Мельник
Доповідає: о. Андрій Мельник
- 11-го квітня - 7:00 год. вечора **5-та П’ятниця Великого Посту** – Пассія
Церква св. Михаїла, Брадфорд
Проповідує: митр. прот. Миколай Сідорський
Доповідає: прот. Володимир Макаренко
- 13-го квітня - 5:00 год. по-обіді **5-та Нeділя Великого Посту** – Пассія
Церква св. Андрія Первозванного, Нью Торонто
Проповідує: прот. Володимир Макаренко
Доповідає: митр. прот. Миколай Сідорський
- 21-го березня - 8:30 год. рано **Говіння Духовенства Східньої Єпархії**
Катедра св. Володимира

Holy Confession and Communion

To all of our parish members who would like to partake of the Holy Sacraments of Confession and Communion, this Great Lent or at any time during the year, but cannot because of not being able to come to church, for whatever reason, that does not mean that you cannot partake of these Sacraments.

All that you have to do is get in touch with Fr. Walter, to make arrangements, and he will come to your home, apartment, senior's home or wherever, to give you these Sacraments.

Just a reminder that all of you were sent a 2008 St. Demetrius wall calendar, in the last Messenger mail-out, and all of the contact information is on the last page of this calendar.



Свята Сповідь і Причастя

Якщо парафіяни, які бажали б брати участь у Святих Таїнствах Сповіді та Причастя цього Великого Посту або навіть протягом церковного року, не можуть прийти до церкви через будь-яку причину, то не означає, що вони не можуть взагалі брати участь у цих Таїнствах.

Для цього треба зголоситися до о. Володимира, щоби домовитись із ним. Тоді він приїде до Вашої хати, до квартири, дому сеньйорів чи в інше місце, щоби дати Вам ці Таїнства.

Нагадуємо, що раніше ми вислали до всіх членів церковний календар на 2008 рік, на останній сторінці якого Ви можете знайти всі контакти.

SHEVCHENKO CONCERT

As is our tradition at St. Demetrius, we held a Shevchenko concert on March 2 to celebrate and honour the works and life of our famous poet, Taras Shevchenko.

Mykhailo Zienchuk, who emceed the programme, offered first a brief summary of Shevchenko's short but incredible life. Our bandurysty played Vstaje Khmara, Topolia and Banduryste Orle Syzyi.

And then the children wowed us with their renditions of Taras Shevchenko poetry and songs. They were well-appreciated and well-applauded.

And in the final section, the bandurysty accompanied our church choir for Reve Ta Stohne and Dumy Moji. The finale, Zapovit, had everyone standing at attention out of respect for the sacrifice made by Taras Shevchenko to bring forth truth and beauty of our Ukrainian Narod.

Thank you to those who participated in the concert and thank you to those who stayed in the audience – all of you are keeping the legacy of Taras Shevchenko alive!



ШЕВЧЕНКІВСЬКИЙ КОНЦЕРТ

Другого березня, за нашою парафіяльною традицією, відбувся концерт на пошанування Тараса Шевченка.

Спочатку ведучий програми Михайло Зінчук запропонував увазі присутніх невеликий життєпис Шевченкового короткого, але багатого на неймовірні події життя. Наші бандуристи заграли "Встає хмара", "Тополя" і "Бандуристе, орле сизий".

Відтак діти зачарували присутніх виконанням віршів Тараса Шевченка і співом пісень на слова його поезій, за що отримали бурхливі аплодисменти.

У фінальному відділенні концерту бандуристи акомпанували нашому церковному хоріві у виконанні пісень "Ре́ве та сто́гне" і "Думи мої". На завершення всі присутні стоячи заспівали "Заповіт", вшановуючи таким чином пам'ять про великого українського поета, який зумів показати світові правду і красу нашого народу.

Дякую тим, хто брав участь у концерті, а також тим, хто прийшов послухати – завдяки вам Шевченкова спадщина залишається живою.

EASTER SECURITY

As you are aware, our church becomes overly full on Easter Sunday. Last year, Parish Council, in the interest of comfort and safety of those in church, restricted access to the church once capacity was reached. From years past we realized that it was not fair to those who came early but who sat at the back of the church to have the standing room only crowds stepping on their toes. In addition we have been visited by the Toronto Fire Department and threaten with the closing of our Church if we could not keep the aisles and front door area clear. It was not safe to cram and crowd the side aisles (the fire escape routes) with standing room only crowds. Our goal, this year, is to make sure all the seating is occupied (no taking up three seating positions for two people etc.) and we will probably allow some standing room. There will be a procedure in place for returning to the church if you must excuse yourself temporarily during the service. Please remember that those who are there in the church at 6 am will be guaranteed a seat whether they are a paid member or not.

The full range of Easter Security Procedures will be reviewed at our Business Meeting which will be taking place on April 14, 2008 at 7pm. Announcements regarding these procedures will also be made in church after the liturgy by Fr. Walter on the Sundays leading up to Easter.

The hall will be set up with chairs in order to view the direct audio and visual feed which will be coming down from the church and displayed on our 12' X 12' screen. We are also planning to have candle holders and perhaps, even some icons. Many of our faithful took advantage of this set-up last Easter, and we are hoping to attract even more this year.

БЕЗПЕКА ПІД ЧАС ВЕЛИКОДНЯ

Як вам відомо, минулого Великодня наша церква була переповнена. Як тільки церковне приміщення максимально наповнилося людьми, Парафіяльна Рада, дбаючи про комфорт і безпеку присутніх, обмежила доступ усередину. Досвід минулих років показав нам, що це несправедливо, коли на вірних, що прийшли до церкви раніше, але сидять у задніх рядах, напірає натовп людей, які з'явилися наостанку. Крім того до нас прийшов представник Торонтського відділення пожежної безпеки і пригрозив закриттям церкви, якщо ми не можемо утримувати незагромадженими проходи та вхідні двері. Така заблокованість бічних проходів (пожежних виходів) шкодить безпеці. Цього року наша мета є спочатку переконатися, що всі сидячі місця зайняті (скажімо, дві людини не повинні займати три сидячі місця), після чого ми, ймовірно, дозволимо певній кількості відвідувачів зайняти стоячі місця. Для тих, хто був змушений на якийсь час відлучитися під час служби, буде розроблено процедуру безперешкодного повернення на своє місце. Пам'ятаймо: той, хто прийшов до церкви на 6 годину ранку, гарантовано матиме сидяче місце, незалежно від того, чи ця людина є офіційним членом церкви.

Питання безпеки на Великдень будуть докладніше розглянуті на наших кватальних зборах, які відбудуться 14 квітня 2008 року о 7 годині вечора. О. Володимир також оголосить про ці процедури в церкві після Святої Літургії по неділях перед Великоднем.

У залі буде розставлено крісла, щоби присутні могли дивитися пряму трансляцію з церкви на екрані розміром 12' X 12'. Ми також плануємо поставити в залі свічники й навіть деякі ікони. Багато вірних скористали з цього минулого Великодня, і ми сподіваємося, що цього року їх буде ще більше.

ST. DEMETRIUS RETIREMENT RESIDENCE?



A number of years ago, parish council entertained an idea of merging with St. Andrew's parish; closing the church on Dupont Street and using the funds to build a residence with condos next to our own church. But St. Andrew's was not and is not ready to close.

Three years ago, an opportunity arose to buy the property at 41 Fairfield Avenue; this would have given us three properties in a row with a total of 200 foot frontage – WOW!! But that didn't pan out.

In January of this year, parish council received a phone call from Mila Krytiuk who owns and operates Golden Orchard Retirement Home in Mimico. Next door to her facilities was a multi-unit building, an estate sale. She had a plan to partner with us the operation and the renovation of this building into another Retirement Home for singles and couples, something she was not able to provide. Council members checked it out; it was interesting and exciting but it was too fast, too expensive, our

parishioners did not know Ms. Krytiuk and most of all, we were not prepared.

We have not done our homework. We don't know what kind of housing we need - low-income, apartment-style and/or condominium type? We don't know how much help is available from the government and what strings are attached to this help. We don't know what our parishioners think about this type of project. We haven't yet consulted with our sister parishes in the Toronto Deanery. We did a very brief survey at our AGM. A questionnaire was distributed and one of the questions was "do we need a retirement residence?" Of those who returned the questionnaire, the majority did answer "yes", but this was a very small sampling of our membership. Interestingly, one response was "it's too late!" It's never too late, but the longer we wait, the more challenges we will face.

In Hamilton, the Taras Shevchenko Retirement Residence is now undergoing its third expansion. St. Demetrius LaRose has a huge facility as does St. Peter and Paul. Some of our Orthodox Brothers and Sisters in Christ live there but how close are they to a Ukrainian Orthodox church? And so now I ask you, when will we be ready to seriously look at this issue and conduct a feasibility study?

PROPOSED BY-LAWS OF THE UOCC

At the Eastern Eparchy Conference in November held at our parish, we, the delegates and guests listened to a presentation from the Consistory with the proposed new by-laws of the UOCC; presenting were Mr. Emil Yereniuk and Rev. Fr. Taras Udod. But before the presentation began, there was an approximate hour long debate as to whether these proposed by-laws should be presented in English or Ukrainian, and that if there was no Ukrainian version then we could not, according to our present by-laws, proceed to listen to the presentation.

It was finally decided to continue with the presentation. As we went through the document, the Proposed Revised By-Laws Committee took note of all the questions and suggestions that were put forth.

It should also be noted that Western Canada is very comfortable with the proposed by-laws, Eastern Canada seems to be wary.

At the Eastern Eparchy Conference, the participants requested a side by side version – what the original said, what the proposed is and why the change was made. St. Demetrius received this copy in December 2007 along with two letters from which we have included the following quotes for your information.

Quoting directly from the Committee letter dated December 7, 2007:

The Proposed Revised By-Laws Committee has completed its work of reviewing, editing, and rewriting the 1955 By-Laws of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada. This has been a monumental work that has spanned many years. The Proposed Revised By-Laws take into account the basic principles of the Universal Orthodox Church. We cannot be in conflict with these basic principles.

And quoting directly from the Presidium Chair letter dated December 10, 2007:

Please remember that the foundational principles upon which the new proposed draft by-laws have been drafted are found in the “Guiding Principles” bible study which has been available to all the clergy and faithful of the UOCC for over three years now. It is imperative that in advance of any analysis of the new proposed draft by-laws as well as submission of comments or proposed changes to them those engaging in such analysis be familiar with the “Guiding Principles” document. It is available for download from the UOCC web-site.

We have been requested to examine the document and to return all feedback and suggestions by the end of March. The suggestion was made that each parish discuss the proposed By-Laws at their annual meeting. Parish council did not feel it was appropriate to discuss such a huge and detailed issue at our annual meeting; and to set up working meetings any time in December, January or February was overload for council members. Therefore, parish council felt that our parish would be unable to comply with the March 31 deadline and thus informed the Consistory Head and By-laws committee of this. We were granted an extension to the end of April. In May of 2008, the Proposed Revised By-Laws committee will be meeting to consider all proposed changes and make any needed revisions. It is planned to present the final version of the revised by-laws for official ratification at the Extra-ordinary Sobor to be held in Saskatoon in August, 2008.

Parish Council has set up the first two dates of working meetings to go over the by-laws line by line. We welcome all of our paid members who are interested and all of our paid members who believe that the proposed by-laws not be accepted blindly to attend and participate in these meetings. The dates are Thursday March 27 at 7pm and Thursday April 10 at 7pm. Although the proposed by-laws of the UOCC is on the agenda for our Business Meeting being held on April 14, we will not be discussing or analyzing in detail – it will simply be an update of the procedure thus far. Members who want to have input into the feedback St. Demetrius parish gives to the Proposed Revised By-Laws Committee must be at these meetings. Copies of this document are available in the office. We request a donation of \$5.00 to help cover the cost of printing this 71 page document.

Parish council looks forward to your participation.

COFFEE HOUSE



During the evening of February 9, 2008, our CYMKivtisi hosted their first ever Coffee House. Their goal was to showcase the talents of the youth of our parish in a very casual atmosphere. And they succeeded.

For the very reasonable price of \$5.00, the audience was treated to an evening with a difference. To create the appropriate atmosphere, the CYMKivtisi strung lights across the stage, hung giant rice paper lamps, strategically placed oil lamps for that dark yet cozy feeling and even brought some furniture from the lounge to complete the

look. Coffee and many homemade desserts kept all happy as everyone settled back a delightful evening of entertainment.

There was rock music, classical music, Ukrainian melodies, blues and jazz. There were piano soloists, piano accompaniments, solo singers, group singers, guitar solos and drums, an accordionist, a cellist, string duets, bands, a bandura player and some recitation of Ukrainian poetry. The performers obviously enjoyed sharing their music; the audience definitely enjoyed the performances. And what was especially fun was when single acts came together and jammed!



And what was especially fun was when



Watch for the next Coffee House in the near future!



**Long Branch Senior
CYMK presents**

**RSVP BY
MONDAY
APRIL 5th 2008**

Bowling Tournament

Saturday, April 12th

LOCATIONS:

Planet Bowl
5555 Eglinton Ave W
Etobicoke
(416)695-2695



- Four member, mixed (one male/female min.) teams.
- Don't have a team? You can still sign up and we will put you on a team.
- Prizes will depend on number of teams
- Registration will start at 1:00pm
- Tournament will start at 2:00 pm
- Dinner is at St. Demetrius at 6:00pm

Please register with Christina Kowalenko (416)787-3010 or longbranchcymk@hotmail.com

St. Demetrius Orthodox Church Hall
3338 Lakeshore Blvd. W.
Toronto

- Registration fees:
- Alumni(Adult)—\$35
 - Senior CYMK(Student)—\$25
 - Junior CYMK(Youth)—\$20
 - Bowling only—\$20/Dinner only—\$15



ANNUAL LENTEN LECTURES
ORTHODOX FAMILY LIFE

"A Path to Holiness"

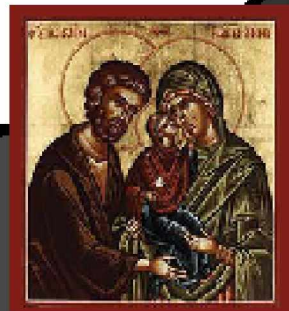
HOSTED BY:
ST. GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE
9116 Bayview Avenue, Richmond Hill, Ontario

"CHRIST-CENTRED FAMILY LIFE"
GUEST SPEAKER: V. REV. FR. PETER GILLQUIST
SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2008 AT 3PM

ORTHODOX FAMILIES IN DISTRESS"
GUEST SPEAKER: KHOURIYA MAGGIE HOCK
SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2008 AT 3PM

THE YOUNG AND THE RIGHTEOUS"
GUEST SPEAKER: REV. FR. ANTHONY MICHAELS
SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2008 AT 3PM

"MARITAL SPIRITUALITY IN OUR CRAZY WORLD"
GUEST SPEAKER: DR. ALAN ROSSI
SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2008 AT 3PM



TO PURCHASE TICKETS PLEASE CALL 905-731-7210
TICKETS \$10 • NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR
COFFEE AND SWEETS WILL BE SERVED