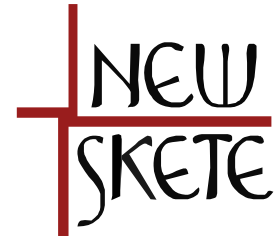


Fall 2018



Dear Friends,

Blest are you, O Lord, for dealing with us mercifully and for giving us your abundant gifts. Glory to you forever, for you are good and full of love for humankind.

-New Skete

The tradition of Thanks and giving; more than just a meal of turkey, stuffing, sweet potatoes, gravy and all the fix'ins. This day of giving thanks, is a perfect time for all of us to slow down; truly *see* those people and gifts which bless our life and create the world around us long enough to express gratitude now and throughout the year to come.

Please know that as you celebrate this time of year with your family, YOU are someone we cherish and do not take for granted. We thank God each day that you, our friend, have chosen to bring and keep the Monks and Nuns and New Skete into your life. We are humbled by the many ways you enrich us and enable us to provide for you and many others.

In the last year, with your kind generosity we;

- Welcomed many guests to the Monks and Nuns for personal retreats.
- Hosted free community events including Open House in conjunction with Cambridge Balloon Fest, Pilgrimage which featured a guest speaker and guided trail hike and the Animal Blessing including a dog training demonstration.
- Celebrated volunteers from the Cambridge area and beyond who assisted New Skete through the year with many projects including puppy socializing, gardening, cleaning, events and more.
- Greeted various organizations who brought groups to receive guided tours the monastery churches and grounds.
- Provided personal Spiritual Direction to those who seek to further their relationship with God.
- Assembled with members of the New Skete Companion program to further develop opportunities to bring New Skete into their lives and what role the Companions, as a group, could play in assisting New Skete.
- Received hundreds of visitors on the grounds of the monastery who have enjoyed its sights and sounds including the various hiking trails.
- Held the First Annual Monk Mile Virtual Pack Walk- which included hundreds of friends locally and across the country and raised thousands of dollars to benefit the Monks.
- Organized and hosted an iconography painting seminar, presented by world renowned Russian instructors. Sixteen people participated in an intense week long seminar which introduced participants to both technique and theory of iconography.
- Collaborated with SUNY Cobleskill and welcomed a student intern to work for four months with the Monks Dog Training program.
- Crafted cheesecakes for people all over the country to enjoy with their families and friends (including a new seasonal flavor, Maple Walnut and new samplers; Festive Spirits and Autumn Sampler)
- Presented concerts by Russian musicians; the Konevets Quartet and the St Petersburg Men's Ensemble. Both vocal concerts were open to the community at no cost and were very well attended.
- Appreciated the privilege of training dogs from people entrusting us with their canine family member.
- Whelped German Shepherd puppies and matched them with their forever families.

The world is full of horrific events beyond comprehension, many out of our control. We pray daily for peace and for the safety and wellbeing of those near and far. In honor or in memory of those you love, we ask you to consider a gift to benefit the Monks and Nuns of New Skete as we continue to minister to those in need.

Please know we keep you in our thoughts and daily prayers. We pray that God may bless you abundantly for your generosity of prayers, kindness, and friendship!

In Christ's love,

Brother Christopher
Prior, Monks of New Skete

Sister Cecelia
Prioress, Nuns of New Skete