

Winter 2016 Newsletter

To our beloved friends and supporters we greet you with the joy and blessing of the winter feasts! A busy second part of the year we offer to you as we reflect on our life here at the monastery:



We had a wonderful Memorial Day Pilgrimage this year with a visit from the Primate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios. His Eminence spoke at the 74th Annual Seminary Commencement and attended services on Saturday morning. The Hawaiian Icon of the Mother of God visited us again this year, as well as many bishops, clergy and faithful for all the festivities. One of our own brotherhood, Fr. Maximus was ordained to the Holy Diaconate on the Saturday and we ask for him many blessed years of service here at St. Tikhon's. Axios!

On Sunday evening, the Monastery Chamber choir offered a concert at St. Stephen's Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre, PA as an outreach for the general public. It was a beautiful event which was well received by all. On Monday, we had the Patram Youth Choir sing antiphonal responses with the Monastery Chamber Choir. Indeed a wonderful first time experience! The Patram Youth Choir had rehearsed here for two days before the event. We will have the Patram Youth Choir retreat again this coming year and all are welcome to participate. For more information, visit PATRAM.ORG for details.



In July, with the blessing of Metropolitan Tikhon, Archimandrite Sergius and Hierodeacon Maximus visited the Orthodox Church in Japan. The fathers were well received by Metropolitan Daniel with his clergy and faithful of the Cathedral in Tokyo, Nikolai-do. As a blessing, the Church of Japan offered the relics of its great missionary saint, St. Nikolai of Japan, which are now enshrined in the Monastery Church and at the Chancery in Syosset, New York.



In August, St. Anna visited St. Nicholas Parish in Pittsfield, MA for their 100th anniversary celebration. The parish was extremely grateful and Fr. Sergius was able to serve a Memorial Service at the graves of two of our monastery's great benefactors who recently passed away:

Paul Koronchik and his sister Mary Romanchak. The monastery is deeply indebted to the love and kindness that Paul and Mary showed to St. Tikhon's Monastery for so many years. May their memory be eternal! Also, St. Anna visited the Pottstown Parish with Fr. Gabriel in late September. The faithful of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church warmly welcomed us again with so many people coming to their Church for the first time.



In September, at the invitation of the Moscow Patriarchate, Fr. Sergius and Br. Stephen visited Russia for a monastic conference. The fathers were greatly edified visiting many holy sites while participating in the conference, and they were thankful to God for the blessing of representing St. Tikhon's Monastery with more than 500 Abbots and Abbesses from all over the world.

The fathers and brothers continue to keep busy here at the Monastery. Early this year we began offering artisan fresh roasted coffee: Burning Bush Coffee. Fr. Innocent and Br. Stephen have a wide variety of beans from across the world available for purchase online at STSPress.com.

Fr. Gabriel completed his service to Holy Annunciation Church in Wilkes-Barre and currently helps at the Seminary and



at various parishes. Fr. Innokenty is now very busy shipping rubrics books and Monastery publications for the holidays. Fr. Nicodemus works diligently to get the monastery Church ready for the next service (we have at least two major services every day.) Fr. Hierodeacon Herman recently joined the monastery brotherhood and is in charge of our liturgical publishing department. Fr. Maximus attends Seminary and recently finished the 2017 church calendar which looks to be another great year ahead. Fr. Daniel was recently tonsured riassaphore and is attending seminary, along with editing the rubrics book and directing the choir. Fr. Michael continues to help students in the Seminary Library. Br. Stephanos

diligently makes all the candles that we sell through the bookstore. Br. Anton has been cleaning the iconostasis icons and painting around the monastery (all very beautiful...please come and see.) Fr. Kyril's honey is now available at the Bookstore while it lasts! The Monastery bookstore also is publishing a new music book for Liturgy and a Divine Liturgy service book which will soon be available. Please visit STSPress.com for more details.

Sadly, in October we lost a wonderful long time member of our community: Fr. Hieromonk Alexander (Mayba). He will be greatly missed. Fr. Alexander never missed a service and was tireless in his labor at the Monastery here: cleaning, cooking, helping, reading and doing anything and everything to build up the Monastery to the glory of God. May his memory be eternal! We greatly appreciated him, his witness and his life.

In November, the Monastery Chamber Choir, in conjunction with the Seminary Choir offered a concert at Eastern University in Philadelphia, PA which focused on the Psalms and Hymns of the Prophet David. An outreach of this kind is an important way for the Monastery to share our life and tradition with those outside our community, an outreach for others to see the glory of the Church.

We are currently renovating one of the Monastery houses that the choir director of the Monastery Church and Chamber Choir lives in (they are expecting their 7th child soon!) They currently have three bedrooms and one bath and we are converting the basement into two additional bedrooms and bathroom. If anyone would like to donate towards the \$20,000+ project, please put in the memo of your check "Basement Renovation". Thank you for your help and concern!

We thank you again for all the love and support you have offered to us over so many years. We can't do it without you our monastery family. May the Lord reward you all. Be assured of our love and prayers for you and please know that you mean so very much to us. May God grant you a blessed Nativity!



In Christ,
St. Tikhon's Monastery Brotherhood