

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD ORTHODOX CHURCH

8911 Weems Road
Manassas, Virginia 20110

LETTER TO NATIVITY PARISHIONERS FROM THE PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL

January 4, 2018

Dear Nativity Parishioners,

In a few weeks, we will be celebrating as an Orthodox Christian family. During the last 25 years our parish has blossomed. Our parish has grown from a Divine Liturgy held in a motel conference room attended by less than a dozen faithful into a vibrant Orthodox Christian community that, today, numbers more than 150 adult members and over 100 children.

Each of you has played a significant role that assisted in the growth and accomplishments achieved by Nativity of Our Lord Orthodox Church. You have unselfishly given of your time, talents, and financial resources to strengthen our Orthodox Christian Family.

Fifteen years ago with a nucleus of 47 adult members committed to spiritual growth we, the parishioners, purchased our present parish property. A few months afterward Father Nectarios was assigned to be our spiritual leader. His courage, strength and leadership skills formed the foundation that has sustained our steady growth as an Orthodox Christian family. Father Nectarios and Pani Diane worked patiently and tirelessly to build our community even though we could not afford to pay Father a salary for the first twelve years. Father generously served without a salary so that our limited resources could be used to grow our parish and pay our mortgage.

While you may have read much of this in the bulletin, here is some of the work we have undertaken with the support of many of our parishioners.

Stewardship and Devotion

We began with zero ministries in 2002 and have grown to over twenty-two ministries in 2018. We would like to highlight a few ministries and their accomplishments.

Four parishioners, working closely with Fr Nectarios, developed a curriculum on Orthodox Studies Program for adult education. These classes are open to all parishioners and inquirers.

Our Journey to Fullness Program was launched last Fall 2017.

Thirteen parishioners meet two evenings monthly to participate in our prayer group – remembering over 1,500 individuals.

Seven parishioners serving on our Stewardship Committee have developed goals and guidance focused on giving of parishioner time, talents and resources as we strive toward “being in communion” as one body.

Orthodox Worker, solely dependent on your designated generous contributions, has provided,

between October 2012 - December 29, 2017, 18,073 meals to indigent Manassas residents.

Cultural Night events are held four to six times per year to allow parishioners from many cultures to share their history, Orthodox traditions, and ethnic foods.

Twelve parishioners serve as Sunday school teachers & youth group administrators for the seventy-four children who attend Nativity's Sunday School. Behind both programs we have an exemplary Youth Protection Program focusing on protecting our children.

Fourteen parishioners join their voices to glorify the Lord by participating in our choir.

Evangelism and Growth

Countless numbers of parishioners engage in Orthodox evangelization by actively participating in Nativity's information booths at the Manassas Fall Festival and Prince William County Fair, helping us triple our membership. This makes us one of the fastest growing parishes in the diocese. This has been accomplished in part because we have created an organizational infrastructure including a parish administrator and a parish caretaker. This allows Father to focus on his pastoral duties serving our parishioners.

Financial Independence

Five parishioners comprise the Executive Committee to plan for Nativity's future.

Five parishioners, two of which are accountants, serve as Financial Review Committee members to ensure that the financial documents accurately reflected the parish's expenditures for appropriate purposes. That committee recently completed a review of Nativity's financial records for 2015, 2016, and the first eight months of 2017. Results showed expenditures for the past three years were properly documented, justified by need and continued on a flat trajectory.

At this time, our income does not allow us to increase the \$2,000.00 monthly salary of Fr Nectarios. A three member Financial Planning Committee has prepared a draft three-year plan that, if successful, will allow us to pay our priest a reasonable salary and move to becoming a "regular parish." That plan will be presented to you in the near future at a parish meeting.

We have overcome many obstacles along our path in twenty-five years. The six members of your Parish Advisory Council meet and work diligently in support of our parish's mission, goals, and objectives. We are especially proud to have been designated as one of "ten vibrant Orthodox Christian parishes in America." While we have achieved many goals, we must keep our focus on the immediate future as we continually work together, united behind our spiritual leader Father Nectarios. We are indeed blessed with a diverse, loving, and active congregation, a beautiful parish facility, and a priest who is wholly committed to building our spiritual strength in the body of Christ.

In Christ,
Andrew Podolak, Chairman
Vlad Spanu, Vice Chairman
Priscilla Saboe
John Radomsky
Eyob Abraha
Perry Townsend