

## Annual Report for Jacob's Well 2024

The next issue of Jacob's well is scheduled for release after Pascha this coming year, 2025. The theme of the issue will be "Growth" and will focus on the recent increase in inquirers and catechumens that many of our parishes have experienced, a phenomenon that extends across the OCA.

All our issues are now published in *two* digital formats. The first being a digital magazine. This can be viewed through the ISSUU platform and is also embedded on our website and can be read from there as well. The second which is newer is our blog format. The individual articles are posted in a blog format that can be accessed on the magazine website: [www.jacobsmag.org](http://www.jacobsmag.org). The purpose behind a blog format is that these individual articles are easier to share on social media and easier to read on a smartphone. To that end I encourage all our clergy and laypeople to share articles digitally that they found meaningful.

Jacob's Well consists of a team of editors headed up by Nick Tabor who is assisted by two assistant editors, Amelia Anzoulatos (a parishioner of St John's Greek Orthodox Church in Tenafly and currently studying at Yale Divinity) and Samira Kawash (a parishioner of our Cathedral and a *professor emerita* at Rutgers), and our copy editor, Deacon David Maliniak (who serves at Christ the Saviour in Paramus). Jacob's Well takes a more hands on approach to editing which helps make our pieces more readable and of higher quality than might otherwise be possible. Matushka Sophie Ries (daughter of Deacon David Maliniak and former parishioner of Christ the Saviour in Paramus) heads up the design of our magazine and is responsible for making it so visually beautiful. We are still in need of a volunteer to help oversee the digital side of the ministry. Any interest in this role can be directed to Father Matthew Brown.

The quality of Jacob's Well is highly dependent on having a hardworking and talented team of volunteers who give their particular talents to the diocese. If it wasn't for their sacrifices and service, this magazine would not be possible. If you find a particular issue or article a blessing, send an email to one of our team members and thank them for their service.

It is important for each parish to make sure that it uses every copy that it gets from the diocese, getting them into the hands of parishioners rather than sitting around in a stack in the back of the church. I highly recommend that when your parish receives an issue of Jacob's Well you

hand it out when the cross is venerated at the end of the Liturgy. Take a proactive approach to distributing the magazine. Then keep a few in reserve to give to visitors and inquirers.

As always, feedback is welcomed. It is helpful to know when a particular piece or theme was impactful. And it is encouraging for the Jacob's Well team to know when their work has blessed someone in a particular way. It not only helps keep the team motivated but it also lets us know what kind of content was successful which helps guide future issues.

Thank you for your financial support. The donations made to the DDB, and to the financial support of the diocese given by your parish make ministries like Jacob's Well possible. Jacob's Well is a tool to help your parish welcome visitors, connect with inquirers, and to educate our parishioners. It is also a tool for our people to share their faith with friends and family by sharing articles from the magazine with them.

Fr. Mathew Brown