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Romanian Orthodox Church

314 W. Broad Street ▪ Hazleton, Pennsylvania 18201
Church Hall (570) 454-7224

Friday July 18, 2008
Martyr Emilian of Durostorum

Re: Fast of the Birthgiver of God; Schedule and Events

Dear parishioners,

May this letter find you in peace!

We are constantly praying for your health and visitation from our Good Lord Jesus Christ, here at St. Joseph Orthodox Church in Hazleton PA. As we observe the liturgical year, I would like to briefly revise the past happenings, to inform you about the services and community events scheduled for the next period of time as well as some administrative plans we have for the well being of the church.

RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALES

As you may well know from our previous letters, we organized two “Rummage and Bake” sales at Church (May 31st and July 12th) with delicious home made sweets and cakes and hundreds of various items. Both events were very successful, thanks to your work, team efforts, donations and participation.

THE 76TH EPISCOPATE CONGRESS – VATRA ROMANEASCA

July 3rd to 6th I have participated to the 76th Episcopate Congress (Grass Lake, Michigan) as clergy delegate and member of the Episcopate Council. Among other usual administrative business, there was a historic proposal to the Congress Body made by the JDC (Joint Dialog Commission) to unite the two long separated Romanian Orthodox Entities in North America: ROAA (Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese of America under the jurisdiction of the Bucharest Patriarchate), and ROEA (Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America – under the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church in America OCA), into a single “Metropolitanate of North America” having “maximum autonomy”. You can view this proposal in both languages on the Episcopate website at www.roea.org.

DORMITION OF THE BIRTHGIVER OF GOD

We are getting close to the “Dormition Fast” (August 1st to 15th), when we cleanse ourselves of sins through fasting, meditation in prayer and confession and we prepare to receive the Body and Blood of our Resurrected Lord. On August 6th we also participate to the

“Transfiguration” with our Lord Christ on Mount Tabor getting ready to celebrate the Dormition of the Birthgiver of God. Confessions are scheduled every Sunday morning and before the Liturgy on the feast day (August 15th).

ST. JOSEPH’S CHURCH PICNIC

We are much excited to announce you the organizing of “St. Joseph Church Picnic” on Sunday August 24th. This year the picnic is taking place in “Beech Mountain Lakes” private community (Drums, PA). We have rented the covered pavilion and we have access to the Basketball and Volleyball fields as well as to the nearby beach and lake. Children have a convenient play set where they can hang out and be easily supervised by adults. So whether you choose to stay and enjoy a barbeque and a cold beer, have a match on the basketball or volleyball, enjoy the sun or dip into the lake, the main idea is to have lots of fun! We warmly encourage you to participate. There is no required entrance fee. However, if you would like to donate a certain amount or bring anything for the picnic, you are more than welcome to. Please see the attached invitation.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

The Parish Council has on its agenda a few important plans: better insulation of church windows, analyze and compare alternative source of heating, complete overhaul of church’s basement, modernize the Sunday school and guest room. With today’s fuel soaring prices we are looking at ways to improve the building heating effectiveness while spending as little money as possible. The complete remodeling of the church’s basement has become imperative due to the gradual, constant deterioration all these years. Therefore, the Sunday School has temporarily moved to the Social Hall.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

To ensure you maintain your rights and benefits of membership, the Parish Council would like to remind you that the financial obligations must be met until December 31st for those who were members in 2007. However, in order to be eligible to vote and be elected, new members must meet all moral and financial obligations (as stated by the Constitution and By-Laws in Article 9, Section 14), and be members for at least 6 months before the General Assembly meeting date. Please consider paying or renewing your membership until the end of this month (July 2008).

EVENTS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER:

1. Dormition Fast – August 1st to 15th; confessions scheduled every Sunday morning before Liturgy and on the Dormition Feast day (Friday the 15th); Liturgy officiated on the day of Dormition Feast starts at 9.30 am;
2. St. Joseph’s Church Picnic – Sunday August 24th , 1 pm to 9 pm in Beech Mountain Lakes; see enclosed invitation;