

October 2/15, 2017
Sts. Cyprian & Justina

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Much has happened since my last letter to you in April. It has been very busy and I was going to update all of you this summer, but due to the hectic schedule of business it wasn't possible. Hopefully it will slow down a little now that we addressed many items on the list of projects.

Let me begin with thanking all of you for your support and kind words as I try to do God's work. I admit I have had my struggles, but things are improving both in my abilities and in doing God's work. For the past Starosta's I now have a greater appreciation for all that you have done. I hope that I can be able to continue the good work that has preceded me.

The Cemetery and the by-laws have been approved, we are now able to sell plots for burials. We are getting bids for the grading and road work, hopefully by the end of November we will be completed with the work.

Church school site has been approved and will be finished graded before the classrooms are transported to the site. The Classrooms were a donation and we will only have to pay for the transportation costs. This saved us \$30,000.00 to \$35,000.00 in cost. Thank you to DTE for their generous gift and work to better our communities.

The 5th annual Ann Arbor Russian Festival was again a big success, and well attended. I heard many people tell me how much they enjoyed it. For some it was their first time to the event and others had come before. Everyone enjoyed the cultural entertainment, food and activities. Many were happy we have such a great family event that their children also enjoy. It was a lot of work preparing for the event, working it and clean up afterwards. But it was also fun, a chance to let people see the love we share with all, and doing God's work. I would like to personally thank all of you who took part, and encourage all to join in with us next year. For a lot of people, it is their first insight into the Russian culture, and they enjoyed it.

Trees have been purchased to complete the original Parking Lot Pavement project that was agreed to with Lima Township. Planting of the trees will take place on Saturday October 28th at 10:00am. Please consider joining us to do this work, many helpers make for less work. Also when we do work that we are able to perform, it saves the church money that can be used towards other needs and future building. We saved \$2500.00 just on the cost of trees alone, not to mention probably \$1500.00 - the cost of labor to install them. Thank you to Lev and Konstantin for getting us such a good price on plants.

The New Central Air was purchased back in June and installed, after the old unit broke. The new unit is energy efficient and will save money. We were able to do most of the work ourselves and we also installed new programmable thermostats. This resulted in a savings of \$4000.00 to \$5000.00. Plus the savings we will have with a more efficient unit.

Did you know that we have natural gas at the street in front of the church? I'm sure nobody knew including me. But I starting checking into it and found out that DTE natural gas line is indeed in place right in front of our church. So I connect with the DTE Gas Division and worked out a deal for us. Why you might ask? Well we paid \$3.19 a gallon for propane the last time the tank was filled, and we have a 500 gallon tank. With taxes and fees it cost us \$1700.00 to fill the tank. Considering we fill the tank 2 or 3 times a year that's a lot of money. Natural Gas is much less expensive, so with the approval of parish council DTE installed the gas meter on October 17th. They should have the gas line connected within 2 weeks. Saving us \$4000.00 a year not including the \$4000.00 we saved on the connection fee.

The parish has approved a whole building generator which I would like to install before January. This year we lost 4 to 5 days of services due to loss of electric power & propane. That cost us \$2500.00 to \$3000.00 in lost revenue. That is approx. one half of what I believe I can get a generator installed. This should ensure us of not having to cancel services due to storms that seem to be occurring more often, and interrupting our power.

Our total savings is approx. \$46,000.00 to \$52,000.00. This is because of people getting involved and doing God's work. As I have said many times we can cut costs and still work towards our goals. But I need your help to do this. I have ideas that will continue to keep us moving ahead with our future plans, but I am sure that many of you have even better ideas. Please share them with Fr. Gregory or me.

When you are asked to help out on projects or work events, remember we have saved \$46,000.00 to \$52,000.00 so far this year with your help. You can and do make a difference.

May our Lord, God and Savior bless our work.

With love in Christ

Jack (Alexy) Mitchell