

Candle Counter Report

for 2016

The St. Nicholas Candle Counter is often the first point of contact for those visiting the Cathedral, whether they are Orthodox or not. Those working behind the counter during Vigil, Divine Liturgy, or on a midweek feast day during both the English and Slavonic services provide a great service to our parish, though it is often a thankless job—one that has been borne by a faithful few over the years such as Walter Alesevich and Svetlana Moser. Whether it is helping our regular parishioners purchase their candles and prosphora, and find their prayer books, or welcoming visitors and answering questions from those who may or may not be familiar with Orthodoxy or our particular parish customs, we rely on not only trustworthy members to handle the financial transactions, but also their warm and friendly faces to greet those who enter to worship. By serving in this way, the volunteer enhances others prayer and worship experiences while often sacrificing their own personal prayer and worship, and we are indebted to them.

In mid-2016, under the direction of the clergy, many of our altar servers began taking turns serving also at the candle counter during the 1st Liturgy, along with a couple of other volunteers, lessening the burden on any one member. This has allowed volunteers to serve approximately once every 4-6 weeks. A short written guide was developed as a reference and reminder of the mission and tasks of the those who work behind the counter, as well as a contact list, and a written 3-month advance schedule. In the fall, parishioner Elena Son set up an Apple Point of Sale account enabling people to make purchases via debit or credit card. This is being utilized on a limited basis presently as not everyone is equipped with the proper device, as well as the desire by some of us to maintain as much simplicity as possible and minimize further distraction from the services.

We are grateful to the following people for their dedicated service and welcoming presence behind the candle counter and baking prosforas over the course of 2016:

Candle Counter:

Walter Alesevich
Ivan Andonov
Irakli Chikhladze
Tom Galioto
Tim Markatos
Alyssa McCrea

Joseph McCrea
Svetlana Moser
Anna Panyutin
Peter Vlasov
Irina Knyazev
Vicki Willsea

Prosphora Bakers:

Nadezhda Kosheleva
Alla Lowe
Nun Judith

We hope to continue to expand our team of volunteers during *both* Sunday Liturgies and at other weekday services, as well as increasing the number of bakers of prosphora—a wonderful gift most of us enjoy the fruits of. Perhaps, also, there are a few among us who would be willing to step up to learn this ministry and share it as a blessing to our parish.

If you think you may like to give back to our parish in one of these ways, please see Fr. George, Fr. Valery, or Alyssa McCrea.

In Christ,
Alyssa McCrea