

THEOTOKOS UNEXPECTED JOY ORTHODOX CHURCH

(Orthodox Church in America)

P. O. Box 21, Ash Grove, MO 65604

December 7, 2015

Dearly beloved Parishioners, Benefactors, and Friends of Theotokos “Unexpected Joy” Orthodox Church:

As we prepare for the celebration of the Nativity Feast, we want to thank God Almighty for His immense blessings upon our parish during the past seventeen years. We also thank God for each of you for your devotion to our Church and its life. We have been experiencing some growth in recent times, especially with the addition of several youngsters that would bode well for the future of our parish. Among the growing pains is the very limited space in our parish hall where we gather for fellowship following Divine Liturgy as well as for other social events and Church school.

To address the above concern, the Parish Council has passed a resolution to expand the parish hall so that we can have a reasonably spacious facility for our gatherings. With this in mind, we approached our banker with our financial records hoping to secure a loan to finance the project. Regrettably, we did not qualify for the loan as our financial situation is barely at a break-even status with very limited amount that we can commit to the expansion. The project is expected to cost around \$35,000.00 and we have about \$8,000.00 in our building fund, leaving about \$27,000.00 to be financed. We are contacting you with this information, hoping and praying that you will consider increasing your financial commitment to the parish in one or more of several ways listed below:

1. An one-time gift as a memorial tribute to honor someone in your life.
2. An increase in your weekly/monthly/yearly pledge.
3. If you follow tithing, perhaps you can add an additional donation to that for a period of time.
4. A personal loan from you to the Church that can be repaid to you at a mutually agreeable time in the future, with or without interest.
5. Persuade your extended family members, friends, fellow-workers, acquaintances, etc. about making a donation to our Church.
6. If you have some other idea to help us through this situation, please share that with us. Note that if you are employed, you may want to check with your employer about the latter matching or tripling your gift to the Church. Also, for those who itemize charitable contributions when filing their tax returns, this would be a good time to make a donation that can be counted toward such deductions.

In considering and acting on the above request, please know that God Almighty, the source of our strength in every aspect of our lives, will not let us down when we commit ourselves to supporting His ministry through our stewardship of giving our **Talent, Time, and Treasure** for God’s glory. Several passages in the Bible talk about stewardship and perhaps the most telling one we read in Malachi 3:10-11: ***“Bring the full amount of your tithes to the Temple so that there will be plenty of food there. Put me to the test and I will open the windows of heaven and pour out on you in abundance all kinds of good things.”***

Please discuss this request within your family and let us know how you would like to participate in this campaign and the amount of your proposed commitment. We are enclosing a pledge form and a return envelope. If you need additional pledge forms for your family and/or friends, please feel free to make copies of the same. Make the check payable to **“Theotokos Unexpected Joy Orthodox Church.”** On behalf of the parish, we thank you for your support and look forward to your response at the earliest. May God continue to bless you.

In Christ,

President, Parish Council

Archpriest Moses Berry, Rector

Attachment

