

St. Nicholas Parish President's Report February 2017

The Saint Nicholas Cathedral community – Primatial Cathedral of the Orthodox Church in America--continued to grow and unify as a multi-ethnic Orthodox parish, with a common spiritual direction.

--In 2016 we began the repairs to our Cathedral and beautiful dome. Mr. Alexander Moskalionov, one of the original iconographers, began iconography repairs in 2016.

--For a fourth straight year, the Cathedral had a budget surplus. We have bolstered our reserve to protect our parish from unanticipated expenses.

--St. Nicholas continues a variety of forms of charitable Outreach, including Christ House, Pennies for Alaska, the Benevolent Fund, FOCA, and participation in The Walk, a multi-faith effort.

--Our traditional Fall Bazaar was one of the most financially successful ever and a model of community cooperation. A new spring Multi-Ethnic Food Festival was another outreach to our Washington, DC neighbors and demonstrated the unity in our parish diversity. The Russian Ball at the Cosmos Club was an outreach, networking, and charitable event of the Benevolent Fund of the Cathedral.

--Our English and Slavonic Choirs have added new singers, encouraged children to join for liturgy, and distributed the responsibilities of directing, enhancing the Cathedral's liturgical services, as well as weddings and funerals.

--Our Communications Team developed a newsletter, produced regular editions, and streamlined parish communications using Constant Contact.

--Reader John Slack, who led a Sunday class on the Psalms and Corinthians, reinvigorated Adult Education. Clergy of the Cathedral, with technical assistance from Irakli Chikhladze, taught a stimulating Monday night class on the liturgy via Skype.

--We continued to offer English as a second language and Russian classes, originally a Strategic Plan initiative.

--Monastics from New Skete and St. Tikhon's regularly visited and encouraged us in our spiritual lives, mentoring the Cathedral in developing a new Meditation group.

--We continued to offer a welcome and hot dinner to the Seminarians from Saint Tikhon's, and sometimes other seminaries, who participated in the Annual March for Life.

Thanks to His Beatitude, Fr. George and Fr. Valery, Protodeacon Blagoje, Fr. Denis Bradley and Fr. Yaroslav Sudick, Matushkas, Lay Leaders, Sunday School, Dormition Guild and all parishioners, who worked together to make St. Nicholas

Cathedral a growing, vibrant community and a gateway to Orthodoxy in Washington, DC.

With gratitude, Claire Nobles, St. Nicholas Parish President