

# Did you know...

As we have said before, the Consecration of a Church can be compared to the Baptism of a beloved child. This is an historic event in the life of the chapel and especially the parish of St John the Baptist. The chapel has been rebuilt for the administration of the sacred mysteries and for the education of our children and grandchildren and children yet to come in the Orthodox Christian life. And to welcome our neighbors in and around our parish into the Life of Christ in our Holy Orthodox Church. There is no higher aspiration.

In 10 years, by God's grace and the intercessions of the Holy Guardian Angels, we have fulfilled our task to rebuild the chapel. The crown of this holy work of rebuilding is the Divine Service of Consecration. This sacrament moves our focus from rebuilding to using our full resources to the growth of our services and ministries.

The Divine Service of Consecration is an incursion into this fallen world for the Kingdom of God, a descent of the Holy Spirit to abide upon the chapel. Our beautiful chapel will become, by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the descent of the glory of God, a beacon and beach-head on earth of heaven itself. Our chapel will become a sacred house, the house of the Lord, a sacred precinct, and a consecrated sacred place. An angel of the Lord will guard the Holy Altar and the grace and glory of God will fill its interior.

Imagine all the people who will be changed by this holy space. Be united to the Lord Jesus Christ in Holy Baptism. Grow to maturity in Christ and gain serious holiness through active participation in the authentic spiritual life. Will embrace repentance. Hear words of life preached, chanted and sung. Will be started on the path of a lifetime of commitment to our God and Saviour. And be escorted to the heavens at the time of death.

What higher goal can we achieve? What more could we wish, pray for our children and all the children who come into this Holy Chapel?

What more could we wish for ourselves than that our names be written on the scroll and placed with the relics of the Most Holy Martyrs which will live in the Holy Altar of the chapel for all time.

Every member of our Church family should be present at this once-in-a-lifetime event. Nothing is more important than the Lord Jesus Christ and His Holy Church and nothing is more important than the consecration of the Guardian Angel Chapel for ourselves and our posterity.

Paraphrased from a letter by Fr Josiah Trenham to his parish on the consecration of their church.

# Did you know...

There are so many ways for each of us to be part of this new journey we are undertaking.

- ✘ Just as we wouldn't miss a beloved child's Baptism, we shouldn't miss the consecration of the chapel that has been an integral part of the life of our parish from the beginning. We need to witness the descent of the Holy Spirit on the chapel and to receive the grace given to all those who are present.
- ✘ Each of us has a special role to play in this holy sacrament – from preparing our souls and bodies to receive Holy Communion at the consecration liturgy to cleaning the chapel, to praying with all our hearts and devotion on consecration day, to joining in the work of preparation.
- ✘ We should also be ready to join the celebration of this blessed day by attending the Consecration/60th Anniversary banquet. You wouldn't miss your own wedding! This is our time. We shared our time to weep and mourn and now it is our time to laugh and dance.

*"I know there is nothing better for them than to rejoice and do good in their lives. Indeed every man should eat and drink and experience the good in all his labor – this is God's gift to him."*

*Ecclesiastes 3:12-13*

So gather your friends and reserve a table (or a seat or two) at the banquet reservation table after liturgy in the gym. Reservations are also available online.

- ✘ Another and equally important part of this celebration is sponsorship of the consecration and the banquet. A liturgical needs booklet is available that details all the items for the Holy Altar. More than one family may donate the same item. Each donation will be listed in the program booklet at the banquet.
- ✘ A sponsorship form for ads in the program book and in the Commemorative Album which will cover the entire consecration with pictures and articles is also available. A Commemorative Album will be sent to each donor and copies will be available for purchase later in the year.

Parishioners are asked to reach out to friends and family with businesses who may wish to be part of this book. The Church needs your help in these endeavors to make this a successful event.

This is a one-time event for our church family. May we celebrate it with prayer, joy, a generous spirit and true delight in the gifts the Lord has given us.