

Ascension Parish Feast in Rochester, New York

On the Feast of the Ascension, 2008, His Eminence, Archbishop Chrysostomos, His Grace, Bishop Auxentios, and Archimandrite Akakios were joined by His Eminence, Bishop Andronik of Richmond Hill and New York and his Deacon, Archdeacon Father Iov Chemerov, representing the Provisional Supreme Ecclesiastical Authority of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad (ROCA-PSEA), our Sister Church, at the Feast Day of our Exarchate parish of the Ascension in Rochester, NY.



A group photograph of the majority of those present at the Divine Liturgy.

Father Nicholas Chernjavsky, the Church's pastor, and nearly sixty of his parishioners welcomed the Bishops for a beautiful festal Liturgy in the new parish facilities, which—though unfinished—are already a wonderful asset to the Ascension community. The excellent choir, under the direction of Reader Adam Foley, sang in Slavonic, Greek, and English, adding a pan-Orthodox flavor to the worship. On the day prior to the Feast, the *Apodosis* of Pascha, Father Nicholas celebrated Liturgy, after which the Hierarchs and Priests conducted an Anointing Service for Vasilii Bushunow, the ill son of Dr. and Mrs. Peter Bushunow (who are active supporters of the Church—Peter is also a Reader), and the

other ill and ailing parish members. The ancient service was conducted in an atmosphere of compunction and great piety.

Following the Liturgy, the parish Sisterhood served a very nice meal in the social hall of the Church. The visiting Hierarchs thanked Father Nicholas and the faithful for their kind reception and expressed their enthusiasm and joy at the wonderful progress of the parish. Archbishop Chrysostomos expressed, especially, his profound personal feelings of affection and admiration for the Ascension parish community.

