



SUMMER 2009 NEWSLETTER

Events

S'novim godom

S'novim godom – that's the Russian equivalent of Happy New Year. Mark your calendar and reserve Jan. 16, 2010 for the Friends of the Sacred Landmark Initiative celebration of Russian new year.

Actually, the Julian calendar Jan. 1 falls on the modern calendar Jan. 13. Because that is in the middle of the week, the Friends have chosen the following Saturday, Jan. 16, as the date for the event.

The celebration will take place at St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic church, 2711 West 40th Street, Lorain. All are welcome to take part in the Divine Liturgy at 5 p.m. in the church. Doors to the church hall will open at 6 p.m.

Guests are welcome to wear partial or complete Russian folk costumes.

You will be welcomed to the hall by greeters with the traditional bread and salt and a shot – alcoholic or non-alcoholic – as you choose. Enter, then, into a winter wonderland specially designed for the occasion.

While you wait for dinner to be served, enjoy zakusky (hors d'oeuvres) and companionship with the other guests.

There will also be entertainment. Singers and dancers will perform for your enjoyment. A fortune teller will be on hand

to tell your fortune. The strolling brothers will provide violin music during dinner.

According to the tentative menu, the dinner will begin with Russian borscht, a salad of cucumbers in sour cream, beef stroganoff or chicken kiev with straw potatoes and Charlotte Russe for desert. Guests are invited to bring their own alcoholic beverages.

The event will end with the arrival of midnight (around actual 10 p.m.) and toasting the new year, wishing one another, "S'novim godom." and singing the Mnogaya leyta – God grant you many years.

The price for tickets is \$40 per person, \$75 per couple or a group rate of \$300 for a table of eight people or \$375 for a table of 10 people. Proceeds from the event will help fund the publication of the Lorain County Stained Glass monograph.

Stained glass note cards

A set of four stained glass note cards is still available. The cards show photos of stained glass windows from Agudath B'nai Israel Synagogue in Lorain, St. Teresa, Sheffield, First Congregational United Church of Christ, Elyria and Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Elyria. Cost of the set of four is \$5. They can be purchased by e-mailing sli@lorainccc.edu.

Sacred Heart Chapel



Sacred Heart Chapel, Lorain **Compiled by Father Nick Rachford**

The history of Sacred Heart Chapel begins during World War I. Thousands of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans traveled to Lorain in search of employment in the city's steel plants. In 1948, Puerto Rican males emigrated to Lorain, also in search of jobs. They began to share ideas and values. It was the beginning of the Hispanic community. They had a mutual respect for one another and a common desire to express their own traditions and values.

On July 2, 1952, Father Gerard Fredericks answered the people's prayers. He was sent by the Trinitarian Fathers to nurture the religious and spiritual needs of the Hispanic community. The Diocese authorized Father Fredericks to rent the old Rebman Meat Market on Vine Street. On July 22, 1952 Father Fredericks moved into the neighborhood; two days later Trinitarian Sisters Mary Jean and Carmen Teresa arrived. The former meat market was converted into a church and the sisters set up home in their convent next door.

Under the leadership of Father Fredericks and the sisters, the members began to share values and the Christian way of life, forming a parish built on love and filled with God's presence.

The Hispanic men began to play a more active role in Sacred Heart. In 1959 nine men, along with Father Martin VanTrieste attended a Cursillo in Texas and brought the concept back to Sacred Heart Chapel. A

Men's Cursillo was established in December, 1960; a Women's Cursillo in August, 1962.

In May of 1974, construction on the Urban Renewal Housing Project forced Sacred Heart Chapel to relocate. While the replacement chapel was being constructed services were held in the old Kohlmyer hardware store building.

The new Sacred Heart Chapel, on Pearl Avenue, was blessed and inaugurated on April 20, 1975. The principal celebrant of the Mass on that occasion was guest Bishop Martinez Aponte from San Juan.

By 1982 the parish, still a mission parish, had grown and formed a basic Christian community. It was at this time that the Trinitarians departed and Sacred Heart became part of the Cleveland Diocese, whose priests began to serve the parish. Two of these priests were Father Michael Schneid (1980-1982) and Father Robert Burge (1983-1988). Their leadership sparked new life into the parish, especially with the parish music programs.

Father Robert Reidy was the pastor from 1989-1998. He oversaw the renovation of the church building to accommodate better the expanding community and

its spiritual needs. One outstanding feature of the renovation was installation of a baptismal pool, located at the entryway doors of the church. The renovated chapel was dedicated in June, 1998.

Today, under the leadership of Father Bill Thaden, who became pastor in 1999, the parish continues to grow to its current approximately 1,200 families. Parish organizations include: the Guadalupe Society, St. Vincent dePaul Society, Altar and Rosary Society, Catholic Charismatic Renewal, the men's and women's Cursillo groups, as well as various apostolate groups such as catechists, Bible study and a vacation Bible school, choirs and musicians, youth groups and an evangelization commission, to list only a few of the many activities. Originally established by Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans, the parish now embraces people of many national origins, not only Hispanic, but also Irish, German, African-American and Italian as well.