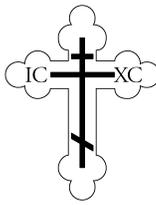


Holy Apostles Orthodox Mission
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www.holyapostleschurch.org



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A Mission Parish of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania
The Orthodox Church in America

*Report to the Diocesan Assembly
November 2007*

Your Grace, Father Chancellor, Very Reverend, and Reverend Fathers, Brothers and Sisters of the Diocese of Philadelphia & Eastern Pennsylvania:

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

This past year has been a historical, momentous, and exciting time in the life of our relatively young mission parish! I would like to offer a brief synopsis of the past year and give you a glimpse into the life of Holy Apostles Mission since my last report to this sacred council body in November of 2007.

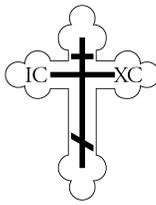
The day after last year's Assembly, our parish overwhelmingly approved the purchase of a 2,700 square foot business office suite in Mechanicsburg to temporarily house our Church. When we were presented with the offer it seemed somewhat "outside the box," but has come to serve the needs of our parish community very well. In mid-December, after the blessing of His Grace, Bishop TIKHON, and the approval of the parish body, we purchased Suite 101 at 5006 E. Trindle Road (Please see pictures). The better part of this year has been focused on transforming an office building space, into a wonderful church facility complete with a Chapel, classrooms, office, kitchen and hall area. Much love, dedication, and personal sacrifice has gone into the Chapel, especially as the space was cleaned and painted. Ikons were hung, walls were removed in order to create an Ikonostas, and the Royal Doors were carved and installed (deacon doors and a curtain are almost finished). In a place where a business once held board meetings, we now offer the Holy Liturgy on behalf of all, and for all! It is interesting to think that a former computer software company branch office is now a place where angels and men join together in the worship of our God! And what a joy it is!

Our Church beautification committee did a wonderful job adorning and equipping the kitchen and hall with everything we need for our fellowship times. We threw a "Parish Shower" in early February, and people, not only from our parish, but faithful from many parishes in the local Orthodox community came, and generously supported our project.

During Great Lent a presentation was made to show the parish how we could pay off this facility, and begin plans on actually building a proper temple within 5 to 7 years. We faithfully, optimistically, and enthusiastically call this the "5 year plan." By our active faith in God's Providence, we will move forward in this project, God-willing, to the next stage in development for our parish community.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations..." St. Matthew 28:19

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In the months since we have moved, our attendance has gone up, our liturgical worship cycle has been instituted and maintained by our dedicated faithful, and our parish membership has increased by almost 20 adult members! We thank God for this growth and for His blessings in establishing a semi-permanent home for our parish community. This facility serves as our first real home-base enabling our parish to establish its own public face and be a witness in the community. Now that we have our own place of worship, many people have come to see what our parish community has to offer the greater Mechanicsburg area.

This past year has found our parish engaged in many celebrations. We have received 8 individuals into the Faith through the Mystery of Holy Chrismation. We have baptized 3 babies and even celebrated a wedding. As a parish community, we entered into the season of Great Lent for the first time in our own spiritual home, and we celebrated the All-Bright Joy of Holy Pascha, a joy that many of us will never forget! We eagerly anticipate the joy of celebrating the Feast of our Lord's Nativity for the first time in just a little more than a month's time.

And while we have indeed experienced immense joy, we also have experienced some setbacks, minor disasters, and the trivial woes of home ownership. That being said, the joys have GREATLY exceeded the sorrows, and we thank God for His manifold blessings.

We continue to ask for the prayers of all of you to pray that our merciful God, through the prayers of our Heavenly Patrons, the Holy Apostles, will continue to bless our community and continue to grant it growth, not only numerically, but more importantly, spiritually. Please feel free to visit our website: www.holyapostleschurch.org (updated regularly).

Respectfully Submitted,

Fr. Timothy Hojnicky, Rector