

# HOLY APOSTLES ORTHODOX CHURCH

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October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Martyr Carpus & companions; New Martyr Chrysē

It hasn't been an easy year for anyone, but Holy Apostles Mission in Lansing continues to be blessed. It continues to be marked by a strong dedication to the principles of communion and community about which our dear Vladyka MICHAEL has spoken and written so much in recent months. This commitment has been tested in the past year and more but, by God's grace, not broken.

Liturgical services continue to be the core of our life at Holy Apostles. In addition to Saturday Vespers and Sunday Liturgy, we celebrate Matins every Wednesday, and at least one additional Liturgy per week. Sunday attendance averages around 35; Vespers and weekday Liturgy attendance is typically about 8–10. After nearly every service, people spend time together in fellowship at the church, so we see how Communion and community are closely intertwined.

As a college town, we're continually faced with the challenge of people coming to our parish and moving away a few years later. It is an opportunity to send out blessings to the broader Orthodox world, but we're always sad to see people go. This summer we said farewell to a couple who had met at our parish as students, been married in our parish, and become the core of our choir, as they moved to Pennsylvania so that he could attend St. Tikhon's seminary. This is the third full-time seminarian to have come from Holy Apostles, which is a further example of our work of sending blessings out to the Church at large. It has, however, brought us the challenge of rebuilding our choir. Thankfully, several people have shouldered the considerable work of leading the music, and have invested impressive energy in continuing to have the Liturgy celebrated beautifully.

After about a year of no catechumens or serious inquirers, we've begun to see a new influx of people interested in the Orthodox Faith. Currently we have four people in some stage of learning about and/or preparing to be received into the Orthodox Church at Holy Apostles. We've had two infant baptisms, with more expected in the coming year; we also held a wedding in the past year and expect to hold another in the coming year. So life is very much continuing here in our little community.

Holy Apostles continues to be financially self-supporting, and we are working incrementally toward contributing to the Diocese as a full parish. We've given more attention to growing our building fund in the past year: at the time of our 2020 annual report, the balance in that account was \$41,602; at the writing of this report it is \$62,247.49. We have approximately \$137,000 in the bank across all accounts.

As has been the case for some time, the task of procuring a permanent church facility looms on the horizon. Our church building that we rent from All Saints Roman Catholic Church has been and continues to be a great blessing, but we still feel the need for a place of our own. Progress on this was slowed by COVID-related challenges, but we hope by early next year to have a defined plan that we can share with all of you in our diocesan family.

We remain continually grateful for the support and prayers of everyone throughout the Diocese. Please continue to pray for us, and, if you're able, come and visit us to see what the Lord is doing here!

With love in Christ,  
Fr. Joel Neyer Brady