

HOLY APOSTLES ORTHODOX CHURCH

345 Ridge Rd, Lansing NY 14882

October 6, 2022

Holy Apostle Thomas ☩ St. Innocent of Alaska

Dear Vladyka, Fathers, brothers, and sisters,

Glory to Jesus Christ!

¶ Holy Apostles Orthodox Church in Lansing continues to be blessed. In the past year, we received four adult converts into the Church; baptized two infants; and celebrated one wedding. So while we struggle, as we always have, with the challenges of a transitory population, there's a general feeling of life and growth. Sunday Liturgy attendance averages around 38 souls; Saturday Vespers around 10; weekday Liturgies (of which we typically have one per week, and sometimes two) also around 10. Once per month, we hold a moleben following Vespers with special petitions for our church's eventual building project (more about that later).

¶ We have a well-attended biweekly Bible study, currently covering the Book of Genesis and hosted in parishioners' homes, as an additional occasion for learning and fellowship. A group of prosphora bakers, who bake on a weekly rotation, have been refining their technique in the past year, and meeting from time to time to do so. A group for young mothers has also recently started meeting after a long dormancy, supporting one another in Christian family life and hoping to become more involved in children's education and community service. Our choir has had to "rebuild" after some key singers moved away, and this has prompted new people to become more involved in church music. One of the joys and challenges of life as a mission is that, with so much to do and often not many people, there are always opportunities to be involved and serve.

¶ Service to Orthodox Christians and those seeking the true faith in the Cornell University community continues to be an important part of our mission's work. Several students, faculty, and staff from Cornell are among our faithful parishioners, and I (Fr. Joel) am actively involved with the OCF at Cornell. This year the OCF is resuming its practice of bringing guest speakers to campus (put on hold the past two years because of COVID restrictions), which has been a valuable form of outreach at the University.

¶ In the past year we've formed an active building committee, which has been working along with the parish council to give shape and direction to the many ideas that we've had over the years about an eventual permanent location. This group has been meeting multiple times per month to solidify design, location, and cost. Our current building, rented from All Saints Roman Catholic Church in Lansing, has been a wonderful place to start out, but we recognize that our own permanent building is an essential component to our becoming a fully-established parish community, and we're working to make that a

reality. Since we're also responsible for the upkeep of our current building, some people have also taken on this challenge and done some small but much-needed beautifications.

¶ While no one has been fully spared the financial difficulties of the past year, Holy Apostles continues to be financially stable and self-sustaining. We have a little over \$141,000 across all accounts, including a little over \$76,000 in our building fund, at the time of this report. In addition to contributing a portion of our income to the diocese, we send financial support to Greg Fedorchak, a second-year seminarian from our mission. Sending people from our parish to seminary is an offering that we make to the Church as a whole, and we want it to be a continued offering.

¶ As a mission parish, we're always thankful for the growth that God has given us, and striving to do the work he appoints for us to grow further. Thank you, our diocesan family, for your prayers and support, without which none of this would be possible.

Glory to God for all things!

Respectfully submitted,

Presbyter Joel Neyer Brady