

## **Priest's Report 2023**

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 over this last year. 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 Matushka's broken foot and surgery last year. 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 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 2022:

- Liturgically, 2022 saw 9 Baptisms and 5 Chrismations. 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 have made numerous Catechumens in 2022 as well! He had a beautiful 2nd Annual Christmas Music Celebration in December. We are currently in the midst of our Fall/Winter Orthodoxy 101 class. We began to add Litya hymns and the blessing of the bread and wine to our Festal Great Vespers services. We have begun to have the Akathist hymn sung every Friday at 11am.
- We've had many 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. And I will speak in more detail in just a few moments about our acquisition and renovation of our new building! But I would like to give a HUGE thank you all who helped us in our demolition and renovation of our new church! We could not have done this without all of YOU! Also a special thank you to the Ronvys for all your hard work maintaining and transforming the outside of our new church!
- 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, and the continuation of the Church School Program, which Irene and Christina will share more about us with in their Church School Report.

- Financially Archangel Gabriel has ended 2022 and begun 2023 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 mission. Much of this will also be covered in my presentation on the new building. In December of 2020 we were 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 last year we were notified that we would continue to receive the grant for a second year! We have not yet heard if we will receive the third and final year of the planting grant. Another advantage of this grant is that it 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 2022 and look ahead to 2023 in her Treasurer's report.
- I would like to thank Mathushka and the choir for their hard work and flexibility. 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, and Chad Harris for your hard work in the altar and as Readers. And a thank you to George Rovny, Will Kantz, and Ryan Key for also helping out with the reading. Thank you also to the young men in our mission who also help to serve in the altar. The beauty and smoothness of the services would not be what they are without you all! 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, in our financial report from Jamie Stepich, and in my presentation on our new building. Finally I would like to thank Darla Stepich, Jamie Stepich, Travis Farral, Melinda Bowman, and Sonya Hutchins, Pete Drauden, and George Rovny for your hard work throughout the year on the Parish Council! Some changes you all should be aware of in the Parish Council: Travis Farral and Sonya Hutchins have stepped down from Parish Council and George Rovny and Pete Drauden have joined us. Within the next few weeks Jamie Stepich will be stepping down as Treasurer, but remain on the council, and George Rovny will be taking over as Treasurer. Also, Melinda Bowman stepped up as Secretary for the Parish Council when Travis stepped down.

I pray that the Lord may continue to bless our community as we continue to grow in numbers and faithfulness throughout 2023. 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