

Fr Dennis J. Schutte
Proistamenos

Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church THE MESSENGER

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FROM FATHER DENNIS

Dear Faithful in the Lord,

The lazy, hazy days of summer are starting to appear and the temptation to take a day off from attending services can be appealing. However, we should remember that our Lord provides us with the beauty of creation for our enjoyment, but not to the exclusion of offering Him due glory, worship and praise. Attendance at the Divine Services should not be optional for us.

Today and in the past, sadly humanity chooses to worship the *creation rather than the Creator*. Let us not be this way but rather proclaim with the Psalmist David: "*O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all: the earth is full of your riches.*" (Psalm 104:24). This psalm is read at every Vespers service reminding us, the faithful, that God Himself created everything and from nothing.

Also, let us not forget the virtue of gratitude. If we do not continually show our Lord how grateful we are for our many blessing and most of all the great gift of salvation, do we not reflect a worldly demeanor? We then cultivate and perpetuate a spirit of entitlement and become like a spoiled child.

I pray all of you have a blessed summer and if you are planning a vacation please do not forget to include finding a local Orthodox Church to attend while away.

In the Lord,
Fr. Dennis

USAFA GRADUATES

Congratulations to the following United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) graduates:

Cadet Joseph M. Votto, of Massachusetts, who was instrumental in reestablishing Orthodox Special Programs in Religious Education (SPIRE) three years ago graduated last month and is going on to serve our country.

Cadet Marian A. Nicula, of Romania, also graduated and is returning home to serve his country. Cadet Nicula is a strong supporter of SPIRE and our Orthodox community. We were fortunate to learn from him.

Both are Second Lieutenants in their respective countries. We applaud your strong support of our Orthodox faith and wish you a safe, prosperous, and blessed future. Cadets Votto and Nicula: You shall be missed!

For additional graduates, see Page 4 (back page).

PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Fellow Parishioners,

The Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha were absolutely beautiful. Services were filled with more people than last year which made this season more memorable for those who were able to participate. I am very happy and want to thank all the volunteers and people who donated time and treasure to make our Church so beautiful during the services: flowers, candles, the readers, the voices, etc. Father Dennis, thank you for all your divine words and sermons.

We had our mid-year General Assembly on Sunday, 1 June 2014. We went over where we stand for the first half of the year in terms of financials, projects, outreach, and state of the Church. If you have any questions about what was discussed, please refer to the meeting minutes or see one of your Parish Council members for an explanation.

If you attended the General Assembly, you heard us speak of a dinner dance fundraiser. We are seeking opportunities to pay our mortgage off and are pursuing this as one of those possibilities. The best part of this event is there will not be much work to do. Instead, we plan to have it at a place that is convenient in location, and, catered to our needs. Once a date is confirmed, please consider attending, and, consider asking friends to attend with you. I know it'll be a fun evening, so don't miss out.

We are rapidly approaching our annual Greek Food Festival. This year we plan to sell T-shirts. The design of the shirt is beautiful, featuring Pikes Peak as the background. As always, our festival is only a success through the work of volunteers. And really, the work is fun. The more volunteers we have, the more fun it is! Please, mark your calendar now for 22-25 August 2014. We are not limited to Church member volunteers. Ask your neighbors, other friends, high school kids, etc to consider helping. We have a number of those type individuals annually, and, they say it's one of the most fun things they've volunteered for, EVER! Don't deprive them of that opportunity, it's easy to ask. If we start asking now, their calendars may not be full yet!

We've tackled a couple of maintenance issues to ensure our Church stays a safe place to worship. The chimney was repaired and we had to fix some electrical boxes to ensure code compliance. We plan to reseal the parking lot, and repaint the lines, after the festival to ensure we maximize the life of the asphalt. If you see anything you believe needs replacing or attention, let us know.

The Parish Council wishes everyone a good summer. I hope you all have plans to relax and enjoy the sunshine and warmer temperatures. Be safe!

See you in Church!

— John Kubik, *Parish Council President*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Be sure to **Like** our **Facebook** page at www.facebook.com/amgoc.co to be updated on current events associated with the church. Also, our webpage at www.amgoc.org is a great resource for past bulletins, information, weekly services, events and history. Submit Messenger ideas/articles to: admin@amgoc.org.

TERRITORY DAYS / GREEK FESTIVAL

Territory Days:

The sights, sounds and food of Territory Days filled the streets of Old Colorado City over the Memorial Day Weekend. The weather was mostly cooperative producing a very busy holiday festival. The hard-working volunteers, friends and families of Archangel Michael helped provide another successful fundraising event for the church and great tasting food for the event-goers.

Greek Festival:

This year we are going to have available for sale (prior to and during) at the festival a T-Shirt designed by one of the Festival Committee Members. The design will be on the front of the shirt and will display Pikes Peak, dancers and identify our location with Colorado Springs, Colorado and in larger lettering - *Greek Festival*. The shirt will be available in July for early purchase at a reduced rate for our church members - and later for our volunteers/friends who work so hard for us.

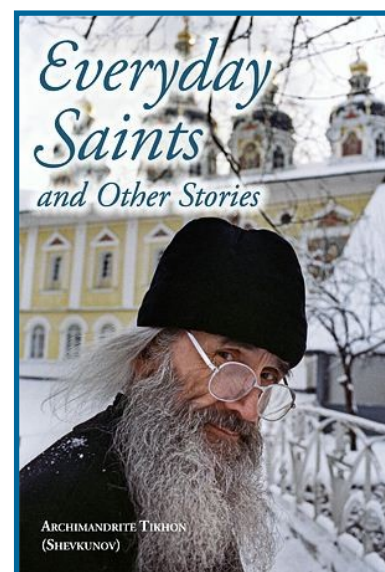
—Norm Struck, *Fundraising Director*



LIBRARY / BOOKSTORE

The response that we have received for two books that we ordered, *Everyday Saints and Other Stories* and *Orthodox Church A to Z* were outstanding. Always nice to hear that you've enjoyed certain books and recommend that we order more. It was also recommended that we have Orthodox Cards available and I think we picked some very nice ones. They are "Memory Eternal," and "Praying for You", which are blank inside, so that you can write your own personal note. These cards are only \$1.50 a piece which, for these lovely and appropriate cards, is quite a nice price. Are you looking for a specific subject to read over the summer season? Please let us know and we'll try and make some suggestions. See you at the Library!

— Barbara Lontas



JUNE / JULY SERVICES

REGULAR WEEKLY SERVICES

- * **Saturday:** Great Vespers at 6pm. Holy Confession before or after service.
- * **Sunday:** Orthros 9am and Divine Liturgy 10am. Fellowship and coffee hour following services.

GRADUATES

Congratulations to the following:

Amanda Hinds from Sand Creek High School. Is going into the U.S. Army Reserves this summer and then will begin her college education following her training.

Zachary Yannias from Cheyenne Mountain High School and will be attending the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley.

Nicholas Derr of Aurora from Vista Peak Preparatory School.

Beverly Foster on recently acquiring her second Masters in Education from Colorado College in integrated math and science.

Michelle Foster, Masters Degree in Medicine, Physician's Assistant Studies, Bethel University, MacKenzie, Tennessee. Michelle is the granddaughter of Pete Gyza!

Additional graduates are listed on Page 1 (front page).

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