

# HOLY APOSTLES ORTHODOX CHURCH

345 Ridge Rd • Lansing NY 14882

September 28, 2024

*Ven. Chariton the Confessor; Prophet Baruch; Martyr Wenceslaus*

Dear Vladyka, fathers, brothers and sisters,

¶ The Lord continues to work at Holy Apostles in Lansing NY. While we've received only 3 people into the Church in the past year (an infant and two adults) our attendance has increased dramatically in recent months: until recently a Sunday with 50 people was unheard of, but it's become almost a monthly occurrence, and in the past few months it's rare that we've had a Sunday with fewer than 40. These are not, perhaps, large numbers in an absolute sense, and we still need to grow more, but it does mark noticeable growth, and noticing it has led to a renewed sense of energy for many in the mission.

¶ Many of the new people coming have difficult situations and significant obstacles to overcome in order to become full members of the Church, and we ask everyone to pray for us and for them. But this is the work of the Church, to participate in God's liberation of those bound in the snares of this world, and it is an honor to be able to do it.

¶ We hold regular liturgical services: Saturday Vespers and Sunday Liturgy; Vespers on Wednesday evenings; usually one or two additional Liturgies per week; and Vigil on the eves of Great Feasts. Our bi-weekly Bible study has been fairly well-attended, and after working through much of the Pentateuch and the Epistles of St. Peter, we're preparing to start on the Epistle to the Romans.

¶ We continue to meet in our space rented from All Saints Roman Catholic Church. This is in many ways

a good space for us, but especially as attendance has grown the need for our own space has been felt more acutely. We're in a process of searching for property, but nothing that we've found so far has been quite right. We trust that God has something in store for us, and once again ask for your prayers. We have a bit over \$128,000 in our building fund; fully establishing a temple will of course take much more, but this is a beginning.

¶ Cornell OCF continues to be active, served jointly by our mission and by St. Catherine's Greek Orthodox Church in Ithaca. More students attend St. Catherine's, since it's much closer to campus and many of them are of Greek background, but we work to make rides available for those students who want to attend our church. And, as St. Catherine's has not consistently had a resident priest over the past year, I have taken on much of the on-site pastoral work with the students. In all of this we're careful not to think of St. Catherine's as "competing" with us for people, but as working with us in our labors for the souls of those who are in an environment where there is much to draw them away from the things of God.

¶ We thank all of you in our Diocese for your prayers and support, and pray that God will bless our common work of striving to make his mercy and his truth manifest in this world. To him be the glory!

In Christ,

Presbyter Joel Neyer Brady, Rector  
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