

St. Nicholas Parish President's Report February 2018

The Saint Nicholas Cathedral community continued to prosper as a multi-ethnic Orthodox parish, with a common spiritual direction, as it increased its commitment the Cathedral's larger role as the Primatial Cathedral of the Orthodox Church in America and National War Memorial Shrine for Orthodox Christians.

--In 2017 we completed repairs to our Cathedral and beautiful dome, with the expertise of Mr. Alexander Moskalionov, one of the original iconographers. We also began an engineering study for repairs to our Massachusetts Avenue stairs and Bell Tower and other long-needed improvements.

--For a fifth straight year, the Cathedral had a budget surplus, allowing us to continue to bolster our reserve and protect our parish from unanticipated expenses.

--St. Nicholas continued a variety of forms of charitable Outreach, including Christ House, a reinvigorated Pennies for Alaska program, the Benevolent Fund, and participation in The Walk, a multi-faith effort. We also increased our support to International Orthodox Christian Charities for its domestic and international humanitarian relief programs.

--The Cathedral served in its role as a National War Memorial Shrine for the funeral and Arlington Cemetery burial of Army Sergeant First Class Mihail Golin, an Orthodox Christian Green Beret killed in action in Afghanistan on 1 January of this year. We comforted his family and fellow servicemen, welcomed high-ranking military officers, and served a moving and memorable pannikhida. We also have initiated a program to visit his injured comrades at Walter Reed Hospital.

--Saint Nicholas Cathedral continued to provide hospitality to Orthodox Clergy and lay people from across the United States, as they made pilgrimages to the National Cathedral of the Orthodox Church in America. The Cathedral also welcomed visitors and provided tours for Orthodox and non-Orthodox from around the world, as a Gateway to Orthodoxy in Washington, DC.

--The Cathedral reorganized the program for Parish Visitation of the ill and homebound, with increased volunteer participation and a tracking system, under the direction of newly ordained Deacon Igor Panyutin.

--Our traditional Fall Bazaar demonstrated the most successful parish cooperation in recent years, while also providing Community outreach and much-needed funds for parish programs. The Russian Ball, again at the Cosmos Club, continued to be an outreach, networking, and charitable event of the Benevolent Fund of the Cathedral.

--Our English and Slavonic Choirs under new Director Serge Romanchuk and several excellent Assistant Directors, enhanced the Cathedral's liturgical services, as well as weddings and funerals, along with a special Christmas music performance in Maryland.

--Our Communications Team grew in number of members and produced regular editions of a Parish Newsletter via Constant Contact and posted news and service advertisements on the Cathedral's Facebook page.

--Clergy of the Cathedral and Reader John Slack continue to lead Adult Education classes on Sunday at church and Wednesday night via Skype. New Sunday School Director Victoria Pastushenko took over responsibilities from Ksenia Panomarenko, and the Sunday School continues to offer St. Nicholas Day, Yolka, and Lazarus Day events for our children. Sharon Osmolovsky continues her creative introduction to Orthodoxy for our youngest children in the Children's Corner.

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

--Seminarians from Saint Tikhon and St. Vladimir's, who participated in the Annual March for Life, continued to receive a warm welcome and hot dinner at St. Nicholas Cathedral.

Thanks to His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, Father George and Father Valery, Protodeacon Blagoje, Fr. Denis Bradley and Fr. Yaroslav Sudik, Deacon Igor, Matushki, Lay Leaders, Sunday School, Dormition Guild, other Parish organizations, and all parishioners. I am deeply grateful to our entire community at St. Nicholas Cathedral for the cooperation, enthusiasm, hard work, and generous contributions that have enabled our growth and progress over the past five years!

Glory to God!

With gratitude and love in Christ,
Claire Nobles, St. Nicholas Parish President