

## **Priest's Report 2022**

Glory to Jesus Christ!

I first want to thank the Lord for each and every one of you and for your continued participation in the prayer and support of our beloved mission during these unprecedented times. I also want to thank you for all the care and support that you have shown to me and Matushka Katherine personally as we faced the challenges of the Winter Storm last year with no electricity and then my broken wrist, surgery, recovery and COVID. We have been blown away by the kindness and thoughtfulness of you all toward us. I know that our mission will continue to be successful because I see all of the love, support, humility, and respect that you all show for one another, not to mention all the hard work that I've seen us all put into making everything we do here a success. In a small mission EVERYONE has to work hard to make things continue to operate smoothly and you all have been more than willing to do your part.

I would like to highlight the following from 2021:

- Liturgically, 2021 saw 2 Baptisms at Nativity, and then 2 more Baptisms and 3 Chrismations at the beginning of 2022 at Theophany. We have welcomed several inquirers and visitors throughout the year, and welcomed a few local Orthodox families who have decided to make Archangel Gabriel their spiritual home. We will be starting up our Orthodoxy 101 class again on Sunday February 20th. We had our first full Liturgical cycle of Holy Week and Pascha in 2021. Thank you to Matushka and the choir for working so hard on these services. We also had our first hierarchical Liturgy at Archangel Gabriel in honor of the Feast of the Archangels, where our Reader, Joseph Bowman, was elevated to Subdeacon.
- We've had LOTS of updates to our facilities and liturgical supplies over the last year which Darla Stephich spoke to the details of in her Warden's Report that was emailed out yesterday.
- For our Youth we saw the continuation of various programs and celebrations: The All Saints Celebration in October, The St. Nicholas Day program, the St. Lucia celebration, the continuation of the Church School Program, which Harvest Bowman and Christina Drauden will share more about us with in their Church School Report. We look forward to the possibility of some fun activities for the children to participate in during Holy Week and Pascha.

- Financially Archangel Gabriel has ended 2021 and begun 2022 on a VERY strong footing! Because of all your generous support we not only were able to meet any challenges, but we even continue to surpass all expectations, financially speaking, for such a new and small parish. In December of 2020 we were also notified that Archangel Gabriel would be the recipient of the 2021 planting grant from the OCA. This was a huge blessing as it helped to pay me a full time salary so that I could begin to focus all my efforts on the mission, without the need for outside employment. In January of this year we were notified that we would continue to receive the grant for a second year! Another advantage of this grant is that it has enabled us to put a large amount of money each month into our building fund. Jamie Stepich, will speak more on the financial details of 2021 and look ahead to 2022 in her Treasurer's report.
- I would like to thank Mathushka and the Choir for their hard work flexibility during the continued craziness of the beginning of last year. Matushka will be presenting more details about the work of the choir in her Choir Report. I would also like to say a special thank you to Subdeacon Joseph, Daniel Connell, and Alypius Pryor for your hard work in the altar. The beauty and smoothness of the services would not be what they are without you! Also, a huge thank you to George Rovny, Ryan Key, David and Aaron Stepich for your tremendous work and support on the building committee. You will be hearing MUCH more about the work of the building committee in George's Building Committee Report and also in our financial report from Jamie Stepich. Finally I would like to thank Darla Stepich, Jamie Stepich, Travis Farral, Melinda Bowman, and Sonya for your hard work throughout the year on the Parish Council!

I pray that the Lord may continue to bless our community as we continue to grow in numbers and faithfulness throughout 2022. Each of us are journeying in our life with Christ, and our personal growth contributes to the growth of Archangel Gabriel.

In the peace of Christ,  
• Fr. Chrysostom