

Who we are

Our parish was founded in 2001 with the purpose of bringing the Gospel and Divine Services of the Russian Orthodox Church to the people of America in the English language. We are part of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, under the protection of Metropolitan Hilarion of Eastern America and New York.

We began our parish life in a little house in the woods, our paradise at the beginning. A year later, we moved to our present location, a 1200 square foot office park space. We have done all that we can to create a place where the golden light of Orthodoxy can shine forth. All along, we have prayed that the Lord will give us a permanent parish home.

In September of 2008, when Metropolitan Hilarion visited us, we showed him the St. Joseph's church. We did not yet know whether the church would be ours, but we were fervently praying for it, if it be the Lord's will. The Metropolitan walked contemplatively around the beautiful old church. He said, "Don't worry, God will build the church. I am praying that God will grant it to the parish. It would be a wondrous occurrence."

Our little flock now consists of about 50 souls, made up of lifelong Orthodox Christians and converts, people from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds. St. John Maximovitch said that the purpose of the Russian diaspora was to spread the holy Orthodox Faith throughout the world. We desire to follow in the footsteps of the Holy Apostles, who, after receiving the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, went out from their native Israel to bring the Christian Faith to the ends of the world.

"Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world."



To make a tax-deductible donation, please send your check, earmarked "Building Fund," to our mailing address:
Holy Apostles Orthodox Church
PO Box 594
Beltsville, MD 20704

Through God's grace, the history of America is being grafted onto the tree of Orthodoxy in Beltsville. It is our heartfelt prayer to be able to build on this foundation that the Lord has laid for us, and to one day see the dedication of the newly restored historic St. Joseph's chapel, as Holy Apostles Orthodox Church.

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church
Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia
Pastor, Fr. George Johnson, Email: apostlebird@aol.com
We are currently located in Twin Chimneys Office Park
10760 Baltimore Ave, Beltsville, MD 20705
www.holyapostlesorthodoxchurch.org

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church Beltsville, Maryland



A Pure Miracle

On June 3, 2009, through the Lord's mercy, the parishioners of Holy Apostles witnessed a pure miracle in the wondrous gift which was given to us: a beautiful brick country church situated on two acres of land in Beltsville. The historic St. Joseph's church is a disused Catholic cemetery chapel, built in 1880 in the American Queen Anne Revival style.

The church was built by Admiral Daniel Ammen, a childhood friend of President Grant, who saved Grant's life in a near drowning when they were boys. He donated the church to the Christian Brothers in 1880. Admiral Ammen died in 1898 on the day of Saints Peter & Paul, and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

The church is situated on a hill; the grounds are serene, with many lovely old, stately trees. The property is bordered by a cemetery. The Christian Brothers donated the church and land to our parish in return for our promise to restore the chapel, which has fallen into disrepair, having been boarded up for about 30 years.

O Lord, I have loved the beauty of thy house, and the place where thy glory dwelleth. (Psalm 27:8)



Here is the field where we hope to build our parish hall.



The inside of the church: the floor must be removed and foundational work done. The church needs heat, air conditioning, water, and electricity.



A small group of us on a Monday morning in 2008, showing the church to Metropolitan Hilarion. About two months later, on the Metropolitan's nameday, we received the wondrous news that the Christian Brothers had made the decision: they wanted to give us the church!



Restoring the Historic St. Joseph's Chapel and Building our Parish Hall

An in-depth study of the church has been completed by a historic restoration consultant. The projected cost of the historic restoration and renovation of the church is approximately \$1,000,000.00. In addition, we estimate the cost of beautifying the church and building the parish hall to be another \$1,000,000.00. Our total initial fund-raising goal is therefore \$2,000,000.00. Though this is a large amount of money, it is equal to the cost of four mid-priced homes in the DC area.

It may seem an impossible task from a worldly point of view, but we Christians are not of this world, and our Lord Jesus Christ says, "Fear not, little flock, for it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom..."

Our little flock has faith in the Lord's promise. We put our trust in God and look to Him for help each step of the way in this path that He has laid before us. We also ask for your help. Please make a generous donation. Help us to establish His Church, and our church home, in Beltsville, Maryland. St. John of San Francisco says, "The construction of a church is a sacrifice to God...but most of all it is a gift of your love, your zeal.... Those alms we give in the name of God are received by God Himself. Spiritually, our alms are laid up in the treasuries of heaven, God's treasuries.... At each Liturgy, those who contributed to the building of the church are commemorated. In building churches here on earth, we create for ourselves eternal habitations in heaven."