

SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church Newsletter

Volume 14, Issue 11

November 2014

October Council Highlights

- ✘ September Operating Income was \$8,730.42 and Operating Expenses were \$11,717.50 resulting in a deficit of **\$2,987.08** for the month, and a year-to-date deficit of **\$7,666.74** (vs. **\$2,617.26** in 2013).
- ✘ Faith Formation classes will begin on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm; no class on November 26 due to Thanksgiving holiday.
- ✘ SVS Alumni Association will meet in Cultural Center on November 3rd.
- ✘ DOW Deanery workshop will take place on May 1-2, 2015 in our Cultural Center.
- ✘ Parish Satisfaction and Growth Survey has been distributed.



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Distressed by Fame

On November 2nd the Church remembers Saint Marcian the Hermit and Confessor of Cyrus (or Cyrrhus) in Syria. He lived in the fourth century.

As the child of a wealthy father who held several important government posts, Marcian lived the sumptuous life of the royal court from his earliest years. This gave him the benefit of an excellent education, but it also impressed on him the shallowness of court life. It seemed to Marcian that the more worldly possessions and successes people had, the unhappier they were. Why else would those in high positions constantly be seeking some novel pastime to fill their days? Why else would so many seem almost desperate in their quest for some kind of contentment?

Marcian didn't want a life full of ceremony and constant interaction with other people. What he did want was to be alone with God, and so he decided to "forget and be forgotten by" the world. Telling none of his friends, he left his old life behind and went to a secluded part of

the Syrian desert, near the border of Arabia. There he built a small, narrow cell to live in.

We often read of desert monks who fasted for days at a time. Marcian chose a different way. He ate just enough every day to be sure he would have strength to carry on his simple life of prayer, reading, singing psalms and making small items to trade for bread.

Marcian's strongest desire was always to live with only God for company, but his life changed after some years of solitude. His holiness had become known, and two disciples approached him and begged to join him. Marcian, giving up his own preference, humbly accepted them, though he continued to live alone in his cell. The two disciples, Eusebius and Agapetus, built a cell near his. They sang psalms with him, and gratefully listened to his answers to their spiritual questions. They said later that even when reading at night, Marcian never had to use a candle—there was a supernatural light

providing illumination of his cell, just as his prayerful communication with God illuminated his soul.

Growing numbers of men wanted to become Marcian's disciples. He was finally persuaded to let a monastery be built near his cell, and appointed Eusebius abbot. Monks could then come to speak with him. But when some Syrian bishops suggested he be ordained a priest, he was so distressed, protesting his unworthiness, that they abandoned the idea.

As Marcian's life neared its end, his distress increased. His reputation for miracle-working holiness had encouraged some people to build chapels near his cell, hoping to be given his body to bury in them when he died. Fearing such "fame," he ordered his disciples to bury him secretly in a remote place.

Marcian didn't see fame as a measure of success. He was so close to Christ that he could say, in words we read on this day, that "it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me" (Galatians 2: 20a).



Message from Our Rector

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For me, the fall is really the best, most pleasant and enjoyable time of the year here in the Valley of the Sun. The mornings and evenings are pleasantly cool and the days are generally not too warm. In addition to the fine weather, this time of the year also signals the imminent approach of the holiday season—from the



Nativity Fast (which starts on November 15), Thanksgiving Day later this month (November 27), the Feast of the Nativity (December 25), the Civil New Year (January 1), to our annual celebration of the Great Feast of the Theophany (January 6). Before we know it, the evening and morning will grow cold, the days will be shorter, and our appreciation for the warmth of our homes will grow stronger.

In addition to the coming weeks signaling a time of preparation for the holidays, for me, personally, this year brings with it an even more heightened sense of preparation. As you are aware, I was recently elected by the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America as the auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of the West, with the title "Bishop of Santa Rosa." My consecration to the episcopacy has been sched-

uled to take place at Holy Trinity Cathedral in San Francisco, California, the weekend of January 23-25, 2015. However, in the weeks leading up to this awesome and life-changing moment, I must also add additional preparation to my calendar. There is much to prepare, much to do, many details to be seen to. But the most important preparation for me to undertake is the personal spiritual preparation that is necessary. Prayer, reflection, and

study will be an important part of my spiritual preparation.

In the eight-plus years that I have served the parish community of Saints Peter and Paul, I have always depended on your prayerful support. And I do so now more than ever. And so, I ask you to share in this imminent preparation through your prayers and, in the coming weeks, by entering into the full spirit of the Nativity Fast. As we journey toward the celebration of the Nativity of Christ- and as I prepare for my Consecration and for episcopal service in the Church- let us hold one another in prayer, asking the Lord that we may be granted to fully embrace, understand, and share the meaning of His coming into the world as the Prince of Peace and Savior of our Souls.

Be assured that I will provide regular updates on the events surrounding the consecration in the days and weeks to come.

With love in the Lord,

Father Daniel

SS Peter & Paul Parish Nativity Card

I would like to be included in the SS Peter and Paul Parish Nativity card.

Name(s) to appear on card: _____

Mailing Address

Suggested Minimum Donation: \$10.00

Amount of Donation: \$100 \$50 \$25 \$10 Other _____

Deadline: December 7, 2014

Return completed form to Stephanie Homyak.



The Sad Duties of a Prophet

On November 12th the Church honors the prophet Ahijah, who lived in the time of Solomon and the kings who followed him.

Solomon, of course, is one of most important kings of the Old Testament. He pleased God by asking for wisdom rather than moreworldly gifts, and was given that gift as well as others. He was a poet, writer, and an architect skilled enough to oversee construction of the Temple in Jerusalem. An able diplomat, he secured peace with neighboring nations, and then was able to increase Israel's trade and wealth.

But Chapter 11 of 1st Kings/3rd Kingdom records God's displeasure with Solomon's squandering of his gifts. We read in 11:1 that he took as lovers "Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian and Hittite women" even though God had told the Israelites, 'You shall not enter

into marriage with them...for they will surely incline your heart to follow their gods.' "

Ahijah is the prophet to whom God gives the task of telling Jeroboam that God has chosen him to succeed Solomon. Ahijah, wearing a new garment, meets Jeroboam on the road. As a sign of what the future will bring, the prophet tears his garment into twelve pieces, and tells Jeroboam that God intends to "tear the kingdom from the hand of Solomon" and give Jeroboam ten tribes.

Undoubtedly Ahijah has great hopes for Jeroboam's rule. After all, God has chosen him and saved him from Solomon's murderous wrath, and has allowed him to be named "king over all Israel" (12: 20).

But Jeroboam fears that his subjects might want to return to Jerusalem, which is not under his control, to worship in the Temple. So he has two golden calves made, and tells his people, "You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up out of the land of Egypt" (12: 28b). He offers sacrifices on the altars of the calves he's made.

Not only are Ahijah's hopes dashed, but his next encounter with King Jeroboam, or rather the king's wife, is heartbreaking. Jeroboam's son is taken ill, and the king tells his wife to go to Ahijah to ask what will happen to the child. Knowing how he has disappointed the prophet, Jeroboam tells her to meet Ahijah in disguise so he won't know her. But God reveals her coming to Ahijah, and instructs him to tell

her that evil will come upon Jeroboam's house because he has misused the gifts God gave him. She returns home with this terrible news, and as she reaches her threshold, the boy dies.

Paul writes in I Thessalonians, read on this day, "...we had courage in our God to declare to you the Gospel of God in spite of great opposition" (2: 1b).

Ahijah needed that same courage to deliver his unwelcome message to a disappointing king. Jeroboam used his free will to turn decisively from God, and Ahijah had to be the one to tell him what the consequences of his terrible folly would be.

This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America. This and many other Christian Education resources are avail-

Map 25
The division of the Kingdom



From the Fathers . . .

"Firmly believe that the Lord is at all times everything to you. During prayer He is the power and the fulfillment in the Holy Spirit of each of your words. During pious conversation He is your living water, the ardent flow of your words at all times? He is everything to you. Be free from care in the presence of your Lord. He has enclosed you with Himself upon all sides. He penetrates you wholly and knows all your thoughts, all your needs and inclinations, and if you live in Him with faith and love, then no evil shall befall you. 'The Lord is at hand; be careful for nothing' (Phil. 4:6)."

St. John of Kronstadt
(My Life in Christ; Holy Trinity Monastery,
pg. 193)

2014 Diocesan Assembly in Pictures



A buffet of appetizers and pastries awaits guests (above). Archbishop Benjamin and Metropolitan Tikhon arrive at



Elena welcomes delegates to the first session (above). Fr. Ian MacKinnon addresses the assembly (below).



Archbishop Benjamin addresses the assembly (below) and catches up with Andy (right).



Vespers begins with Archbishop Benjamin (l) and Metropolitan Tikhon (r) (below).



Diocesan Assembly in Pictures



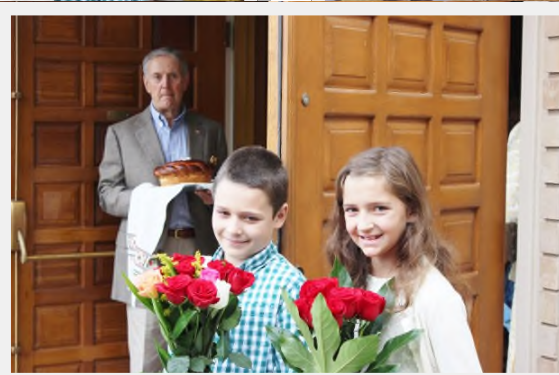
The kitchen was abuzz with activity preparing dinner for all the attendees (above). Katie and Alex are all smiles as they help to serve our guests (right)



Archbishop Benjamin, clergy, and lay delegates enjoy the mild Arizona weather before heading over to dinner (above).



Zach and Natalya greet Metropolitan Tikhon with flowers (above, right). Tristan hold a candle during Liturgy (below)



Divine Liturgy begins with the vesting of Metropolitan Tikhon (above). Archbishop Benjamin during the Great Entrance (below)



Two Outstanding Saints of Constantinople

On November 13th and 14th, the Church celebrates two saints who lived and worked in the city of Constantinople. The first is John Chrysostom, and the second is the Emperor Justinian.

Saint John Chrysostom did so many important things that he is one of the best-known people who ever lived in the great city. One action that stands out is his speaking against moral laxness. He insisted that priests and bishops, especially, hold themselves to a high standard of moral behavior, and urged them to serve as examples both to believers and to those outside the Church.

We might assume that his stance would be welcomed and supported by all the clergy. But there were those among them who had become accustomed to a life that didn't demand much of them in terms of moral living or hard work, and they deeply resented Chrysostom. He endured real hatred from those who had no desire to live up to the standards he



set, and they watched with jealousy as he became a famous preacher and, more importantly, a spiritual shepherd loved and trusted by the people. He suffered from their envy, and it finally led to his exile and death. But he never abandoned his struggle to live as a true follower of Christ.

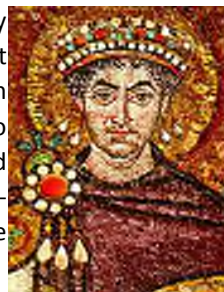
Justinian was born in 482, about 75 years after Chrysostom's death. His unusually long reign, from 527 to 565, was as full of notable events as Chrysostom's life had been. He planned aggressive military campaigns to regain territory that had been lost, especially in North Africa and Italy. His effort was so successful that by the time he died in 565, the Empire extended further than it ever would under the rulers who followed him.

Justinian wrote hymns, created a code of laws (the "Justinian Codex") to bring order to the life of the Empire, and lived as a serious Christian. He kept the fasts and observed the feasts, urging others to do the same, whether they were members of

his court or simple citizens.

The rebuilding of the cathedral of Hagia Sophia was one of the great achievements of Justinian's reign. He undertook a massive program of construction throughout Constantinople, which was described in a treatise written by the court historian. The cathedral, being the central place of Christian worship in the Empire, was the most notable part of his effort.

Hagia Sophia is known for its design and grand scale, as well as its soaring dome. At least two of the architects Justinian selected had been trained in physics and mathematics, and they were able to create a structure that has impressed thousands of visitors since their work was completed in 537.



Though it is no longer a place of worship for Christians, Hagia Sophia is still a reminder of the shining days of Constantinople. The two saints commemorated in mid-November, John and Justinian, did much to make the city a place

Around SS Peter & Paul

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

November 13 Marty and Joe Gala
Andrew J Evans
16 Father Daniel
17 Susan Bieber
19 Nancy Tarasevich
20 Sylvia & Alan Burns
24 Nick Kossob
27 Will Osolinsky

**Many Years!
Mnogaya Leta!**

AIR CONDITIONER UPDATE

Good news! The new replacement air conditioner has been paid off and it looks like the older unit will survive until next summer. Thank you for your generous support.

FROM THE CHURCH TREASURER

The last two months of the year are now upon us. Now is your chance to make sure your 2014 church pledges/donations/contributions are in and accounted for in this year. Please consider the church in your year-end financial planning, especially for tax purposes. We are almost \$10,000 in the red (operating budget). Year-to-date donation statements will be available later this month. Please turn in your donations for 2014 *prior* to December 31st. Money received after then will be attributed to 2015.

PRAYER LIST

***"I was sick and you visited me."
Matt 25:36***

We offer prayers to all of our parishioners who are ill or unable to attend services:

Cassandra Wentz
Protodeacon Alexis
Ann Garza
Rose Koval

If you know of anyone else in need of our prayers, please contact Father Daniel.

Bits and Pieces

THANK YOU!

To everyone who worked so hard, gave of their time, talents and treasure, and lovingly welcomed the delegates to the 2014 Diocesan Assembly of the Diocese of the West. The many expressions of hospitality our parish offered were deeply appreciated by all who attended. May the Lord continue to bless all of you! Photos of the assembly are available for viewing on the diocesan website (dowoca.org) and on our own parish website (sspeterpaulaz.org).

ARCHIMANDRITE DANIEL'S CONSECRATION TO THE EPISCOPATE

As has been announced, Father Daniel's consecration to the episcopate will take place in January at Holy Trinity Cathedral, San Francisco. The Formal Election and Acceptance will be held the evening of Friday, January 23, 2015. The Profession of Faith and Consecration will be held the following morning, Saturday, January 24. Additionally, the Hierarchical Liturgy will be celebrated on Sunday, January 25, at Saint Seraphim Church, Santa Rosa, CA. Detailed information concerning this event will be made available as soon as it becomes available.

FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS

November 21 is the Great Feast of the Theotokos in the Temple. Vespers will be served on Thursday, November 20, at 6:00 p.m. The Divine Liturgy of the Feast will be celebrated on Friday, November 21, at 9:00 a.m.

ONGOING FAITH FORMATION – ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Faith Formation classes for adults will resume on Wednesday, November 5. These classes will be held every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. (with the exception of November 26), and will conclude on Wednesday, December 17. This series of classes will focus on a study of the Gospel According to Saint Matthew and will include the discussion of Orthodox spiritual and liturgical life. If you have any questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to speak with Father Daniel.

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Each year, as a nation, we pause on the third Thursday in November to observe the Thanksgiving Day holiday. Far from being simply the beginning of the Christmas shopping season, Thanksgiving Day reminds us that everything we have is a gift from God. As we hear at each Divine Liturgy, in the Prayer before the Amvon: *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights...* (James 1:17). The perfect way for us to give thanks to God at this time of the year is to reach out to those in need. As throughout the rest of the year, all canned and dry goods which are brought to our church are shared with those in need—all of whom, regardless of where they live, are our neighbors.

NATIVITY FAST

On November 15 each year, we enter into the period of preparation for the celebration of Christ's Nativity which we call the *Nativity Fast*. The Nativity Fast enables us to focus on the true meaning of the feast we celebrate and the holiday customs we observe. Check your church calendars in order to see what is and what isn't allowed as part of this special fast. Take the fast seriously. Enter into with sincerity. Embrace the challenge. The spiritual fruits arising from keeping the fast will enrich your celebration of the Lord's Nativity.

SHARING THE LOAD

Week after week, month after month, year after year, very dedicated parishioners have seen to the upkeep and maintenance of our parish property and facilities. While no one has complained about the amount of time they have put in to keep things running, it's time to begin to share the load. A list of specific tasks, chores, jobs, and assignments has been prepared and will be made available in the parish hall for everyone to review—but not just to review! Take a look and see the broad scope of the various tasks, consider your own talents, and sign up to help. We all share in the work of our parish... our commitment and responsibility to care for the



blessings we have received in this parish is common to all of us. Also—as the saying goes: “Many hands make light work.”

IOCC HEALTH KITS

Basic items like a bar of soap, wash cloth, comb, and band aids may seem small, but putting them all together in a Hygiene Kit can make an instant difference in an ongoing development program or when disaster strikes.

SS Peter and Paul Church School students will be organizing a drive to provide Health Kits to the IOCC to be used throughout the world. We ask your support with the worthwhile project.

Each kit contains:

- ✕ One gallon plastic zip lock bag
- ✕ One hand towel
- ✕ One washcloth
- ✕ One comb
- ✕ One metal nail file or nail clipper
- ✕ One bar of soap (bath size, new and wrapped in original packaging)
- ✕ One toothbrush
- ✕ Six Band-Aids

We will also accept monetary donations to cover the shipping costs. For further information, please contact Stephanie Homyak at 602.432.7473.

WELCOME

We welcome all visitors to SS Peter & Paul. We hope your visit was enriching and enlightening. Please join us in the Cultural Center, behind the church, for our Fellowship Hour. It's a chance to meet some of our members, other visitors, enjoy some coffee and fellowship, and check out our parish bookstore.



BOOKSTORE

2015 Pocket Calendars are back! The order has been placed and we will have them back in stock shortly. There's a limited supply so don't tarry!

The bookstore also has Nativity Cards in stock. Get a head start on the rapidly approaching holiday season and get yours today.

November 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>IOCC Emergency Health Kits Church School students are collecting items to prepare emergency health kits for the IOCC. A box has been set up in the hall for your donations. See page 7 for details.</p>						1 5:00pm Great Vespers
2 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy Church School Choir Rehearsal	<p>Parish Christmas Card To have your name included in the Parish Christmas Card, please complete the forms on page 2. Extra forms will be available in the narthex or Bookstore counter. Deadline is December 7, 2014</p>					8 Synaxis of Archangel Michael and the Others NUT ROLL BAKE 5:00pm Great Vespers
9 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy Church School MBAS Meeting	10 	11 6:00pm Council Meeting	12 7:00pm Faith Formation 	13 St John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople	14 Holy Apostle Philip	15 BEGINNING OF NATIVITY FAST NUT ROLL BAKE 5:00pm Great Vespers
16 Holy Apostle & Evangelist Matthew 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy Church School	17	18	19 7:00pm Faith Formation 	20 Forefeast of the Entry 6:00pm Vespers	21 Entrance of the Theotokos 9:00am Divine Liturgy	22 5:00pm Great Vespers
23 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy Church School Choir Rehearsal	24 		25 Leavetaking of Entry Faith Formation Classes Wednesdays at 7:00 pm		26 27 Znameniye Icons: Kursk-Root & Others THANKSGIVING 	28 29 5:00pm Great Vespers
30 St. Andrew 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy	1	2	3 7:00pm Faith Formation 	4 5 Choir If you are interesting in joining the choir, see please Barbara Harp.		6 St. Nicholas the Wonderworker 5:00pm Great Vespers