

# SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Volume 11, Issue 10

October 2011

## September Council Highlights

- ✘ July's Operating Income was \$14,675.95 and Operating Expenses \$11,784.68, resulting in a positive Operating Fund balance of \$2,891.27 for the month.
- ✘ Operating Income for August was \$10,134.22 and Operating Expenses \$12,305.90 resulting in a deficit of **\$2,171.68.**
- ✘ A draft copy of the "Request for Bid" letter and specifications will be sent to Loren Dickinson, Architect, for review and approval.
- ✘ Atherton Engineering, Inc.'s proposal to handle future construction questions/issues was received and discussed. More info needed.



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# The Bible and the Liturgy (Part I)

One of the readings for October 5th offers us a chance to see how closely the prayers of the Divine Liturgy are based on the words of Scripture.

The reading is Ephesians 3: 8-21. Like the rest of the letter to the Ephesians, these verses emphasize God's eternal plan to offer salvation and eternal life to every person. The Lord wants not only His chosen people, Israel, to find their way to the Kingdom, but the Gentiles as well. In fact, Paul begins the third chapter of the letter by referring to himself as "Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles."

In 3:8, the first verse of this day's reading, Paul describes himself as "the very least of all the saints." The same recognition of personal unworthiness is reflected in the words of the Divine Liturgy. As the priest partakes of the bread and then the cup of Holy Communion, he says that the Most Holy Body and the Most Holy Blood of Jesus Christ are "given to me, the unworthy priest ....." and

then inserts his own name.

The Communion Prayer said by the congregation expresses a similar idea. Each person who is to receive the Eucharist confesses belief in Christ as the Son of the living God, who came into the world to save sinners, "of whom I am first" or "of whom I am chief."

Some people wonder a little about these words. Do we really have to say that we are worse than everybody else? Surely there are people who have sinned more seriously than we have.

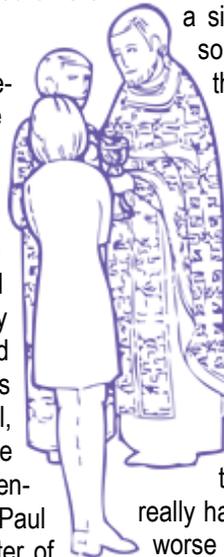
But Paul's next words show us the true significance of these self-accusations. He writes that though he is the least of all the saints, "to me this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all men see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things." In other words, not only does God have a wonderful plan for us, but Paul has been given the grace

to know the plan and to reveal it to others. The privilege of being given this grace is so overwhelming that Paul can only feel awe at its immensity and his unworthiness.

In the prayers of the priest and the congregation receiving the Eucharist, the sense of privilege is the same. The priest and people are about to enter into the Mysteries of God Himself. They are about to be given the precious Body and precious Blood that are foretastes of life everlasting, of heaven itself. For them, as for Sant Paul, the only possible response is awe at the immensity of such a gift. That is why each person saying the Communion Prayer asks God to "make me worthy" to receive such a gift--no human being is capable of earning it.

Each one of us is the first among sinners, but God offers Himself to us anyway. Saint Paul shares our wonder at such generosity and grace.

*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 available at [http://](http://www.oca.org)*



## Message from Our Rector

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ,

Someone recently asked me if I send Christmas cards and if I had yet ordered or purchased them. Although the question was asked with really no other purpose than to make “small talk,” I thought it seemed odd that one would be talking of sending Christmas cards before the beginning of the month of October. Such a question, coupled with the fact that Christmas decorations are already making their way to store shelves, causes me to pause and reflect upon the fact that we always seem to be in such a hurry. In a hurry for the cooler weather to arrive. In a hurry to get through the week and into the weekend.

In a hurry to complete this or that task. In a hurry for the holidays. And maybe even in a hurry to have the holidays done and over so that we can get back to our normal, hurried lives.

Approaching life with such a hurried and hurried approach can cause us to miss out on the present, to fail to recognize the beauty of the



present moment, and all the “here and now” moments of life. And that is unfortunate, because we have no real control over what tomorrow will bring and, as Scripture tells us, everything has its own appointed time. “There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for

every affair under the heavens...” (Ecclesiastes 3:1). The Lord Jesus Himself reminds us of the futility of worrying—and hurrying—when he speaks of the lilies of the field in the Gospel of Saint Luke: “Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the

oven, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith? And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. **But seek the kingdom of God and all these things will be added to you”** (Luke 12:27-31).

Therefore, instead of worrying about the future, about Christmas cards or holiday preparations or when the weather will be more pleasant, we should live the present moment—for each moment we live is a moment of grace, every moment is a moment in which can draw closer to the Lord and allow Him to enter more fully into our hearts and lives. And if we live each moment with our hearts centered in the Lord, there is nothing for which we really need worry—for the most important task is thus completed, the task of being prepared for that moment—whenever it shall be and however it shall arrive—that the Lord will come and call us into the fullness of His kingdom. So, even though we all have preoccupations about tomorrow and what it might bring, let us live this moment, here and now, seeking the kingdom of God with the confidence that the Lord will give us His grace in the present moment and grant us the wisdom to seek Him above all other things.

With love in the Lord,

*Father David*

## Youth Pool Party

On Sunday, September 18, 2011, the children of SS Peter and Paul gathered to celebrate the start of the Church School year with the annual pool party. Nick Enoch and his wife, Amy, graciously hosted the party at their community pool and park. There was plenty of good food, fun, and fellowship to go around as the church youth and their family gathered to celebrate the start of the Church School year. Our thanks to the Enoch family for hosting the celebration!



Natalya jumps into the refreshing water on a hot afternoon.



George helps Zach navigate the deeper waters of the pool



Juliana relaxes in the shade.



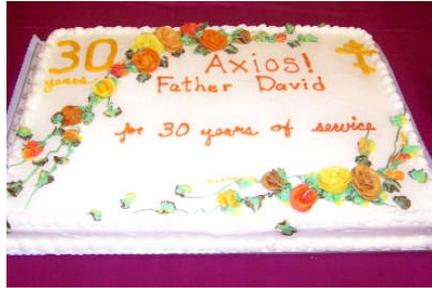
Katrina and Lisa enjoy a relaxing conversation as the kids play in the pool.



The kids enjoyed the afternoon of good food, friendship, and the cooling water of the pool.

# Celebrating 30 Years in the Priesthood

On Sunday, September 25, 2011, parishioners at SS Peter and Paul gathered to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Father David's ordination to the Holy Priesthood. The surprise celebration, organized by Jane Evans, Rita Mudrenko, Marty Gala, and Barbara Harp, was a smashing suc-



*Axios! Lisa Formica created this pastry delight to celebrate Father David's 30th anniversary.*

cess. The surprise on Father David's face as he entered the Cultural Center was genuine. Mission accomplished!



*Always the attorney: John offers some introductory remarks.*

The Myrrhbearers Altar Society donated the chicken and ham, and parishioners brought in the side dishes and desserts for the sumptuous feast. The beautiful cake showcased Lisa Formica's cake decorating expertise. Father Alexis intoned



*Father David shows off his new clock.*



*Can't keep these two friends apart for long: Mat. Elizabeth Kachur and Olga Bahleda.*



*A time to make catch up with old friends and make new friends.*



*John Hecht and Hadya are all smiles.*

Father David., and glasses were raised to honor Father David. Father David was presented with a gift from the parish: an exquisite pendulum clock. After everyone had a chance to enjoy the feast, Barbara Harp shared some memories from Father David's



*Frank offers some advice on the medical profession to a future Osteopathic doctor.*

mother. The main theme throughout was Father David's fascination with Russia and Orthodoxy from a very early age. The comments brought smiles and laughs. Father David was given some time for rebuttal: his memories were sometimes a bit different from his mother's. I'm guessing the truth lies somewhere in between, as is typically the case.

Judging by the smiles, the laughter, the flowing conversation and wine, the celebration

was a success. Thank you to all who helped make it a success: from the organizers, everyone who helped to prepare the meal, those



*Father David sits down to enjoy the sumptuous feast and fellowship.*

who contributed towards Father's gift, and those who helped to set-up and clean-up. We



*Barbara Harp shares some memories from Father David's mother.*



*What, no football game? The Osolinsky's join in on the celebration.*

hope this small gesture shows Father David how grateful we all are that he made the decision to enter the Holy Priesthood 30 years ago and, ultimately, embrace the Orthodox faith. ✕



*Father David takes a moment to share his version of memories from the past.*

# Comprehending the Gospel

***"Wisdom! Attend! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel! Peace be with you all!" (Divine Liturgy, preamble to reading of the Gospel)***

Wisdom is the requirement not just to *listen to the gospel*, the normal translation, nor to read it ourselves at home or in the English translation provided in those churches praying in other languages, but to grasp the inner meaning. The inner sense comes from wisdom [*Sophia. Premudrost.*] *Sophia* means the deep things of God which we understand not just by reason but by preparing our souls to comprehend a "hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory." And how do you gain that great wisdom? By returning to the purity and innocence of childhood. By cutting through the drivel, the superficial veneer that has built up over the years of listening to banality, vulgarity, stupidity and nonsense that infects our hearing and pollutes our minds so that we not only do not hear any longer those truths about life and meaning and purpose and direction, we have long forgotten that such realities exist. The sounds of the world have clogged up the arteries of the mind. The banalities, trivia and truisms have infected us so that we not longer hear as we had when we were children. So each time the gospel is read, we are warned that what is coming is not what you learn from TV or read in a magazine. This is profound wisdom. But even with this warning and invitation, it's so difficult to change the way we tune into the world.

What is needed is a blessing. **"Peace be with you all."** The voice is my own as the celebrant at the Divine Liturgy for the Lord Jesus Christ, and I have no peace of my own to give you. I'm just like you – maybe even a bit worse – yet I have the honor and duty to appear as the representative of Jesus who is here among us but cannot be here physically; He sent me to appear on His behalf. With the mystery of wisdom, then you can imagine through me Christ is really here with us. With my hand He is blessing all of you the way He did the apostles in the Upper Room on Resurrection day.

Once again, all this is hidden, possibly just nonsense, to those Christ called the "wise and prudent." [Or *learned*]. Who are they? God forbid they are you. They are those who live in an *adults only* world. They know everything, but they know nothing about the ways of the Lord.

They are street smart. Shrewd and clever, they don't believe in anything or anyone, and they call it wisdom. They live by axioms like:

- a) All men are hypocrites no matter what they tell you;
- b) They all have a price and can be bought and controlled – it's just a matter of money;
- c) Don't trust anyone.

Yet Jesus said that *"Many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see and have not seen it, and hear what you hear and have not heard it"* (Luke 10:24)

What did they want to hear?

A. That the Almighty Creator of heaven and earth is still concerned for the universe;

B. He is not to be feared, except if you are a sinner and don't know Him;

C. To His children, He is a Father;

D. To His special Son, He is a special Father;

E. He invites and welcomes all who wish to be adopted children through bonding with Christ; Note: You don't adopt adults, of course; you only adopt children. Therefore, to be a son or daughter of the heavenly Father, you must return to childhood, and to do so you will become what the world calls foolish.

F. For *"The Father so loved the world that He sent His Son into the world so that all who would like to become united with the Father are encouraged to do so through the Son by the Holy Spirit."* (John 3:16)

## About the Author

The Very Rev. Vladimir Berzonsky has served as rector of Holy Trinity, Parma, OH, since the early 1960s. A well known lecturer and author, he has also represented the Orthodox Church in America at numerous ecumenical gatherings around the world and has held a number of positions in the Church on the national and diocesan level. He is also a member of the diocesan council of the Diocese of the Midwest. For three decades, he has written a popular column on Orthodox life and spirituality in "The Orthodox Church" newspaper.

Reprinted from the Orthodox Church in America web site, *Reflections in Christ*, September 03, 2011, <http://oca.org/reflections/berzonsky/comprehending-the-gospel>✠

## From the Fathers . . .

*"Remember that the Lord is in every Christian. When your neighbour comes to you, always have great respect for him, because the Lord is in him, and often expresses His will through him. 'It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure' (Phil. 2:13).*

*Therefore, do not grudge anything to your brother, but do unto him as unto the Lord; especially as you do not know in whom the Lord will come and visit you; be impartial to all, be kind to all, sincere and hospitable. Remember that sometimes God speaks even through unbelievers, or disposes their hearts towards us, as it happened in Egypt when the Lord gave Joseph favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. (Gen. 39:21)."*

St. John of Kronstadt



*"Ever let mercy outweigh all else in you. Let our compassion be a mirror where we may see in ourselves that likeness and that true image which belong to the Divine nature and Divine essence. A heart hard and unmerciful will never be pure."*

St. Isaac of Syria, Directions on Spiritual Training



*"God is a fire that warms and kindles the heart and inward parts. And so, if we feel in our hearts coldness, which is from the devil, - for the devil is cold - then let us call upon the Lord, and He will come and warm our hearts with perfect love not only for Him, but for our neighbor as well. And from the presence of warmth the coldness of the hater of good will be driven away."*

St. Seraphim of Sarov



## More Youth News

Sunday, September 18, 2011 marked the official start of the Church School year. Father David marked the event with a prayer service for students and their teachers. Following the



The new school year starts with prayers.

service, Father David blessed them with holy water—dousing himself as well!

Throughout the summer, the youth have been busy working on their photovoice project: *God is With Us*, and participating in a variety of activities for team building and to review their knowledge of their faith.



Zach and Katie listen to Father David's comments.



Alex and George think about the upcoming pool party.



Team building: It was the boys against the girls to see . . .



Father David blesses the students for the start of the new school year.



. . . who could build the tallest spaghetti and marshmallow tower.

## Joy of All Who Sorrow

**October 24 is the day of commemoration of an icon given the name "Joy of All Who Sorrow." The center of the icon shows the Mother of God with her arms outstretched to the people who surround her. They are those who suffer with various illnesses, worries, and pain of the heart or the body. They reach toward her, asking her prayers and intercession.**

This is one of the icons in which the Theotokos is shown full length and standing, rather than holding her Son. He appears above her head, enthroned as the King of heaven and earth. In His left hand He holds the Book of the Gospels, and with His right He blesses the people—young, old, poor, rich—who are reaching out to His Mother. Flowers of Paradise, and angels on either side of the Theotokos, remind us that both the heavenly and



earthly realms are part of the scene.

Many stories of miracles and healings are associated with the icon. One of the best-known events took place in Saint Petersburg, Russia in 1888. Severe thunderstorms had struck the city and the surrounding area. A bolt of lightning struck the chapel in which the icon was housed. The bolt was so powerful that it set the interior walls on fire, burned most of the icons, and shattered the collection box. Only the icon of the Mother of God, the Joy of All Who Sorrow, was not ruined or even affected. An ear-shattering clap of thunder knocked the icon to the floor, and some copper coins which had been in the collection box became permanently fused to it. But the image on the icon was intact.

The news that this single icon had been spared the destruction of the chapel and its contents

spread through Saint Petersburg, and by evening crowds of people had gathered to venerate it. It was not long before people began coming from all over Russia, and as they prayed before it, many were healed of diseases and injuries.

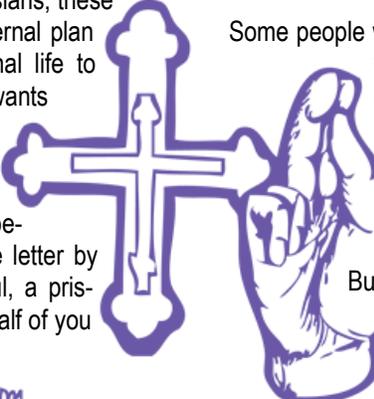
It is easy to "put ourselves into" this icon, in which the Theotokos inclines her head slightly to one side, so as to listen attentively to us as we ask her to pray for us. One of the hymns expresses our request to her in this way: "Enlighten our hearts with devout purpose and raise your prayer to your Son for the salvation of our souls." She is the Mother who sees us, listens to us, understands, has compassion, and willingly asks her Son Jesus Christ to have mercy.

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## The Bible and the Liturgy (Part II)

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In 3:8, the first verse of this  <sup>m</sup> day's reading, Paul describes himself as "the very least of all the saints." The same recognition of personal unworthiness is reflected in the words of the Divine Liturgy. As the priest partakes of the bread and then the cup of Holy Communion, he says that the Most Holy Body and the Most Holy Blood of Jesus Christ are "given to me, the unworthy priest ....." and then inserts his own name.

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grace is so overwhelming that Paul can only feel awe at its immensity and his unworthiness.

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## Around SS Peter & Paul

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

Walter and Vera Moschowsky  
October 2

Christi Sourk  
October 4

Rose Koval  
October 10

Alexander Gala  
October 13

Eugenia (Gina) Mudrenko  
October 15

Rosemarie Osolinsky  
October 17

Svetlana & Arthur Fleenor  
October 21

### MORE OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS/ ANNIVERSARIES

Harold Homyak  
October 23

Alex Homyak  
October 26

**Many Years!**  
**Mnogyaya Leta!**

### 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:

Mary Maul

Pauline Vinay

Ann Garza

Nancy Tarasevich

Bill and Rose Koval

Beatrice Washington

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

# Bits and Pieces

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS!

I would like to express my sincere thanks and deep gratitude to our entire parish community for honoring (and surprising!) me on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of my ordination to the Holy Priesthood. The wonderful meal, the shared memories, and the thoughtful gifts all added to the joy of the not-to-be-forgotten celebration. I was deeply touched by the many kind words and expressions of love and support that I received from all of you. This beautiful occasion invited me to recall the words written by the Prophet David in the Book of Psalms: "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1). May the unity we share in Christ, the oneness of mind and heart that the Lord desires for us, continue to grow in our parish community—all to the glory of God and for the salvation of our souls. Again, please accept my gratitude. With love, Father David

## MORE THANKS

We'd also like to thank Elizabeth Michel, Jane Evans, Rita Mudrenko, Barbara Harp, and Marty Gala for organizing Father David's thirtieth anniversary celebration. Thanks to everyone who pitched in to make this event a success: those who contributed food for the meal, those who donated towards Father David's gift, and those who helped to set-up, cook, and clean-up, and those who kept the surprise party a secret. When we work together, all things are possible.

## CONGRATULATIONS AND MANY YEARS!

Congratulations and Many Years to Father Andrew Barakas and the clergy and faithful of Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Scottsdale on the occasion of the consecration of their parish Temple. His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios and Metropolitan Gerasimos of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese will preside at the services of consecration on October 29-30. May the Lord reward all those who have labored to build this place of worship to the glory of the Holy Trinity and in honor of the Falling Asleep of the Most Holy Theotokos.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the newly-illuminated Servant of God LIDIA who was Baptized and Chrismated on October 24 and received the Holy Mysteries for the first time on October 25. May the Lord grant her, her parents, sponsors and family, many healthy, happy, and blessed years!

## ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Adult Education classes will resume on Wednesday, October 5, and continue through the fall, ending before the celebration of the Nativity. This year's fall series will begin with a discussion of the lives and teachings of the Fathers of the Church. The schedule for classes is as follows: October 5, 12, 19, 26; November 9, 16, and 30; December 7 & 14. All classes will begin at 7:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please speak with Fr David.

## CULTURAL CENTER LOCK-UP

A council member will be designated to ensure that the Cultural Center is locked up and secured each Sunday following coffee hour. A sign-up list will be available in the Cultural Center. Council members are responsible for finding a replacement if they are not available for their designated Sunday.

October 2	John Blischak
October 9	Harold Homyak
October 16	Mike Wagner
October 23	Katrina Delsante
October 30	

## BOOKSTORE

With the holidays rapidly approaching, now would be an excellent time to review your gift giving list. If there are items that you would like the bookstore to special order, such as icons or a book that we don't usually keep in stock, please do so soon. Once we get into November, order times (especially with icon stores) tend to get lengthy.

Also, if you are interested in Christmas cards, please let me know and I will make sure we have them in stock.

## 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, and enjoy some coffee and fellowship

## MYRRH BEARERS ALTAR SOCIETY

The Myrrh Bearers will meet on Sunday, October 9th following coffee hour. New members are always welcome. Please make every effort to attend.

## FLOWERS

Each Sunday, the Myrrh Bearers make sure that we have flowers for the Tetrapod and Altar to beautify the church. If you want to donate flowers for a particular month, please contact Elena Kerr.

## THE WAY: AN ORTHODOX EXPLANATION OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

"The Way," is a 12 week course which introduces and deepens for participants an Eastern Orthodox understanding of the essentials of Christian faith. Created and sanctioned under the authority of the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies in Cambridge, England, it has been taught all over the world and has proven to be highly successful because of its emphasis on small group discussion and a shared meal followed by an opportunity to ask questions of Fr. Andrew and other local Orthodox clergymen. Each session includes a light meal, a talk, group discussion, a question-and-answer session, and the opportunity for fellowship and community with other participants.

The classes are held every Tuesday through December 6, 2011 from 6:00pm—9:00pm at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Scottsdale, AZ. For further information, contact Deacon Drew at 480.991.3009.



## FALL READING

If you're looking for reading material as you sit and enjoy the cooler evenings, don't forget to visit our parish library. We have about 300 titles in various topics relating to the Orthodox Christian life.



## COFFEE HOUR

We have had good participation from our congregation in volunteering to host the coffee hour on Sundays. We are still looking for volunteers to host coffee hour. Whoever wants to help, please contact Tania Booriakin either in church or by phone (480.585.9560).

Unable to host Coffee Hour? Why not consider making a cash donation to cover supplies, donating staples for coffee hour, or help clean up! Let's all pitch in and help!



# October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	 <p><b>Adult Education</b> Classes resume on Wednesday, October 5th starting at 7:00pm <i>Lives and Teaching of the Fathers of the Church</i></p>					1 5:00pm Vespers
2 Icon "The Unburnt Bush" 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy Church School	3	4	5 7:00pm Adult Education 	6 St. Innocent, Metr. Of Moscow	7 Icon "Our Lady of Tenderness" at Pechersk	8 5:00pm Vespers
9 St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy Church School MBAS Meeting	10 Akathist Icon at Zographou	11 6:00pm Council Meeting	12 Jerusalem & Kaluga Icons 7:00pm Adult Education 	13 Sedmiyezemaia & Iveron Icons	14	15 5:00pm Vespers
16 Fathers of the 7 <sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy Church School	17 Icon 'Our Deliverance'	18 Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke	 <p><b>FOOD DRIVE</b> Please bring in your nonperishable food donations for St. Mary's Food Bank. Collection boxes are in the church Narthex and Cultural Center.</p>			22 Memorial Saturday Kazan Icon
23 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy Church School	24 "Joy of All Who Sorrow"	25	26 Greatmartyr and Myrrhusher Demetrius 7:00pm Adult Education 	27	28	29 NO VESPERS
30 Ozerianskaya Icon 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy Church School	31	1	2 Shuiskaya Hodigitria Icon 	 <p>Please see Tania Booriakin to sign-up to host coffee hour.</p>		
			<p>We welcome all of our guests and visitors. Please join us in the Cultural Center for Fellowship Hour following Divine Liturgy each Sunday.</p>			
			NO ADULT EDUCATION			NO VESPERS