



HOLY APOSTLES ORTHODOX CHURCH

345 Ridge Rd, Lansing, NY 14882

Fr. Joel Brady, Rector

HolyApostlesLansing.org

September 24th, 2020
Martyrs Juvenaly and Peter
Saint Silouan the Athonite

Dear Vladyka, and beloved Fathers and brothers in Christ,

Holy Apostles Mission in Lansing celebrated its tenth anniversary this year. Ten years in, we are still thriving and continuing to work toward becoming a fully established parish. In 2020 to date we have received five adult converts into the Church. The population of the Ithaca area is heavily transient due to the university-centered local economy, so we are often saying farewell to people even as we welcome others. But while numerical growth here in Lansing may remain slow, we are continually reminded of our “Apostolic” vocation to preach the Gospel “to the ends of the earth.” As we reflected on ten years of our community’s ministry, it was an opportunity to think of and reach out to people across the country for whom Holy Apostles has been a spiritual home and a place of growth. In this way we can think of those who move away not as “losses” but as offerings to Christ’s Church which is, as we say in Saint Basil’s Liturgy, “from end to end of the world.”

A full liturgical life has been and continues to be integral to the life of our mission (although this was, of course, curtailed for a few months earlier in 2020). In addition to Saturday Vespers and Sunday Liturgies, we hold a weekly Matins service, and usually one or two Liturgies per week other than on Sunday. Weekend attendance has returned almost to pre-lockdown levels (usually in the range of 30–40 on a Sunday); weekday attendance has, if anything, increased (sometimes as many as 20 for a weekday Liturgy).

College ministry at Cornell is currently minimal due to heavy restrictions on in-person activities by student groups, but Fr. Joel Brady and Dcn. Ivan Bazarov (the latter of whom is also a professor at Cornell) participate in Zoom meetings of the Cornell OCF, working alongside Fr. Stephen Gousios from the nearby St. Catherine’s Greek Orthodox Church. Hosting speakers from across the country has in the past been an important work of OCF, both for the edification of Orthodox students and as a means of outreach; we eagerly look forward to being able to resume this important work, and in the meantime do what we can to provide for the spiritual nourishment of students at Cornell. A few students, including two new students, also attend services at Holy Apostles.

By God’s grace, our mission is now financially self-supporting, without funding from the Diocese. Currently we have a little over \$113,000 across all accounts, including \$41,602 in our building fund. We are contributing financially to the Diocese, working incrementally toward the full 10%, and also contributing a portion of our monthly income to charitable

causes; this year we've focused on programs addressing increased food needs in the Ithaca area.

We continue to meet in the old church building rented from All Saints Roman Catholic Parish, and in accordance with the terms of our lease, we've undertaken some painting and repairs on the building. Although this entailed some significant costs, it has made a huge difference in making our building look well-kept and inviting. We had planned during this spring and summer to work extensively on searching for a new location. This was put on a back burner due to the spring lockdown, but moving to a new and more permanent location continues to be very much on our minds. God willing, we'll be able to resume pursuing the search seriously very soon.

We are deeply grateful for the support of the Diocese over these past ten years, including the years of financial support that allowed us to become as established as we are. We are particularly grateful for the loving guidance and support of Archbishop MICHAEL, whose tenth anniversary of consecration to the episcopacy so nearly coincides with our tenth anniversary of founding. Most of all, we are grateful for all of your prayers. We do all of our work as members of the Body of Christ, and we know that we all need one another. Our work is the Diocese's work, which is the Church's work, which is Christ's work, and we strive to be ever-mindful of our status as fellow-workers with one another and with Him.

In Christ,

Fr. Joel Brady
On behalf of Holy Apostles Mission