



ST. ANDREW ORTHODOX CATHOLIC CHURCH

East Lansing, Michigan

Built in 1962 — Completed 1963



*Metropolitan John (Wendland) blessing the cross for the cupola
November 20, 1962*



Father Photius, Matushka Mary and daughter, Denise



Father Photius, Matushka Mary and daughter, Denise

To All The Faithful Parishioners of St. Andrew Parish:

On this joyous day when we solemnly offer our gratitude and praise to Almighty God and our prayers to our holy patron, St. Andrew the First-Called of the Apostles, my most profound gratitude also goes to each one of the faithful and dedicated members of this parish. Thank you for your quarter-century of loyalty. Thank you for your generousities to our parish and your evidences of love shown to me and to my family during this quarter-century. Thanks to those who have labored shoulder-to-shoulder with me in harmony, loving obedience, and determination to overcome every obstacle and hardship during this quarter-century.

First, we all remember prayerfully our deceased pioneering men and women who had the vision and the love for Christ's Church so that they gave their cooperation and zeal in laboring for the firm establishment of our parish and its beautiful Temple. May they rest in eternal peace among the saints!

Then, our eternal gratitude to those men and women, still loyally laboring among us for the further growth and progress of this parish. Some serve on our parish advisory board, some sing faithfully and so beautifully in the choir, some give their compassion in helping educate and train our youth in the parish school. Still other, especially the members of the Sisterhood of St. Helen, God bless them for their labors for Christ's temple, and richly reward them. To those who have given generously financially through the years to defray the expenses, may God bless them for loving the "beauty of His Temple".

The Archpastoral Liturgy on this Jubilee Sunday, May 15, 1977, will be offered for each one of you. May your spiritual and temporal joys increase and may each of you have Many Years!

Affectionately your Pastor in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Archpriest Photius Donahue

A QUARTER-CENTURY OF OUR PARISH HISTORY

Our beloved parish began in 1952 when the Reverend Father Photius Donahue, seeing the need for an Orthodox parish that would serve the religious needs of the many communicants of this faith, living in the East Lansing-Lansing area, celebrated the first Divine Liturgy with three persons present as the "congregation." His Grace, Bishop Bohdan had urged Father to undertake this important missionary labor so that the students and faculty at Michigan State College might have a parish close to them. Until Father came to East Lansing, hundreds of Orthodox students each year passed through M.S.U. with nothing being done for their spiritual welfare.

The Orthodox Catholic Church insists that she is the true Catholic faith, for all people regardless of ethnic origin or language. The sin of phyletism attempts to limit membership within the Church to people of one or another ethnic background. The Church, however, insists upon its catholicity, its all-embracing concern for all mankind, for Christ sent His Apostles into the whole world to "teach all nations". From its inception, St. Andrew Orthodox Catholic parish welcomed all people who seek the True Church and present parochial membership includes Bulgarians, Macedonians, Serbians, Greeks, Russians, Ukrainians, Lebanese, and many converts who have found their blessed way into the True Faith.

St. Andrew the First-Called of the Apostles, was selected as the patron of the new parish because according to tradition it was he who spread the Orthodox Faith and the Gospel in Byzantium and among the early Slavs. The parish is Orthodox Catholic because it is under the spiritual jurisdiction of His Holiness Patriarch Pimen of Russia and teaches all that Orthodoxy teaches, administers the Holy Mysteries and observes the sacred Canons of the Holy Orthodox Catholic and Apostolic Church, unchanged, in fullness and plenitude; is the Church of the Seven Holy Ecumenical Councils, and heir to the theology of the great saints - St. Ignatius of Antioch, St. Gregory Nyssa, St. Gregory Nazianzus, Sts. Basil the Great and John Chrysostom, St. Clement of Alexandria and looks to two of the most recently canonized Orthodox Catholic saints, St. Nicholas (Kassatkin of Japan) and St. Herman of Alaska for their powerful intercession.

The parish in its apostolic concern for the propagation of Orthodoxy in mid-Michigan has reached out to hundreds of individuals and families in love. Our own first Liturgies were held in St. Katherine Chapel in Williamston, then in the Chapel at Peoples Church in East Lansing. When the latter place became too small to accommodate the growing mission parish, the budding congregation held services in the Macedonian Hall on North East Street in Lansing, then in a rented church building on North Pennsylvania Avenue. Finally, it was decided to purchase land and to begin construction of our present beautiful Temple on Greencrest Street in East Lansing. On Orthodox Sunday 1963, the first Liturgy was celebrated in the new Temple and shortly thereafter, His Eminence Metropolitan John (Wendland), the Patriarchal Exarch, came to East Lansing and consecrated the church. Within about a year, the generous parishioners had contributed all the beautiful and authentic Byzantine ikons and the ikonostasis, the pews, the altar, tetrapod, analogia, carpeting, imported chandelier and hanging ikon-lamps. A new enameled chalice set was also imported and donated with a hand-blessing cross. Meanwhile, the Holy Patriarchate contributed a number of necessary liturgical items - three sets of vestments for the priest, and three sets of robes for the altar-servers.

PAN-ORTHODOX STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF M.S.U.

In 1952 Father Donahue also organized the Pan-Orthodox Student Association of Michigan State University to provide spiritual guidance, religious services, Orthodox instructions, and social activities for the over 150 Orthodox students on the campus. Father Photius still continues as the Chaplain of the Orthodox students and as Spiritual Advisor to the Association, one of the pioneers on American university campuses in giving guidance to young people of our Faith.

From this group of students, Orthodoxy has gained several candidates for the Priesthood and Diaconate while a number of the women students have become "Matushki" after their years at St. Andrew Parish. The Association is a living witness on campus to the vitality of Orthodoxy. It sponsors public Vespers, lectures by Orthodox leaders, art exhibits of Orthodox icons, spiritual retreats for Orthodox students and faculty, and a wide variety of social and recreational activities designed to help keep our young people loyal to their ancient faith.

ST. DEMETRIUS ORTHODOX PARISH, JACKSON

The need for an Orthodox mission parish at Jackson, Michigan (thirty-five miles south of Lansing) was apparent to anyone who would have taken the time or interest to have been concerned about the spiritual state of the Orthodox people living there. In 1954, Father Photius persuaded several of the university students of the Orthodox faith to constitute themselves as a catechetical team and to organize and provide instruction in catechism and religion classes for the youth and adults of Jackson. For about two years these teams drove to Jackson regularly. Father Photius provided occasional Liturgies for the Jacksonites, and administered the Sacraments there. Temporary rented quarters were secured first at the Moose Hall and then at a building on Cooper Street. Soon the mission parish was solidly enough established that it could support a mission priest of its own and Fr. John W. Ball, who had been an assistant priest at St. Andrew Parish, was assigned to be pastor of the St. Demetrius Mission. Under Father Ball's pastorate, the parish has purchased its own church building and, following the pattern adopted by St. Andrew's Parish, welcomed into parochial membership people of widely differing national backgrounds. No longer were the Orthodox people of Jackson ignored or abandoned to affiliation with non-Orthodox denominations. Orthodoxy in Jackson had come into its own. The parish continues its spiritual and material growth under its present pastor, Father Alexis Keppeler who is a convert to the Church. A student in the Department of Religious Studies, under Father Photius' tutelage at Michigan State University, he completed his preparations for his reception into Orthodoxy at St. Andrew Parish, where he was finally Chrismated and ordained from the Lectorate to the Holy Priesthood.

ST. ELIAS ORTHODOX PARISH, BATTLE CREEK

Within a short time, catechetical missionaries from among the Orthodox students at Michigan State University accompanied Father Photius to Battle Creek, Michigan where he conducted services, worked with the Orthodox people there, administered the Sacraments and buried many of the faithful. Services were held in several rented quarters until finally, working with the people, it was decided to purchase land and then to erect the present Temple. Father John Ball served as one of the pioneer priests and then as pastor of St. Elias. The present pastor is a convert, who was prepared at St. Andrew parish in East Lansing, after having spent almost a quarter-century in one of the Protestant denominations as a minister. His experience and abilities very ably serve the need of St. Elias parish and great

progress and many evidences of growth have taken place during his few years as Parish Priest - new chandelier, cupola, addition to the parish hall, and beautiful new ikons (envisioned by Father John Ball and brought to completion under Fr. Michael St. Andrew, the present pastor.)

Similarly to its Mother Parish of St. Andrew, St. Elias was given a parish constitution and by-laws in complete accordance with the Canon Law of Orthodoxy and under Father Michael St. Andrew the parish is thriving. St. Elias, just as does St. Demetrius Parish, maintains close and cordial contact with St. Andrew Parish, ever mindful of their origins from the East Lansing parish.

EASTERN ORTHODOX CATECHETICAL ASSOCIATION

In its desire to reach out still further in sharing the truths of Orthodoxy, the parish under Father Photius conceived the idea of inaugurating an annual conference and assembly of Orthodox priests and catechists on the beautiful campus of Michigan State University. Father Donahue presented the idea to the Orthodox Clergy Association of Metropolitan Detroit, and to its president, the Rt. Rev. Archpriest Vladimir Lilikovich. The Clergy group agreed to advance the idea of the conference and the Catechetical Association, and the first conference was held at Kellogg Center in 1954. Since then, hundreds of Orthodox priests, a number of bishops, and thousands of devout men and women interested in advancing their knowledge and skills in teaching in Orthodox parish catechetical programs, have come together during the summer for week-long conferences that have become patterns for similar conferences and meetings now being sponsored by various Orthodox bishops throughout the nation. The greatest tribute to the value of the Catechetical Association is the conferences that are being held after the pattern established at East Lansing. Outstanding theologians and leaders have been on the conference faculty: Bishop Bohdan Sphilka (Ukrainian Orthodox Church), Bishop Valerian Trifa (Romanian Orthodox Episcopate), Archbishop John (of Chicago and Minneapolis), Her Royal Highness, Princess Ileana of Roumainia, Dr. Nicholas Zernov, Father Alexander Schmemmann, Father Michael Gelsinger, Fr. David Abramtsov, Mrs. Sophi Koulomzin and many others too numerous to mention. Despite jurisdictional differences, conferees and their leaders have always met in a spirit of perfect harmony and understanding and the Conference has contributed importantly to the growth of intra-Orthodox cooperation. Who can begin to count the thousands of Orthodox children who have in the past, and will in the future, benefit from the dedicated and apostolic labor undertaken during the Catechetical Conferences.

CLERGY TRAINING CENTER

One of the most unique and fruitful activities at St. Andrew's Parish has been the program of stimulating and encouraging vocations to the Holy Priesthood. Here young men have been provided with an environment in which they can study and gain practical experience in catechetics, preaching, parochial administration and liturgics. Further, enyiable opportunities exist both in the parish and at Michigan State University for such young men to pursue their theological and academic studies which prepare them for advancement to Holy Orders. The following men have developed their vocations, pursued their studies, and received pastoral experience under the tutelage of Father Photius: Fr. John W. Ball, Fr. Denis W. Ericson, Fr. Boris Zabrodsky, Father Ramon Merlos, Father, James Valesek, Fr. Michael St. Andrew, Father Vladimir Demshuk, Father Alexis Keppeler, Father Deacon Michael Fadel, Father Deacon Elias Mitchell, among them. It is with

gratitude to God and Holy joy that St. Andrew Parish rejoices in the share it has had in giving so many clerics to Holy Mother Church in the years since its founding. Minor clerics who have been part of the parish include several who continue most active in its life: Subdeacon Milan Waters, Lectors David Ruhala, Andrew Moulton, George Dynnik, Philip Grow, John Eby and Michael Losik.

Metropolitan John (Wendland) established the St. Seraphim of Sarov Seminary and its program of studies as part of the labor of St. Andrew Parish and the seminary program, in cooperation with Michigan State University has helped advance several candidates toward the priesthood.

We thank God that He has placed our parish in the position where it has been able to produce such great vocational fruit for His glory and the welfare of His Church.

SISTERHOOD OF ST. HELEN

On September 4th, 1952 the first meeting of several ladies was held and the Sisterhood was formally organized, taking St. Helen as its patroness. In the intervening years the Sisterhood has been most energetic and devoted in its labors for the parish. It has sponsored banquets for the benefit of the parish, visited the sick in hospitals and homes, arranged weekly "Coffee Sessions" after the Liturgy, held card parties, picnics, and entertainments for our school children, purchased needed articles for the church such as vestments and altar covers.

Through its efforts, the Sisterhood installed and paid for the all-steel kitchen equipment — dishwasher, refrigerator, food-warming equipment, stove, dishes, pots and pans, silverware, etc. Currently, the Sisterhood is earning funds for the furnishing of the rectory, once it is completed. These devout and hard-working ladies are the pride and joy to their parish.

ST. ANDREW ORTHODOX CATHOLIC FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

The parish is grateful that this financial organization has been established, by one of the parishioners, John Tome and Father Photius. It has helped parishioners save hundreds of thousands of dollars and has assisted them in securing loans at a very small rate of interest. Officers of the credit union are members of the parish, and this association, under Federal law and supervision, has produced untold benefits to the parish. It is envisioned that the parishes of St. Elias in Battle Creek and St. Demetrius in Jackson may have a cooperative relationship and take part in the elections of officers, and in the regular administration of the credit union, both saving and borrowing through it.

MODEL FOR THE FUTURE

As Orthodoxy advances into this last quarter of the twentieth century, it will receive many more converts, lose more and more of its nationalistic marks of identification with Old World countries, and become increasingly indigenous. More parishes are already experiencing the gradual influx of people of mixed ethnic backgrounds so that English is fast replacing the old foreign languages in the liturgical services and very seldom does one still find parishes of only one ethnic composition. Increasingly, the Orthodox seminaries are receiving and turning out candidates for the Diaconate and Holy Priesthood of Anglo-Saxon, Irish, German and other ethnic origins. While retaining all the glories of the Orthodox Catholic liturgical and theological tradition, parishes will become "pan-Orthodox" rather than continuing as "one nationality" communities. Our St. Andrew Catholic Parish in East Lansing is a pioneer in this development, from its beginning, emphasizing

only the Orthodox Faith which unites us, and de-emphasizing the ethnicisms that would tend to divide us.

Unfortunately, there are still some Orthodox parishes which are run like typical non-Orthodox communities, along non-Orthodox "congregational lines" with lay parishioners intruding and presuming to direct the clergy in parochial affairs. Such lay-government is completely foreign to the traditions of Orthodoxy and is contrary to Orthodox Canon Law which holds the Bishop as the head of all parishes, and of both their spiritual and material functions. Canon Law entrusts the direction and supervision of all parochial affairs to the priest, appointed by the Bishop. It is the priest who is the father and shepherd of his flock. Thus, in our parish, we have a board or committee of lay persons who must be regular in receiving the Holy Sacraments, regular in worshipping and participating in all the services of the Church, outstanding examples of living and practicing the Orthodox faith, and who function as "advisers" to the priest who appoints them on the basis of their faith, secular abilities, and their usefulness to Christ's Church. This system has worked superbly well for the past quarter-century and has resulted in peace, harmony, love and concerned devotion to our parish.

In the future, more and more parishes will be modeled after our parish, as English becomes increasingly the liturgical language and as more and more converts, convinced that Orthodoxy is the one and only ancient Church of Christ, receive the grace to enter the Mystical Body, the Church which He founded in the year 33 A.D. in Jerusalem.

1952-1977: VITAL STATISTICS

Baptisms and Chrismations	255
Marriages	114
Converts	96
Deaths	124
Major Orders	11
Minor Orders	8

OUR JUBILEE PRAYER

O God, Thou hast given us so much, give
us one thing more — a grateful heart. Amen.

(George Herbert, 1593-1633)



SISTERHOOD OF ST. HELEN



ST. ANDREW CHOIR

Director, Dr. Theodore Lopushinsky, President, Louis Lambo



1977 ADVISORY BOARD

Seated: Milan Waters, Fr. Photius, Nevenka Dines



CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES



FATHERS OF THE YEAR

Seated: Michael Losik, Father Photius, Louis Lambo



MOTHERS OF THE YEAR

Seated: Matushka Mary, Father Photius, Dominica Plotnick



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

WILLIAM D. MILLIKEN
GOVERNOR

May 15, 1977

Dear Friends:

I offer my heartiest congratulations to all of you on this Double-25th Anniversary--celebrating both the founding of St. Andrew parish and the 25th anniversary of your founding pastor, The Reverend Archpriest Photius Donahue.

Over the past 25 years the Lansing community and the State of Michigan have benefited significantly from the many civic contributions of your parishioners and from your university student center for Orthodox students located near Michigan State University.

The rich multi-ethnic and multi-cultural heritage of your unique parish has enabled St. Andrew to very meaningfully honor our common Heavenly Creator, our country, our state and our community.

Again, on this special occasion of your Silver Jubilee, I offer my highest commendations and best wishes for "Many Happy Years."

Kind personal regards.

Sincerely,

William D. Milliken
Governor



410 Abbott Road



Telephone 337-1731

April 1, 1977

St. Andrew Orthodox Church
1216 Greencrest Avenue
East Lansing, Michigan 48823

Dear Father Donahue, Members of St. Andrew Orthodox
Catholic Church and University Student Center,

On behalf of the City of East Lansing, I wish to extend our most sincere congratulations to all members of St. Andrew's parish and to its esteemed pastor on the occasion of your Silver Jubilee celebration.


We, of East Lansing, have especially been honored by the fact that for fifteen of the past twenty-five years of St. Andrew parish's growth and continual development, your "home" has been here in East Lansing.

Your church, with its active Pan-Orthodox Student Center, has truly been a valuable asset to our university community.

May God bestow his richest blessings upon St. Andrew parish and upon its founding spiritual leader, so that you may continue your great efforts in our community for many years to come.

Sincerely,

CITY OF EAST LANSING


George L. Griffiths
Mayor



City of LANSING

LANSING, MICHIGAN

GERALD W. GRAVES, MAYOR

May, 1977

Members of St. Andrew Orthodox Catholic Church
1216 Greencrest Street
East Lansing, Michigan 48823

Dear Parishioners:

On behalf of all the citizens of the City of Lansing, it is my distinct privilege and pleasure to congratulate the members of St. Andrew Orthodox Catholic Church upon the anniversary of 25 years of service to the community.

The Parishioners of St. Andrew's can be justifiably proud of the continuing moral and spiritual leadership provided by the Church and its long record of accomplishments in administering to the needs of both the young people and adults of the area.

As you enter into the next quarter century, I feel certain that the dedication and moral strength provided by Fr. Donahue in the past, will continue and his wisdom and spiritual forebearance will provide added strength to all in the turbulent years ahead.

With best regards, I remain

Sincerely,

Gerald W. Graves
Mayor

Congratulations

Best Wishes to all St. Andrew Parishioners



*On your Silver Jubilee from
Your U.S. Congressman*

BOB CARR

*Please take advantage sometime of my
"Open Door" in Lansing and in
Washington, D.C.*

**CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES
TO FATHER DONAHUE AND ALL MEM-
BERS OF ST. ANDREW PARISH!**

*ON YOUR
SILVER JUBILEE
FROM YOUR STATE
LEGISLATORS*



HON. EARL E. NELSON
*State Senator
District #24*



HON. H. LYNN JONDAHL
*State Representative
District #59*

*MAY YOU CONTINUE
YOUR GOOD WORK
FOR MANY YEARS
TO COME!*