

SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church Newsletter

Volume 21 Issue 11

November 2021

October Council Highlights

- ✘ September Operating Income was \$15,651.53 and Operating Expenses were \$15,481.85 resulting in a positive income of \$169.68 for the month.
- ✘ The Church Council approved an investment loan of \$300,000, previously held in the savings account, with the Orthodox Church Capital Improvement Fund (<https://occif.org>) with 3.25% interest. You may recall that OCCIF gave a presentation to the parish several years ago.



Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church
1614 E. Monte Vista Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85006
602.253.9515

www.sspeterpaulaz.org
www.oca.org
www.orthodoxfellowship.org

The Right Reverend DANIEL
Bishop of Santa Rosa
Rector

480.287.0240

frdaniel@sspeterpaulaz.org

Archpriest David Balmer, Attached
Retired

frdavidbalmer@sspeterpaulaz.org
480-213-7631

Deacon John Weiss

deaconjohn@sspeterpaulaz.org

Deacon Rodion Pfeiffer

deaconrodion@sspeterpaulaz.org

Andrew Evans

Council President

480.948.7929

Barbara Harp

Choir Director

barbaraharp.2030@gmail.com

Stephanie A. Homyak

Church School Director

Newsletter Editor

602.432.7473

stephanie_homyak@yahoo.com

Matushka Elizabeth Pfeiffer

Myrrhbearers Altar Society

flagstaffred@gmail.com

A Woman in the Crowd

Fr. Vladimir Berzonsky
“As Jesus was saying these things a woman in the crowd called out, ‘Blessed is the mother who gave You birth and nursed You.’ He replied, ‘Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it.’” (Luke 11:27)

The gospels feature our Lord, God and Savior Jesus the Messiah and focus on His message and actions. It took a while for the Church to appreciate what the woman in the crowd grasped in a moment of divine inspiration—what a mother He had to produce such a Son. We know there was much more to it, which the Church took just as long to recognize, identify and agree upon, then ratify as official doctrine. And yet this unknown woman’s blessing is lifted up in the gospels read on the feast days that honor the holy Theotokos: Blessed be her womb and breasts for birthing and suckling the Son of God.

Did she realize the profound mystery she was celebrating? Probably not. Most likely she was a mother herself. She would appreciate a child that fulfilled all a mother’s expectations from the moment she was aware of her pregnancy through the gestation period while a living creature was being developed with-

in her, a blend of her husband’s genes together with her own. A precious three parts of a year when dreams and fantasies abound: What will the child look like? Be like? Take after? Will the child be happy or morose, intelligent or slow, aggressive or passive? Then watching Jesus captivating a crowd of listeners, perhaps having healed one or a few, giving hope to their people that it might just be He was the long-awaited Messiah, come to turn things around and restore the fortunes to Israel, much like the golden age of King David. Maybe she was old and hard of hearing, barely able to make out what He was saying. But it didn’t matter; she knew that He was special. As such, He had been raised properly by a loving and wise mother.

We also bless, praise and honor the Mother of God for the same reasons, but we from our advantage place in time, equipped with the theology of the Orthodox Church along with our own meditations on those precious events in her life: Her early childhood raised in the temple, the Annunciation by the Archangel Gabriel, the incidents in Bethlehem and the flight to Egypt, return to Galilee and life in Nazareth, then the subsequent events following

the preaching above where the unknown woman was present—Palm Sunday, the crucifixion, resurrection and her life with the beloved apostle John.

The response of our Lord Jesus to the outburst from the woman, also in the form of a blessing, *“Blessed rather are they who hear the word of God and keep it,”* has been misunderstood by those who are not prone to honoring the Mother of God. They think it to be a put-down rather than the honor Jesus is bestowing on His mother. Yes, of course she is blessed for having given Him birth and nurturing Him; but the blessing from the heavenly Father was prepared from the beginning of the universe. Surely the Holy Trinity was aware even before the world came to be that human nature being what it is and freedom being integral to the free choice to be united with divinity, Mary’s role was paramount in mankind’s salvation. She heard the word of God from the voice of the Archangel, through the events listed above, and she kept it even to the time of her falling asleep. Indeed, she served as the Church’s historian—how else would we know about those events before, during and after Christ’s nativity?

Message from Our Rector

Beloved Brothers and Sisters,

As we begin to enjoy the cool air of the mornings and evenings and as we enter the month of November, we realize that the holidays are right around the corner and we will shortly begin our annual lenten preparation for the celebration of the Lord's Nativity. (The Nativity Fast begins on Monday, November 15.) On Sunday, November 14, just prior to the beginning of the Fast, we will also celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of our parish community. Yet another significant milestone; yet another opportunity to pause, reflect upon our history, and to give thanks to the Lord for His many blessings and mercies.

As we look ahead to the Nativity Fast, we will see that our scriptural focus will begin to turn to the ancient prophecies concerning the promised Messiah as well as to the first two chapters of the Gospels of Saint Matthew and Saint Luke. It is within these Gospels that we find the story of the Lord's entrance into our world in the mystery of His Incarnation. We are well aware of the story the first two chapters of these gospels tell: our hymns, carols, iconography, our Christmas traditions, and even our seasonal decorations highlight the very same story. I encourage you to use these Gospel narratives (the Infancy Gospels) as the basis for your prayer and study throughout the weeks to come.

In the second chapter of the Gospel of Saint Matthew, we read the account of the Wisemen who came from the east, *"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and have come to worship him.'"* These wise men – kings,

astrologers, astronomers, magi—had left the comfort and routine of their daily lives to follow a star that would take them on an adventure and eventually lead them to the newborn King of the Jews and Savior of the World.



Throughout the centuries, men and women have studied the stars, their placement in the skies and their movement, seeking in them something greater, something different, looking, at times, for some source of life's meaning.

Even today, scientists look to the skies seeking answers to scientific questions and theories and hobbyists and amateur "star gazers" embrace astronomy as a valued pastime and relaxing diversion. If you have ever tried to use a telescope in a metropolitan area the size of Phoenix, you are well aware of what is known as "light pollution," i.e. artificial light that is produced by street lights, buildings, cars, etc. Light pollution brightens the sky so much that it also dims the brilliance of the stars and makes it more difficult to see and appreciate their intensity, sometime even to locate them. It is only with a high-powered telescope or by traveling out into the desert or to some remote, unpopulated area that the stars can be seen in the intensity of their great numbers.

And so it is in our spiritual lives. We look beyond ourselves seeking the Light of Christ that "illuminates all." However, even in our seeking, we permit our spiritual vision to be dimmed by our own egos, self-will, lusts and passions, pettiness, and any number of "things" that are not beneficial or helpful to us. Only by going "into the desert" where such tendencies and things can be left behind that we can see the Light that will never dim. Only by ridding our lives of the false and artificial lights that distract us can our vision be clearer and more focused. It's my prayer that all

of us will use the Nativity Fast as a way to leave behind the "artificial light" that distracts us from the true Light of Christ.

In these difficult and seemingly dark days, as we continue to face challenges and difficulties in our personal, communal, and societal lives, as we strive to live lives of peace and harmony with all our brothers and sisters, and as we seek meaning in our daily lives and experiences, let us all keep our sights on the heavens, looking to Christ, whose Light illumines all. As we reflect upon the Star that led to the Newborn King and imitate the Wise Men on their journey, let us acknowledge that our only true goal is life lived in the Light of Christ—now and in the life of the world to come.

As we enter the holiday season, as we soon begin to prepare to celebrate the birth in the flesh of the Son of God, be assured of my prayerful best wishes for you, your families and friends, and all your dear ones. Let us pray for one another, for our parish, for this nation, and for all who desire to walk in the light of Christ's Truth.

With love in Christ our Savior,

+ *Bishop Daniel*

HOLY SUPPER

Mark your calendars now! We will be returning to our practice of celebrating the Holy Supper on Christmas Eve, following the Service of Great Compline. This annual pot luck (fasting foods) is a beautiful way to celebrate the Feast with family, friends, and fellow parishioners. More to come about the details.



A Little Bit of History, 70 years in the Making

Nicholas Bock Teresa and I arrived in Phoenix in August of 2015, and began attending SS Peter and Paul Church. We have observed much growth in our parish during this time. Many families have joined our faithful community since our arrival, so many that I would guess about a third of the regular attendees have joined in the last 5 years. Upon our arrival, I knew little to nothing of this faithful community. What I have learned about SS Peter & Paul would probably fill a thimble... though I am always willing to learn more.

During the Divine Liturgy, we pray for the "Founders and Benefactors of our Holy Temple." This prayer emphasizes that we remember those that came before us and the blessings that remain, from them, for us. I am curious about the folks who came before me/us and built this temple and community in 1951 in Phoenix, AZ. I am curious about those who have sustained this parish and about the works that have been done by our spiritual brethren.

The first church services were held around January 1949, by Reverend Nicholas Hubiak. Services were in temporary quarters at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, which was located, at that time, at 16th Street and Fillmore Street. In time, the faithful in Phoenix were blessed and the seed began to grow.

In 1951, Archimandrite Peter (Zaychenko) received the blessing of Metropolitan Theofilus to open a parish in Phoenix, Arizona, which became Saints Peter and Paul Eastern Orthodox Greek Catholic Church, a member of the Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church of America, at that time known as the Metropolia. Fr. Peter had retired from Chicago, Illinois and purchased his retirement house at 1614 E. Monte Vista Road, where services began to be held. Membership included 12 fam-

ilies, all of whom came to Phoenix from other states.

In 1954, the parish filed for incorporation with the state of Arizona. On November 12, 1955, Archimandrite Peter fell asleep in the Lord. He willed the property, at 1614 Monte Vista, to the parish. After the passing of Fr. Peter, Archbishop John of San Francisco appointed the following priests to SS Peter and Paul:

Abbot Mark (Schavikin)	11/1955 - 11/1958
Rev. Ilia Baran	11/1958 - 10/1960
Abbot Dimitri (Egoroff)	10/1960 - 12/1960
Rev. Dimitri Polischuck	12/1960 - 04/1962
V. Rev. John Karateew	04/1962 - 07/1972

In 1956, the parish built an addition to the original house, while increasing its capacity to about 80 members. In 1961, the parish purchased adjoining property to the east. With the blessing of Father John Karateew, a building committee was formed in November 1963. Officers included Harold Homyak, Peter Novak and John Supper. Fundraising lasted for 4 years and was assisted by the Myrrh Bearers Altar Society with Mary Homyak as president.

During the building of the current church, Harold Homyak was the Council President (1963). The Council was tackling the task of building a new parish after acquiring the lot to the east of the current property (1961). The design of the church was obtained when Harold and Mary Homyak were traveling in Canada. In their travels, they saw a church and stopped in. Harold and Mary introduced themselves, inquired about the design of the church, explained the plans for the parish in Phoenix, and were given the grand tour. After their visit, the church's president and board agreed to give Harold a complete copy set of the actual architectural build drawing(s). Upon Harold's return to Phoenix, he advised the Council of his

acquisition. In time, a church parish meeting took place where the parish approved the design. Upon passage, a local architect was engaged to refine the drawings to meet Phoenix's building codes of that time. This was what one might call a Godsend. This saved the parish a lot of funds, since an architect did not have to start from scratch. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

In March 1967, with the blessing of Archbishop John, the parish received its building permit, and the corner stone was consecrated. General contracting responsibilities for the project was handled by the building committee, which then included Harold Homyak, Alex Belous, Joseph Kurovski, John Vaczek and Steve Warianka.

On May 12, 1968, a beautiful new Byzantine-styled Russian Eastern Orthodox Church was dedicated by the Most Reverend Archbishop John of San Francisco and the Western United States. He was assisted by Fr. Dimitri Gizetti, the Dean from Los Angeles and the Very Reverend John Karateew. Guests included the Most Rev. Joseph Harte, Bishop of the AZ Diocese of the Episcopal Church, and other clergy from Phoenix and elsewhere. Also in attendance was the Honorable Milton Graham, Mayor of Phoenix. Upon completion, the new church could now accommodate more than a threefold expansion in membership.

Autocephaly (complete canonical independence) from the Russian Orthodox Church was received in 1970. The Metropolia or the Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church of America became known as the Orthodox Church in America (OCA). SS Peter and Paul parish continued within the OCA, in the Diocese of the West.

The parish's 25th anniversary occurred in 1976. Parishioners who participated on the anniversary committee were Pauline

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A Little Bit of History, 70 years in the Making

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Vinay, Marie Yevin, Rose Kurowski, Helen Malecki and Harold Homyak. Archbishop John celebrated a pontifical liturgy and spoke at the banquet. Other guests included Phoenix Mayor Margaret Hance.

The original church building became the parish hall after the new church was dedicated in 1968. As time went on, this building needed major structural repairs and the parish had outgrown the halls functionality. In 1984 a plan for a two-story parish hall was put forth. This plan proved to be too ambitious for the parish finances. From 1984 until 1999, there were several fundraising programs and the plans for the hall were downsized.

After the arrival of Fr. Gabriel (Cooke), the faithful of SS Peter and Paul's undertook an enormous challenge. That challenge is known today as the Cultural Center, or the Hall. The committee to steer the construction of the Cultural Center was chaired by Fr. Gabriel and consisted of Andy Evans, Warren Griggs, Sam Swestock and Harold and David Homyak. Peter Radjenovich served as an advisor and consultant. The building of the Cultural Center broke ground and the cornerstone is dated September 16, 2001. The construction of the Cultural Center was the beginning of what, looking back, became the initial project of our current property layout. With the construction of the new church completed in 1968 and after completing the construction of the Cultural Center, the parish began taking down the original church (original hall) and apartment. After that came the design and building of the west parking lot. The rental house (an original building), the Sanctuary and the Cultural Center then, and still, is what we know as our parish.

As usual, with any big project there are always "hiccups", and these projects were

no exception. Thankfully the faithful persevered and today we have a multi-purpose gathering facility. Classrooms, meeting room, offices, a top-grade kitchen and an events room. Coming from a mission parish, SS Peter and Paul's has almost everything that I could only hope a mission parish could achieve. Truly these projects were a blessing. Sometimes, during big gatherings (or soon after), there is talk of expansion to our Cultural Center... this sounds like it's a good problem to have. That project could be a way to continue to pass on a legacy... but I digress. The founders and benefactors who worked on these projects were also fiscally responsible. Within five years of completion, these projects were completely paid for. Proper planning leads to peak performance. I dare say a debt of gratitude is owed for the monetary debt that was not passed along.

In an effort to show the importance of leadership in our diocese and with our spiritual fathers, the following Archbishops and Priests have served to guide our church. Decision making in hindsight is very easy. However, there were many pressing issues and their decisions have sustained parishes in the diocese, as well as our own parish, through the years.

BISHOPS

- ✘ Metropolitan Vladimir (Nagosky) of San Francisco - 1972-1975
- ✘ Bishop Basil (Rodzianko) of San Francisco - 1980-1983
- ✘ Bishop Tikhon (Fitzgerald) of San Francisco - 1987-2007
- ✘ Archbishop Benjamin (Peterson) of San Francisco - 2007-present

CLERGY

- ✘ Hiermonk Theodore ((Tepsic), 07/1972 - 05/1974 *(Serbian Archdiocese).

- ✘ Rev. Kostos Poulidakas, 05/1974 - 08/1974 *(Greek Archdiocese).
 - ✘ Rev. Dragolub Krapcevic, 08/1974 - 09/1975.
 - ✘ V. Rev. William Tarenko, 09/1975 - 10/1987.
 - ✘ Hiermonk Raphael (Herr), 02/1988 - 05/1991.
 - ✘ V. Rev. Stephen Kachur, 05/1991 - 10/1992.
 - ✘ Rev Rodin A. Pfeiffer, 10/1992 - 11/1997.
 - ✘ Archimandrite Gabriel (Cooke), 11/1997 - 07/2006.
 - ✘ Protodeacon Alexis was assigned here in 2005. He transferred to this Diocese at that time, from the Diocese of the Midwest. Prior to this, he had served at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL.
 - ✘ Fr. David Brum - July, 2006 - until April, 2014, when he took monastic vows and was given the name Daniel - after St. Daniel of Moscow.
 - ✘ Fr. Daniel (Brum) April, 2014 - January 2015.
 - ✘ Fr. Daniel was consecrated to His Grace, Bishop Daniel on January 24, 2015, the feast of Xenia of St. Petersburg. His Grace, Bishop Daniel is serving currently.
 - ✘ Fr. David Balmer, Attached, Retired - March 2014 to the present date.
 - ✘ Father Mihai Arion is a priest of the Church of Romania, who is blessed to serve with us. He is not assigned to SSP&P.
 - ✘ Deacon John Weiss was ordained in January 2018 - serving currently.
 - ✘ Deacon Rodion Pfeiffer was ordained in July 2021 - serving currently.
- When we look at where our attendees live,

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A Little Bit of History, 70 years in the Making

(Continued from page 4)

we think of course of Phoenix, but also Gilbert, Sun City, Tempe, Avondale, Scottsdale and even as far away as Clarkdale (yes, 2 hours away) just to name a few. It is quite inspiring that our Orthodox community attracts the faithful from all over Arizona. When our church was originally founded the majority of parishioners walked to church. Granted many areas were not built up like today. Most of the towns were surrounded by farmland or desert. It also reinforces that most people lived close to their churches during this era. This proved helpful when the original church was built. Much "sweat equity", from parishioners, went into the completion of the original church. Some parishioners were tradesmen and donated their time and expertise.

It is said that "God does perfect work through imperfect people." As Christians we know that we are all sinners. We fast, we pray, we read scripture and we serve. Many of our brethren have faithfully served this parish community for decades. These members are too numerous to name but through their work... the Glory goes to God, and we are thank-

ful. They have served as members of the Parish Council, or in F.O.C.A., as members of the Myrrh-bearers (formerly the Ladies Altar Society), as Sunday School teachers, as altar servers or even assisting with coffee hour. The meetings, the planning and the attention to the details that has gone into every endeavor so that the outcome is "worthy." The talent that this community possesses is incalculable. Service is that commitment that binds us together, as a community, for the betterment of others. I think many, if not all, the undertakings that have challenged this community have been surpassed in expectations. God doing his work through us!

This anniversary is a celebration of our very blessed Orthodox community! We have so many blessings to be thankful for because of our Founders and Benefactors. In many ways the celebration of the founding is also a celebration of memoriam. It is a memorial, to us, to ensure the future that our Founders legacy is given to generations yet to come. Our parish buildings and community, today, are in memory of those who have sacrificed to do God's work and leave an oasis of Orthodoxy in the Sonoran Desert. To plant the seeds in rich fertile sand and have it blessed by

God. As unworthy as I am, I hope to assist in leaving this parish in as good, if not better, shape as when I first crossed its threshold in August 2015.

Memory Eternal to those who have fallen asleep in the Lord!

May God continue to grant many, many years SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church!

Many "thanks" to David Homyak, who has lived much of the history here at SS Peter & Paul. I have copied, directly into this article, some of the history of this church as it appeared in the booklet that was published for the Church Dedication in 1968 and the 50th Anniversary celebration in 2001. The account for the 50th anniversary was compiled by James Sprinkle. This is by no means an all-encompassing historical article. Due to time constraints, it is an overview on the information that was made available to me. Some of you know more of the history of our parish than my thimble can contain. Please forgive me if I omitted important events and people/persons who contributed to the growth of our church, it is not intentional.✘

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

Deadline: December 12, 2021

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

Return completed form to Stephanie Homyak or the Church Office.



Bits . . .

FOCA'S BEST SELLING RUM BALLS ARE BACK! The Phoenician "O" Club/Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA) will once again be selling homemade rum balls for the holidays. The rum balls will be available with and without nuts. Preorder your rum balls for \$12/dz. To place your order, see Judy Bushko or call her at (614) 204-0412 and leave a message.

The FOCA is taking orders for piroghi (\$10.00/dz). Please see Pat Starkey regarding your order and any questions. If you would like them for Thanksgiving, let us know and we will be sure to get them to you. Our first Piroghi Workshop will be November 18th, 19th, and 20th. We will have a second Piroghi Workshop in January/February.

Thank you to all who participated at the tailgate party. Our goal was to encourage interaction and get to know our fellow parishioners. Hope everyone had a great time.

Thank you for all your support in our endeavors. It is very much appreciated.

70th ANNIVERSARY OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL CHURCH We look forward to celebrating the 70th Anniversary of our parish community on Sunday, November 14. His Eminence Archbishop BENJAMIN will join us and will lead us in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. We will continue the celebration with a luncheon to be served in the hall following the Liturgy. Please signup at: SIGNUP GENIUS LINK: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4DA9AA2BA4F58-sts>

If for some reason you cannot make your reservation online, an alternative way to register is for you send an email to His Grace Bishop Daniel (otetzdanil@aol.com) providing the number of persons for whom you would like to make reservations. This can be sent to him directly at this email address. Kindly include "Luncheon" in the subject line.

LOOKING FOR A HOME We have a new resident on the church grounds who

needs to be adopted into a good nurturing/loving home. This little blue-eyed kitten is looking for that special person/family to become a part of. If interested, contact Dave Homyak in the church office.

NATIVITY OUTREACH Many of you have already shown your terrific generosity, but with only a few weeks to go, we are only at about 50% of the goal to provide gifts and grocery gift cards to 50 of the neediest students at Whittier Elementary. The *SS Peter and Paul Christmas Gift Giving Opportunity 2021* form has been e-mailed to everyone. If you are interested in participating, please complete and return the form to either David Bieber or Bill Weiss. Thanks and blessings for your support.

Dn. Rodion and Mat. Elizabeth joyfully announce that they are expecting their first child. We humbly ask for your prayers as we await the arrival of this precious gift in April.

Around SS Peter & Paul

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

November 1	John & Judy Bushko
3	Steve Doerksen
6	Theresa Hecht
8	Cassidy (Juliana) Poling
11	Fr. David Balmer Gerrit Schutter Georgiy Dolenko Teresa & Nicholas Bock Andy & Mara Contes
12	Marie Lobb Teresa Bock
13	Marty and Joe Gala Andrew J Evans
14	Joffa Applegate Alexander Dolotov
15	Jared Vasiley Martineau
16	Bishop Daniel
17	Susan Bieber Paul Hudson
19	Nancy Tarasevich
20	Nichole Finzer
22	Frank & Pam Bolton Nicholas Finzer

23	Carlos & Karen Taliaferro
24	Christine Harp Melat Mebrahtu
27	Will Osolinsky

Many Years! Mnogaya Leta!

CONGRATULATIONS AND
MANY BLESSINGS

To the newly-illuminated **Cassidy Poling (Juliana)** and to her sponsor,
Anne Ferbrache (October 17)!



PRAYER LIST

May Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Physician of our souls and bodies, reach out his healing hand and bless these, His servants.

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

+Metropolitan Herman
Walter Booriakin
Sandra Hoff
Stephen Bock
Jamie Arango
Antonia Adams-Clement
Rose Kurowski
Tammy Horton
Frank (Kirill) Bolton

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

... and Pieces

ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS This year, the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos (November 21) falls on a Sunday, enabling everyone to come together to honor the Mother of God in the mystery of her entrance into the Temple. Vespers: Saturday, 5:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy: Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

NATIVITY FAST The annual Nativity Fast begins on Friday, November 15th. This annual period of fasting, prayer, and repentance offers us

the graced opportunity to enter more deeply in our relationship with Jesus Christ, the Word Made Flesh. We ask the Most Holy Theotokos, Mother of the Incarnate God, to intercede for us in this season which is filled with all too many worldly distractions. May She watch over our families and loved ones and accompany us as we prepare to welcome the Lord Who comes to save us!

THANKSGIVING DAY – November 25th - Happy Thanksgiving Day! “Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever” (Psalm 118:1). As we celebrate Thanksgiving Day and look ahead to the Feast of the Lord’s Nativity, let’s make sure we express our grateful thanksgiving prayers to the Lord—the loving and generous source of all we have and all we are. May the Lord grant each and every one of us a blessed holiday, safe travels to those who are traveling, and joy in welcoming friends and family to our tables!

NUT ROLL PICK-UP Thank you to everyone who placed their order for nut, apricot, or poppy seed rolls. The pick-up will begin on Sunday, November 21st and continue every Sunday until December 19th. Plan to pick your rolls up early so you have time to ship them or get them ready for holiday celebrations. Any extra rolls will be available for sale on December 19th as part of the MBAS Bake Sale and Raffle.



THANK YOU TO OUR NUT ROLL VOLUNTEERS

Although we still have one more Saturday of baking, I would like to thank all of our volunteers who graciously spent one or more Saturdays at the church making the dough, rolling it out, filling the dough, rolling or braiding each bread, baking it, wrapping the bread up, and helping with cleanup. With all of their hard work we will have baked more than 310 rolls during six Saturdays. With this and other fundraisers, the Myrrh Bearers have purchased new gold and white altar covers that we will see in 2022. Other colors will be evaluated in the years to come.

ARTS AND CRAFTS The nuns of Saint Macarius will offer their handcrafts for sale, (mounted icons, handmade prayer ropes, crochet and knitted works, etc.) On Sunday, November 7, and Sunday, December 12. They will set up their tables in the parish hall. Please patronize the monastery, a monastery of our Diocese of the West and have this on your planning list for Christmas gifts!

ANNUAL VISIT FROM SAINT NICHOLAS will take place after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 5th. Saint Nicholas will join us in preparing for our celebration of Christ’s Birth and, as he always does, distribute pre-Christmas “treats” to the young and to the young at heart.

TYAL We are inviting our TYAL (high schoolers and Twenty somethings) out for a hike on Peralta trail on November 6, 2021. There will be a cookout and house blessing afterwards, at Nick Bock’s house, right down the road from the trail head. Meet up at the Ferbrache’s house the morning of. See Eli and Anne Ferbrache for more details or email eafer-brache@gmail.com.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD To have your name included in the Parish Christmas

Card, please fill out the form on page 5 or available in the vestibule of the church. The deadline is Sunday, December 12th.

OUR CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD program is back in full swing here at SS Peter and Paul. Our level one program caters to children ages 3-6 (preschool-kindergarten) and is a hands-on, Montessori-based approach to religious education. In the coming weeks, children will receive presentations on the liturgical Colors of the orthodox church and articles of the Orthodox altar and will take a tour of the church before moving onto Messianic Prophecies and Infancy Narratives of Christ for the Nativity season. If you are interested in becoming a teaching assistant for our program and are available for a brief assistant training with Lesley Zaremba, please contact Lesley, 480.710.7133, or Stephanie Homyak, 602.432.7473.

The following items are on our wish list for the 2021-2022 school year:

- 5'7" area rug in calm or neutral colors
- 10 plastic cafeteria style trays
- Icons of: Any of the 12 great feasts, particularly The Nativity of Christ, Theophany, The Presentation of the Lord in the Temple, The Meeting of Elizabeth and the Theotokos, and Pentecost
- Any beautiful photography or artwork featuring the Holy Land
- Any type of silver for polishing (i.e. plates, candlestick holders, etc.)
- Donations of time for painting materials, making paper copies, laminating, cutting, etc.
- Tracing paper
- Tiny glass or ceramic vases (2-3" tall).

FROM THE TREASURER The last two months of the year are now upon us. Now is your chance to make sure your 2021 church pledges, donations, and contributions are in and accounted for in this year. Please consider the church in your year-end financial planning, especially for tax purposes. Year-to-date donation statements will be available in early December.

November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 Hieromar. John Kochurov 9:00am Divine Liturgy CHURCH SCHOOL TAILGATE PARTY HOSTED BY FOCA	1 Cosmas and Damian	2	3	4	5	6 3:15pm CGS Parent Orientation 5:00pm Great Vespers
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; background-color: #e0f2f1;"> <p>FOCA RUM BALL SALE \$12/dozen See page 6 for details Contact Judy Bushko to place your order.</p> </div>						
7 9:00am Divine Liturgy CHURCH SCHOOL FOCA Meeting ARTS & CRAFTS by NUNS OF ST MACARIUS	8 Synaxis of Archangel Michael and the Other Bodiless Powers	9 Icon "She Who is Quick to Hear" 6:00pm Council Meeting	10	11	12	13 St. John Chrysostom, Abp of Constantinople 5:00pm Great Vespers
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; background-color: #e0e0e0;">  <p>Mark Your Calendars . . . Annual Visit from St. Nicholas Sunday, December 5th</p> </div>						
14 Holy Apostle Philip 9:00am Divine Liturgy 70TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON NO CHURCH SCHOOL	15 BEGINNING OF NATIVITY FAST	16 Holy Apostle & Evangelist Matthew	17	18 PIROGHI WORKSHOP	19 PIROGHI WORKSHOP	20 Forefeast of the Entrance PIROGHI WORKSHOP 5:00pm Great Vespers
21 Entrance of the MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS 9:00am Divine Liturgy CHURCH SCHOOL FOCA Meeting	22	23 St. Alexander Nevsky	24	25 Leavetaking of Entrance THANKSGIVING 	26	27 Znamenije Icons: Kursk-Root & Others 5:00pm Great Vespers
28 9:00am Divine Liturgy NO CHURCH SCHOOL	29	30 Holy Apostle Andrew the First-Called	1	2	3	4 St. Alexander Hotovitsky 5:00pm Great Vespers
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; background-color: #e0f2f1;"> <p>Parish Nativity Card To have your name included in the Parish Nativity Card, please complete the form on page 5. Extra forms will be available in the narthex. Deadline is December 12, 2021. Proceeds will be used to help people affected by the western wildfires.</p> </div>						