

Pastoral Visit to the Holy Ascension Parish in Rochester, New York

On his return, by way of Chicago, from the Feast Day of the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina in Phyle, Greece, and the annual meeting of the members of the Holy Synod of our Church, His Grace, Bishop Auxentios of Photike joined His Eminence, Archbishop Chrysostomos—who was in the Midwest for a medical consultation—



for a short visit to our Exarchate parish of the Holy Ascension in Rochester, New York, on the Sunday of Sts. Evlampios and Evlambia and St. Ambrose of Optina (October 10, 2011, Old Style) and for several days following. (*At left, the Sunday Liturgy in progress and, below, a group of parishioners at the conclusion of the services.*)



During their stay, the visiting Bishops were guests in the lovely home of Mr. and Mrs. Sergei Chernjavsky, parents of the parish Priest, where they were shown unparalleled hospitality by their refined and charming hosts. The parish Sisterhood also treated the visitors to a beautiful Agape meal after the Sunday Liturgy, and they were subsequently the guests at various lunches and dinners hosted by the pastor, Father

Nicholas Chernjavsky, and his wife, Matushka Christine; Deacon Father Dr. Peter Bushunow and his wife, Diakonissa Melitsa; Father Peter's sister, Katherine Daniels, and her husband, Subdeacon Paul; Father Peter's



Mother, Mrs. Laura Dmohowski; and the Starosta of the parish, Mr. Alexander Soubotin, and his wife, Marina (*at left, left to right, Marina and Alexander, Archbishop Chrysostomos, Bishop Auxentios, and Deacon Father Dr. Peter Bushunow*).

Many other members of the parish showered the visitors with gifts, kindness, and invitations that they were, on account of time constraints, sadly unable to accept. Then again, on Tuesday evening of their stay (October 12, Old Style), the parish Sisterhood hosted a tea in the parish hall for His Eminence and His Grace, followed by a question-and-answer session with a group of faithful, where Church matters and various pastoral concerns were discussed.

Despite the fact that it was a workday evening, a substantial number of parishioners attended the evening session, highlighting the Holy Ascension parish's enthusiasm and once again evincing the spirit of fellowship and solidarity with their Archpastors that so clearly distinguishes the community.

