

# SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 11

November 2023

## October Council Highlights

- ✘ September Operating Income was \$12,641.66 and Operating Expenses were \$17,728.18, resulting in a deficit of **\$5,086.52** for the month, and YTD \$931.01.
- ✘ Please update the church office with any changes to your address, email, and phone number, particularly if you are new.
- ✘ Nick Bock resigned as Vice President due to his move to Idaho.



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

[www.sspeterpaulaz.org](http://www.sspeterpaulaz.org)  
[www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org)  
[www.orthodoxfellowship.org](http://www.orthodoxfellowship.org)

**Father Mikel Bock,**  
 Rector  
 907-444-8545  
[frmikel@sspeterpaulaz.org](mailto:frmikel@sspeterpaulaz.org)

**Archpriest David Balmer, Attached Retired**  
[frdavidbalmer@sspeterpaulaz.org](mailto:frdavidbalmer@sspeterpaulaz.org)  
 480-213-7631

**Deacon John Weiss**  
[deaconjohn@sspeterpaulaz.org](mailto:deaconjohn@sspeterpaulaz.org)

**Deacon Rodion Pfeiffer**  
[deaconrodion@sspeterpaulaz.org](mailto:deaconrodion@sspeterpaulaz.org)

**Andrew Evans**  
 Council President  
 480.948.7929

**Barbara Harp**  
 Choir Director  
[barbaraharp.2030@gmail.com](mailto:barbaraharp.2030@gmail.com)

**Stephanie A. Homyak**  
 Church School Director  
 Newsletter Editor  
 602.432.7473  
[stephanie\\_homyak@yahoo.com](mailto:stephanie_homyak@yahoo.com)

**Matushka Elizabeth Pfeiffer**  
 Myrrhbearers Altar Society  
[flagstaffred@gmail.com](mailto:flagstaffred@gmail.com)

## Thoughts on Baptism From a Saint

November 13th is the feast day of Saint John Chrysostom. The great 4th-century bishop, teacher and preacher wrote several "Instructions for Catechumens" as they prepare for baptism. His words have a note of joyful welcome to those about to become, in his words, "enrolled in the flock of Christ."



Saint John chooses an intriguing way of showing them the great honor they are about to receive, comparing himself to Joseph in the Old Testament. When Joseph did a favor for the butler of Pharaoh, the Egyptian ruler, he asked the butler to put in a good word for him (Genesis 40: 14). Saint John compares himself to Joseph, telling the catechumens that they are about to be led to a kingdom, and not just any kingdom, but to the kingdom of heaven. He asks them to "remember me, therefore...when you receive the royal robe, when you are girt with the purple dipped in the master's blood, when you will

be crowned with the diadem, which has luster leaping forth from it on all sides, more brilliant than the rays of the sun. Such are the gifts of the Bridegroom, greater indeed than you." He is the minister of the sacrament, but it is our all-loving kindness." Chrysostom carries on the comparison to Joseph, who promised the butler that he would have the privilege of pouring Pharaoh's wine and placing the filled cup in his hand. Those who are about to be baptized, John says, will receive a much greater privilege: "But I say not that you shall give the cup into the hands of the king, but that the king shall give the cup into your hand—that dread cup, full of much power, and more precious than any created thing."

Anointing is an important part of baptism, and Chrysostom reflects on its meaning. He says that the priest anoints the candidate with the sign of the cross so that Satan will not dare look that person in the face—the lightning flash leap-

ing forth from the cross is blinding to his eyes. In fact, it is not the hand of the priest doing the anointing, but the hand of Christ himself. This is why the priest says, "You are baptized" rather than "I baptize your worth but you." He is the minister of the sacrament, but it is our all-powerful Lord whose hand is actually on the candidate.

Chrysostom likens baptism to marriage, with Christ as the Bridegroom. Earthly bridegrooms, he says, look at a prospective bride's attributes—her appearance, her station in life, the amount of money she has, her moral standards. But the divine Bridegroom does no such evaluating. He accepts His bride—meaning each of us as coming to baptism—just as she is.

Chrysostom writes of Christ the Bridegroom: "Even if someone is ugly, or poor as can be, or lowborn, or a slave, or an outcast, or maimed, or burdened by the weight of sins, the Bridegroom does not split hairs, nor is He inquisitive, nor does He demand an accounting. The gifts he gives are a master's munificence and grace."

# Message from Our Rector

Here we are on the doorstep of the Nativity Fast. We are at the beginning of our journey to the Holy Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ on Wednesday the 15th and it will last 40 days. We are given this opportunity to renew and deepen our life in Christ, to grow in our love for God and neighbor, and strengthen our commitment to living out the Gospel. Although this Fast is not as strict as the Great Fast, it is sometimes hard to follow because everyone wants to have Thanksgiving and Christmas parties, and all kinds of holiday foods and events. And this usually happens because we forget the true meaning of the Nativity of Christ. And that is that Christ was born into this world fully God and fully man to bring us out of the darkness of sin and show us the path to the heavenly kingdom. But not everyone wants to be on that path, some say they are too busy with their lives and are caught up in all the things the world has to offer, or as it says in the parable of the sower, they

are choked by the cares of the world. Some say they are just fine in how they live and have no need to look at who they really are and to look at what God is offering them. And to be honest some think they are already there, but that is far from the true teaching of the church.



We sometimes hear the term for this fast as Advent fast, which is defined as the coming or arrival of something. This title refers to the coming of the Messiah foretold by the prophets and culminating in the miraculous virgin birth that we celebrate at the Nativity a few weeks from now. But it also re-

fers to a second advent, or a coming—that of Christ God's Second Coming when He will judge the living and the dead and gather all His faithful who know Him into His near presence. As it says in Matthew's Gospel, He will separate the sheep from the goats.

In the Orthodox Church, our Nativity Fast is just shy of six weeks long, it is 40 days. And while less strict in the observances than the great fast and basically a little more 'joyous' in tone, it still should be a time for reflection and preparation that helps us to more fully participate in what the Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ, means for us. It's not about presents and decorative lights and jingle bells. It is about the birth of the Son of God Who comes into the world to show us the way to the Kingdom.

*Fr. Mikel*

## 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 10, 2023

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

Return completed form to Stephanie Homyak or the Church Office.



# Synaxis of the Archangel Michael and the Other Bodiless Powers

The Synaxis of the Chief of the Heavenly Hosts, Archangel Michael and the Other Heavenly Bodiless Powers: Archangels Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Selaphiel, Jehudiel, Barachiel, and Jeremiel was established at the beginning of the fourth century at the Council of Laodicea, which met several years before the First Ecumenical Council. The 35th Canon of the Council of Laodicea condemned and denounced as heretical the worship of angels as gods and rulers of the world, but affirmed their proper veneration.

A Feastday was established in November, the ninth month after March (with which the year began in ancient times) since there are Nine Ranks of Angels. The eighth day of the month was chosen for the Synaxis of all the Bodiless Powers of Heaven since the Day of the Dread Last Judgment is called the Eighth Day by the holy Fathers. After the end of this age (characterized by its seven days of Creation) will come the Eighth Day, and then "the Son of Man shall come in His Glory and all the holy Angels with Him" (Mt. 25:31).

The Angelic Ranks are divided into three Hierarchies: highest, middle, and lowest.

The Highest Hierarchy includes: the Seraphim, Cherubim and Thrones.

The six-winged SERAPHIM (Flaming, Fiery) (Is 6:2) stand closest of all to the Most Holy Trinity. They blaze with love for God and kindle such love in others.

The many-eyed CHERUBIM (outpouring of wisdom, enlightenment) (Gen 3:24)

stand before the Lord after the Seraphim. They are radiant with the light of knowledge of God, and knowledge of the mysteries of God. Through them wisdom is poured forth, and people's minds are enlightened so they may know God and behold His glory.

The THRONES (Col 1:16) stand after the Cherubim, mysteriously and incomprehensibly bearing God through the grace given them for their service. They are ministers of God's justice, giving to tribunals, kings, etc. the capacity for righteous judgment.

The Middle Angelic Hierarchy consists of three Ranks: Dominions, Powers, and Authorities:

DOMINIONS (Col 1:16) hold dominion over the angels subject to them. They instruct the earthly authorities, established by God, to rule wisely, and to govern their lands well. The Dominions teach us to subdue sinful impulses, to subject the flesh to the spirit, to master our will, and to conquer temptation.

POWERS (1 Pet 3:22) fulfill the will of God without hesitation. They work great miracles and give the grace of wonderworking and clairvoyance to saints pleasing to God. The Powers assist people in fulfilling obediences. They also encourage them to be patient, and give them spiritual strength and fortitude.

AUTHORITIES (1 Pet 3:22, Col 1:16) have authority over the devil. They protect people from demonic temptations, and prevent demons from harming people as they would wish. They also uphold

ascetics and guard them, helping people in the struggle with evil thoughts.

The Lowest Hierarchy includes the three Ranks: Principalities, Archangels, and Angels:

PRINCIPALITIES (Col 1:16) have command over the lower angels, instructing them in the fulfilling of God's commands. They watch over the world and protect lands, nations and peoples. Principalities instruct people to render proper honor to those in authority, as befits their station. They teach those in authority to use their position, not for personal glory and gain, but to honor God, and to spread word of Him, for the benefit of those under them.

ARCHANGELS (1 Thess 4:16) are messengers of great and wondrous tidings. They reveal prophecies and the mysteries of the faith. They enlighten people to know and understand the will of God, they spread faith in God among the people, illuminating their minds with the light of the Holy Gospel.

ANGELS (1 Pet 3:22) are in the lowest rank of the heavenly hierarchy, and closest to people. They reveal the lesser mysteries of God and His intentions, guiding people to virtuous and holy life. They support those who remain steadfast, and they raise up the fallen. They never abandon us and they are always prepared to help us, if we desire it.

All the Ranks of the Heavenly Powers are called angels, although each has its own name and position by virtue of their service. The Lord reveals His will to the highest ranks of the angels, and they in turn inform the others.

Over all the Nine Ranks, the Lord appointed the Holy Archangel Michael (his name in Hebrew means "who is like unto God"), the faithful servitor of God, as Chief Commander. He cast down from Heaven the arro-

*(Continued on page 4)*



# Synaxis of the Archangel Michael and the Other Bodiless Powers

*(Continued from page 3)*

gantly proud Lucifer and the other fallen spirits when they rebelled against God. Michael summoned the ranks of angels and cried out, "Let us attend! Let us stand aright before our Creator and do not consider doing what is displeasing unto God!"

According to Church Tradition, and in the church services to the Archangel Michael, he participated in many other Old Testament events.

During the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt he went before them in the form of a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Through him the power of the Lord was made manifest, annihilating the Egyptians and Pharaoh who were in pursuit of the Israelites. The Archangel Michael defended Israel in all its misfortunes.

He appeared to Joshua Son of Navi and revealed the will of the Lord at the taking of Jericho (Josh 5:13-16). The power of the great Chief Commander of God was manifest in the annihilation of the 185,000 soldiers of the Assyrian emperor Sennacherib (4/2 Kings 19:35); also in the smiting of the impious leader Heliogorus (2 Macc. 3: 24-26); and in the protection of the Three Holy Youths: Ananias, Azarias and Misail, thrown into the fiery furnace for their refusal to worship an idol (Dan 3:22-25).

Through the will of God, the Chief Commander Michael transported the Prophet Habbakuk (December 2) from Judea to Babylon, to give food to Daniel in the lions' den (Dan. 14:33-37).

The Archangel Michael disputed with the devil over the body of the holy Prophet Moses (Jude 1:9).

The holy Archangel Michael showed his power when he miraculously saved a

young man, cast into the sea by robbers with a stone about his neck on the shores of Mt Athos. This story is found in the Athonite Paterikon, and in the Life of Saint Neophytus of Docheiariou (November 9).

From ancient times the Archangel Michael was famed for his miracles in Rus. In the Volokolamsk Paterikon is a narrative of Saint Paphnutius of Borov with an account of Tatar tax-gatherers concerning the miraculous saving of Novgorod the Great: "Therefore Great Novgorod was never taken by the Hagarenes... when... for our sins the godless Hagarene emperor Batu devoured and set the Russian land aflame and came to Novgorod, and God and the Most Holy Theotokos shielded it with an appearance of Michael the Archangel, who forbade him to enter into it. He [Batu] was come to the Lithuanian city and came toward Kiev and saw the stone church, over the doors of which the great Archangel Michael had written and spoken to the prince his allotted fate, 'By this we have forbidden you entry into Great Novgorod'."

Intercession for Russian cities by the Most Holy Queen of Heaven always involved Her appearances with the Heavenly Hosts, under the leadership of the Archangel Michael. Grateful Rus acclaimed the Most Pure Mother of God and the Archangel Michael in church hymns. Many monasteries, cathedrals, court and merchant churches are dedicated to the Chief Commander Michael.

In old Kiev at the time of the accepting of Christianity, a cathedral of the Archangel was built, and a monastery also was named for him. Archangel cathedrals are found at Smolensk, Nizhni Novgorod, Staritsa, at Great Ustiug (beginning of the thirteenth century),

and a cathedral at Sviyazhsk. In Rus there was not a city where there was not a church or chapel dedicated to the Archangel Michael.

One of the chief temples of the city of Moscow, the burial church in the Kremlin, is dedicated to him. Numerous and beautiful icons of the Chief Commander of the Heavenly Hosts are also in his Cathedral. One of these, the Icon "Blessed Soldiery," was painted in the Dormition Cathedral of the Moscow Kremlin. The saintly soldiers, Russian princes, are depicted under the leadership of the Archangel Michael.

We invoke Saint Michael for protection from invasion by enemies and from civil war, and for the defeat of adversaries on the field of battle. He conquers all spiritual enemies.

Holy Scripture and Tradition give us the names of the Archangels:

Gabriel: strength (power) of God, herald and servitor of Divine omnipotence (Dan 8:16, Luke 1:26). He announces the mysteries of God.

Raphael: the healing of God, the curer of human infirmities (Tobit 3:16, 12:15)

Uriel: the fire or light of God, enlightener (2 Esdras 5:20). We pray for him to enlighten those with darkened minds.

Selaphiel: the prayer of God, impelling to prayer (2 Esdras 5:15). He prays to God for mankind.

Jehudiel: the glorifying of God, encouraging exertion for the glory of the Lord and interceding for the reward of efforts.

Barachiel: distributor of the blessings of God for good deeds, entreats the mercy of God for people.

Jeremiel: the raising up to God (2 Esdras 4:36)

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Bits . . .

### CONGRATULATIONS AND MANY YEARS!

On Saturday, November 4th, our parish was blessed as we welcomed into the Church, through Baptism and Chrismation, the Servant of God: Nicholas (Sean) Flom. We rejoice with him, his sponsor, Reader Andrew



Hirsch, his family and friends that the Lord has called him to live a life of discipleship as a member of Christ's Holy Orthodox Church. Many years!

### ST MACARIUS MONASTERY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The sisters of St. Macarius are hoping eagerly to raise the remaining \$200,000 that is needed to build the frame of their monastery (located close by in Casa Grande) during this upcoming Christmas season. Their main income comes from selling religious articles and their homemade Middle Eastern pastries. In order to reach their goal, they spend the entire week in preparation of selling on the weekends in California. They desperately need some volunteers to help during normal working hours (Monday through Friday 8am to 3pm). This help is needed during the weeks of October 23rd to December 15th. They are very excited to use this opportunity to also get to know the SS Peter & Paul's congregation. If you are willing to help please call Mother Devorah at (310)889-4593.

### HOW PARENTS CAN SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

*"Let the children come to me, so not to hinder them; for to such belongs the Kingdom of God. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."*

Mark 10: 14-15

Here are some ways you can help develop the spiritual life and moral upbringing of your child(ren).

- ✘ Bring them to Church on time.
- ✘ Stay and worship at the Divine Liturgy in the Church.
- ✘ Be positive about Church.
- ✘ Bring your child(ren) to Sunday School.
- ✘ Discuss with them what they learned each Sunday.
- ✘ Teach them to bring their weekly stewardship offering.
- ✘ Be an example of Christian living.
- ✘ Emphasize regular Confession and Holy Communion.
- ✘ Put Church before every other activity on Sunday.
- ✘ Let your love for Our Lord Jesus Christ radiate.



### HOLY SUPPER

Mark your calendars now! As is our tradition, we will be celebrating Holy Supper on Christmas Eve, following Matins. This annual pot luck (fasting foods) is a beautiful way to celebrate the Feast with family, friends, and fellow parishioners. More information to come.

## Synaxis of the Archangel Michael and the Other Bodiless Powers

(Continued from page 4)

On icons the Archangels are depicted in according to the character of their service:

Michael tramples the devil underfoot, and in his left hand holds a green date-tree branch, and in his right hand a spear with a white banner on which is outlined a scarlet cross, or sometimes a fiery sword.

Gabriel with a branch from Paradise, presented by him to the Most Holy Virgin, or with a shining lantern in his right hand and with a mirror made of jasper in his left.

Raphael holds a vessel with healing medications in his left hand, and with his right hand leads Tobias, carrying a fish for healing (Tobit 5-8).

Uriel in his raised right hand holds a naked sword at the level of his chest, and in his lowered left hand "a fiery flame."

Selaphiel in a prayerful posture, gazing downwards, hands folded on the chest.

Jehudiel holds a golden crown in his right hand, in his left, a whip of three red (or black) thongs.

Barachiel is shown with a white rose on his breast.

Jeremiel holds balance-scales in his hand.

Each person has a guardian angel (Matt 18:10), and every nation also receives its own guardian angel from God (Dan. 10:13). When a church is consecrated, it also receives a guardian angel (Palladius, Dial. Ch. 10).

Reprinted from the Orthodox Church in America web site, <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2010/11/08/103244-synaxis-of-the-archangel-michael-and-the-other-bodiless-powers>\*

# More Bits . . .

**NUT ROLL BAKE** The Myrrh Bearers Altar Society would like to thank all of the volunteers who have helped to make this year's nut roll bake a success. This fundraiser is accomplished with the help of so many at the church. The funds raised will help to buy new blue alter cloths for the church and other needed supplies.



**A HEARTFELT THANK YOU** The Myrrh Bearers Altar Society thanks Elizabeth Michel for her many years of service and dedication to MBAS and SS Peter and Paul Church. Your knowledge and guidance have helped guide this group for many years and are appreciated. The recipes

you shared will also be treasured. May God grant you many years.

**HOLY SUPPER** SS Peter & Paul will have Holy Supper on the Eve of Nativity (Sunday, December 24). Please let Marty Gala know if you plan on attending and how many people will be attending.

**FELLOWSHIP OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS (FOCA)** Thank you for your kind and generous support of our tailgate party. The money we make from our fundraisers goes toward outreach projects. In the past we have supported the Christmas outreach for Whittier school. We also support seminarians at St. Herman's with necessary travel communion and baptism kits. We are currently collecting books to be



distributed at Whittier School in the hopes of each child being the recipient of his or her own book.



## Around SS Peter & Paul

### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

- November 1 John & Judy Bushko
- 3 Steve Doerksen
- 5 Peggy Hecht
- 6 Theresa Hecht
- 11 Fr. David Balmer  
Gerrit Schutter  
Georgiy Dolenko
- 12 Marie Lobb  
Teresa Bock
- 13 Marty and Joe Gala  
Andrew J Evans
- 14 Joffa Applegate  
Alexander Dolotov
- 17 Susan Bieber
- 20 Nichole Finzer
- 21 Payton Choate
- 22 Nicholas Finzer
- 24 Christine Harp  
Melat Mebrahtu
- 27 Will Osolinsky

### SAYING GOODBYE

*It is always hard to say goodbye to members of our church family. Nick and Teresa Bock, you have touched our lives in so many ways. We pray that God will go before you and will richly bless you as you embark upon this new chapter in your lives.*



### 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:

- Matushka Lisa Bock*
- Bill Osolinsky*
- Marie Lobb*
- Ann Carroll*
- Elizabeth Michel*
- Antonia Adams-Clement*
- John Adams-Clement*
- Tania Booriakin*
- Walter Booriakin*
- Jamie Arango*
- Tammy Horton*
- The suffering people of Ukraine*

*If you know of anyone else in need of our prayers, please contact Fr. Mikel Bock.*

## ... and Pieces

**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.

**FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS** November 21<sup>st</sup> is the Great Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos in the Temple. Vespers will be held on Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. The Divine Liturgy of the Feast will be celebrated on Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 am. Let us come together to honor the Mother of God in the mystery of her entrance into the Temple.

**ANNUAL VISIT FROM SAINT NICHOLAS** will take place during coffee hour on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. 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.



**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM COMMUNITY OUTREACH** Our annual outreach project is well underway. Please give your pledges to Mary Flynn, David Bieber or John Hecht soon. This year we will be receiving the names and Christmas "wish lists" of 50 of the most needy students at Whittier Elementary School. We should be receiving these lists any day. Many of the parishioners have adopted 1 or more children to buy and wrap their gifts. But we very much need more "shoppers" to put together the gifts for one or more of the students using the funds already collected for this. Please talk to Mary Flynn or David and Sue Bieber for the particulars. Along with the bag of gifts, each child will be receiving a \$60 grocery card for their family. We will be delivering all the gift bags and cards toward the middle of December. Thank you for your generosity, and now for the fun work!

Mary Flynn

**NATIVITY FAST** The annual Nativity Fast begins on Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. 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!

### 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!



**BOOKSTORE** The Nativity Fast is upon us! Put away worldly written works and things that distract us from a fuller life in Christ. The bookstore has many edifying titles to support you during this time of fasting and reflection. (Check out our parish library as well!)

**PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD** The idea of sending a parish Nativity Card is to extend the greetings and prayerful best wishes of The Nativity of Our Lord to our families, friends, and neighbors. To have your name included in the Parish Christmas Card, please fill out the form on page 2. The deadline is Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support. I look forward to seeing our Parish Nativity Card bring the joy, love, and peace of The Nativity of Our Lord to everyone! May God continue to bless and guide all of you and your families.

**FROM THE TREASURER** The last two months of the year are now upon us. Now is your chance to make sure your 2023 church pledges, donations, and contributions are in and accounted for within this year. A parishioner's contribution(s) need to be accounted for by the church treasurer so to be designated a 'church member' with a voting voice, along with taking of holy communion/sacraments. Please consider the church in your year-end financial planning, especially for tax purposes. Year-to-date reminder donation statements will be available in early December, if not sooner.

### CONSIDER MAKING CHARITABLE GIFTS

The best value often comes from donating appreciated assets (such as stocks/IRA 70½ distributions) because donors can get a full deduction, while skipping capital-gains tax on the asset's growth. SS Peter and Paul is eligible to receive these types of gifts or donations. Are you concerned that the charitable deduction could shrink next year? If so, make a large donation to a "donor-advised" fund and thus qualify for a full write-off within the current year. Assets can then grow tax free in the "donor-advised" fund until the donors specify tax-free recipients, such as your church, in later years. There's no deduction at that point.

SS Peter and Paul aspires to acquire neighboring property as it becomes available on the market for further expansion (parking) and growth purposes. In order to be able to take advantage of these when available, the church will need to have the financial reserves available so to be able to act when the time comes. Please consider your church in your financial and estate planning.

**COMMUNION ETIQUETTE:** Communion is first given to children and teachers who depart for Sunday School, and those who need extra time or assistance. Please remain in your pew until it is time for your pew to join the line for Communion.

# November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>We welcome all of our guests and visitors. Please join us in the Cultural Center for coffee and fellowship.</p>			1 Cosmas and Damian	2	3	4 10:00am Baptism Sean Flom <b>NUT ROLL BAKE</b>  5:00pm Vespers
5 Martyrs Galacteon & Epistemis 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>CHURCH SCHOOL</b>  <b>FOCA Meeting</b>  <b>STEWARD SUNDAY</b>	6 St. Paul the Confessor Archbishop of Constantinople	7  6:00pm Vespers	8 Synaxis of Archangel Michael and the Other Bodiless Powers 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy  6:00pm Bible Study	9 Icon "She Who is Quick to Hear"  <b>Nut Roll Pick-Up Dates</b> November 19 and 26	10	11  <b>NUT ROLL BAKE</b>  5:00pm Vespers
12 Ven Paul of Thebes 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>CHURCH SCHOOL</b> <b>MBAS MEETING</b>	13 St. John Chrysostom, Abp of Constantinople	14 Holy Apostle Philip  <b>6:00pm Council Meeting</b>	15 <b>BEGINNING OF NATIVITY FAST</b>  6:00pm Vespers	16 Holy Apostle & Evangelist Matthew 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy	17 <b>Mark Your Calendars ...</b> <b>Christmas Bake Sale &amp; Prize Raffle</b> Sunday, December 17 <sup>th</sup>	18  5:00pm Vespers
19 Prophet Obadiah 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>CHURCH SCHOOL</b>  <b>NUT ROLL PICK-UP</b>	20 Forefeast of the Entrance  6:00pm Vespers	21 <b>Entrance of the MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS</b> 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy	22  6:00pm Bible Study	23 Repose of St. Alexander Nevsky <b>THANKSGIVING</b> 	24	25 Leavetaking of Entrance  5:00pm Great
26 Ven Alypius the Stylite 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy  <b>NO CHURCH SCHOOL</b> <b>NUT ROLL PICK-UP</b>	27 Greatmartyr Jacob (James) the Persian 	28 <b>Mark Your Calendars ...</b> <b>Annual Visit from St. Nicholas</b> Sunday, December 10 <sup>th</sup>	29  6:00pm Vespers	30 Holy Apostle Andrew the First- Called 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy	1 Great Martyr Catherine	2 Leavetaking of Entry  5:00pm Vespers