

# SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church Newsletter

Volume 24, Issue 8

August 2024

## July Council Highlights

- ✘ June's Operating Income was \$20,358.99 and Operating Expenses were \$14,137.34, resulting in a positive balance of \$6,221.65.
- ✘ Blessing of Students and Teachers will take place on Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>.
- ✘ No council meeting in August.
- ✘ FOCUS proposal to use our kitchen to feed homeless tabled.
- ✘ All American Council to be held in Phoenix next July, along with FOCA National Convention.



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## On the Dormition of the Theotokos

This is an excerpt from a homily by Elder Thaddeus, preached in 1998. It is from "Our Thoughts Determine our Lives"

You have already realized how unbelievably quickly life goes by. One does not notice this as much in one's youth, but when the years bear down upon us, we

see that a lot of time has passed and that very little is left of this life. Where do we go when the end of our life comes? We know where we are going while we are still here, but what happens afterwards? Where are we going? Have we prepared for the Heavenly Kingdom, for our true homeland? Only the meek and those with pure hearts will enter it. Have we taken care to cleanse our heart while in this life, the heart that gives us such a hard time in this life? Have we said to ourselves, "Heart, you have caused me enough pain; humble yourself

and be a patient, long-suffering heart!"

The Lord has said that we save our souls by patient long-suffering.

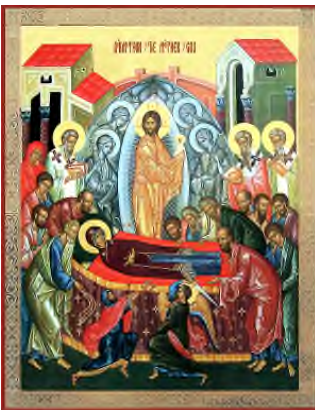
We know that many misfortunes and sorrows come upon both the pious and the impious, both the righteous and the sinful. We all receive our share of misfortunes—this is a means of learning

to accept everything in peace. On our own we have no strength, but God has strength. It is to Him that we must turn, deep down in our heart, and He will give us the strength to overcome all difficulties, for it is very important to rise above all those little things that take away our inner peace. We rarely pay any attention to this but allow the injustice that we come across everywhere in our lives to shatter our inner peace. Often we are the ones who do injustice to others. It may seem to us at the time that we are doing the right thing, but later it turns out that

we were very wrong. We must learn to overcome all these little things with peace, united with the Lord, so that disquiet will not enter us from the outside, and so that we will always have our inner peace.

God is at the center of every person's life. He is in our heart whether we accept Him or not. He never separates Himself from us because He is the Giver of life Who gives life to every created being. We have buried Him with our worries and worldly cares, which destroy the peace within us, and that is why we have no peace or rest. No one on earth can give us unshakable inner peace. Money cannot give us peace, neither can fame, honor, a high-ranking position, nor even our closest friends and family. The only Giver of peace and life is the Lord. He gives peace, stillness, and joy to the angels and the saints, to us and to every created thing. Therefore we must repent and turn to the Lord.

What is repentance? Repentance is a change of one's way of life; it is discarding the old man and all of his evil habits and



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# Message from Our Rector

The month of August is the last month in the Church year, and Sept 1st is the Church New Year. During this month we have 2 Great Feasts and 1 minor feast.

For the first 14 days there is the Dormition Fast, which is from the 1st to the 14th. We fast in honor of the most Holy Theotokos.

Then, from the 15th to the 23rd, we celebrate the Holy Dormition of the Mother of God. We do not celebrate the death of the Mother of God, but Her Dormition.

At that time all the Apostles were there, with one exception—Thomas—and there is the singing of angels.

There is a spiritual joy in Jerusalem on the day of the Dormition of the Mother of God. And that is why for us Orthodox Christians, the Dormition of the Mother of God is exactly the prayer that we say in every service – a Christian ending to our lives, painless, unashamed and peaceful, and a good defense before the dread Judgment seat of Christ. We see in the Mother of God a perfect Christian. We see our own vocation as a reality in Her life and death. And that is why She is so important for all of us. She is an example for us, but at the same time we know that because She is the Mother of Christ, the Mother of God, She prays for us, and we can ask in our prayers for Her to be with us now and also at the time of our death. And we believe very strongly that She will be there because She is the first saint of the Church.

Also during this month on the 6th is the Transfiguration of our Lord, where Peter, James and John, had come up with Jesus to Mt Tabor where Christ shone with the bright uncreated light. They also saw Moses and Elias standing there and conversing with Him, so altogether there were six of

them. However, the Father and the Holy Spirit were invisibly present with the Lord: the Father, with His Voice testifying that this was His Beloved Son, and the Holy Spirit shining forth with Him in the radiant cloud. Thus, the six are actually eight, and there is no contradiction regarding the eight.



On the 29th we remember the beheading of St John the Baptist. Christ said that St John was the greatest prophet 'among those born of women' (Luke 7, 28). John, the Holy Forerunner and Baptiser of the Lord, is murdered by Herod. Think about how a man who is considered the greatest born of a woman by Christ is treated terribly, because he preached the truth. He as well sets a good example for us all: he lived simply and he was obedient to God. Unfortunately, our world these days does not want us to be obedient to God.

September 1st begins the new church year, a new year that we can plan to truly fulfill God's will. Many people in the area are suffering from various spiritual problems. We need to be there to help them learn and understand the true Christian life.

I pray we all have a safe and blessed August. But She was also the first saint before the Dormition. And the life of the Mother of God can be for us an example of a Christian life – why? In the first place She is for us all an example of a human being who obeys the word of God. That is also important for us. We are Christians. We are Orthodox Christians, and that means that we also have to accept and to be obedient to the word of God: the Gospel is like a constitution for us because it is the word of God. Secondly, the Mother of God

was a human being who prayed, who was always with Christ, not only physically but spiritually – at the first sign, the first miracle of Christ, She takes the initiative: She was there. And that is also something for us – we are Christians so we have to stay in the Church. The life of the Church is necessary for us to be saved – not only the Gospel, the word of Christ, but the work of Christ in the community of the Church. And the third thing – this is very important – the Mother of God is an example of obedience to Her own Son. And that is also important for us, because we have the Gospel – the word of the Lord; we have the life of the Church; and then we have our bishops. It is important and necessary for us to be obedient also to the bishop because he is in the Church the icon of Christ. He is not an authority like the civil authorities. He is not a king but a servant. So we cannot separate the Gospel, Church life and our obedience to Christ, to His icon in the Church which is the bishop. If we accept that, and if we have a life in that spirit, then the end of our life here in this world will be also not a death but a dormition – a holy dormition – and we will receive from Christ the Kingdom of heaven. Let us be faithful. Let us be obedient. Let us accept the Gospel as the word of God, and the life of the Church as a community of love, and let us attend to the words of our bishops, in order to be Christians, to be real disciples of Christ. Amen.

*Fr. Mikel*



"Do not be upset when people only remember you when they need you. Feel privileged that you are like a candle that comes to their mind during their most darkest hours."

– St. Nectarios of Aegina

# The Seven Maccabean Martyrs: Rejoice, O Martyrs of the Lord

On August 1, the first day of the Dormition Fast, the Church celebrates the memory of seven young men who refused to break covenant with the God of Israel and chose death over apostasy during the reign of the tyrannical Syro-Hellenic king, Antiochus IV Epiphanes (r. 175 -164 BC). Their suffering directly inspired Jewish resistance fighters in their own day and has been a source of inspiration for Christian martyrs from the very beginning of the preaching of the gospel. Their story, printed here, is contained in 2 Maccabees 7.

It came about also that seven brothers with their mother were arrested and forced by the king to be bound and tortured with whips and cords until they partook of the unlawful swine's flesh. One of them, acting as spokesman, said, "What do you intend to ask and learn



from us? For we are ready to die rather than transgress the laws of our fathers."

The king became enraged, and commanded that pans and caldrons be heated. These were heated immediately; and he commanded them to cut out the spokesman's tongue, and to scalp him and cut off his hands and feet, while the rest of the brothers and the mother watched. When he was utterly helpless the king ordered them to take him to the fire, while he was still breathing, and to fry him in a pan. As the smoke from the pan spread out broadly, the brothers and their mother encouraged one another to die bravely, saying, "The Lord God is taking notice of us and in truth is encouraging us, as Moses proclaimed in his song which he sang, bearing witness against the people to their faces: 'And God will have compassion on His servants.' " After the first

brother died in this manner, they brought forward the second for their sport. They tore away the skin of his head with the hair, and asked him, "Will you eat pork rather than have your body punished limb by limb?" But he replied in the language of his fathers and said to them, "No." Therefore this brother in turn underwent the same torture as the first. So when he was at his last breath, he said, "You accursed wretch! You set us free from this present life, but the King of the world will raise us to an everlasting renewal of life, because we die for His laws."

After him, the third fell prey to their sport. When it was demanded, he quickly put out his tongue and courageously stretched forth his hands, and said bravely, "I received these from heaven, and because of His laws I disregard them, and from Him I hope to get them back again." As a result the king himself and those with him were astonished at the young man's spirit, for he regarded his sufferings as nothing.

When he died, they tortured and tormented the fourth in the same way. So when he was near death, he said, "One may be chosen to die at the hands of men and to look for the hope that God gives of being raised again by Him. But for you there shall be no resurrection to life." Next they led forward the fifth and tormented him. But he looked at the king and said, "Because you have authority among men, mortal though you are, you do what you please; but do not think that God has forsaken our people. Continue, and behold how His mighty power will torture you and your seed!"

After him they led forward the sixth. When he was about to die, he said, "Do not deceive yourself for we are suffering these things on our own account because of our sins against our own God. Therefore things worthy of wonder have happened. But do not think that you shall be innocent for trying to fight against God!"

The mother was especially admirable and worthy of good memory. Though she saw her seven sons perish in the span of a single day, she bore it courageously because of her hope in the Lord. She encouraged each of them in the language of their fathers. Filled with a noble spirit, she stirred her womanly reasoning with manly courage, saying to them, "I do not know how you came into being in my womb. It was not I who gave you breath and life, nor I who arranged in order the elements within each of you. Therefore the Creator of the world, who formed man in the beginning and devised the origin of all things, will give both breath and life back to you again in His mercy, since you now disregard yourselves for the sake of His laws.

Antiochus supposed that he was being treated with contempt, and suspected her speech was insulting him personally. Thus since the youngest brother was still alive, not only did he appeal to him in words, but at the same time guaranteed him with oaths that he would make him rich and enviable if he would turn away from his fathers, and that he would consider him a friend and entrust him with public affairs. But when the young man refused to pay any attention to him, the king called his mother to him and urged her to advise the boy to save himself. After much urging from him, she agreed to persuade her son. But she leaned close to him and mocked the cruel tyrant, speaking in their native tongue, saying, "My son, have mercy on me. I

(Continued on page 5)

# Youth Corner: St. Poplia, Confessor of the Faith

## DEACONESS OF ANTIOCH COMMEMORATED: OCTOBER 9

Any Christian living in the Roman Empire during the years 361-63 was experiencing a time of crisis in the Church. This is because the Emperor during those few years was a young man who had been raised as a Christian, but who became known as Julian the Apostate. He was an enemy of the Church, and used his great power to make things very difficult for Christian believers, priests, and bishops. Though we cannot be sure of the exact year of Saint Poplia's birth, we do know that she lived during this critical time. Poplia came of a good family, and had a happy, though not very long, marriage. When her husband died, she was left to raise their son John. Her situation, most probably, was like that of Eunice, the mother of the young Timothy, who was chosen by the apostle Paul to work with him in ministry. Like Eunice, Poplia had no husband and father to help her as a mother. Yet, again like Eunice, Poplia must have done a very good job of teaching John the faith, for her son became a priest. He was so well-regarded by the leaders of the Church that they urged him to become a bishop. But like other humble men we know of in the Church's history, he resisted the suggestions that he take a higher rank, and remained in his position of priest for his whole life. In addition to raising a son, Poplia reached out to other widows after she herself became a widow. She gathered these women in her home for prayer and study of the Scripture. They also offered each other comfort and support. It was not too long before the gathered group became a monastic community, with Poplia as its abbess. She became so well known for her faithfulness to Christ and her service to others that she was ordained a deaconess. There would come a decisive moment of confrontation between Saint Poplia and the apostate Emperor. So it is important to ask: How did this man, raised as a Christian, become such a dangerous opponent of

the faith? Julian's childhood offers some answers. Though his family was Christian in name, many of its members did not behave in loving or honest ways. They struggled with each other for power, and Julian had to watch these struggles, sometimes violent and bloody, as a young boy with no power to do anything about them. His mother died when he was a few years old, so she could not protect, explain, or give comfort. Julian always felt special anger and hatred toward a cousin whom he suspected of murdering other members of the family. This cousin made a good outward show of being a Christian, and Julian seems to have told himself that if this was what followers of Jesus Christ did, he wanted no part of being one of those followers. Julian decided that instead of worshipping Christ he would be a worshipper of the pagan gods of Rome. He devised a code of morals that he encouraged all his subjects to live by. He didn't seem to realize that "his" code was really very much like the teachings of Christianity. He may have thought he was abandoning Christianity, but its beauty and truth were still somewhere in his heart, and found their way into the moral laws he arrogantly thought he himself was creating. During the few short years of his reign, Emperor Julian persecuted and damaged the lives and careers of many Christians. He was an unstable person, and nobody ever knew how he might behave, or might react to things that happened. People tended to be afraid of him, but in the year 362 he came to Antioch and met one woman who was not afraid at all: the deaconess and abbess Poplia. Julian had come with members of his court to Antioch, where he encouraged all the citizens to pay tribute to the pagan gods. As he passed the house where Poplia and her monastic sisters wor-

shipped together, he heard their antiphonal singing of the words of Psalm 115: "Our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases. Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands." Always quick to take offense, Julian decided this was a personal insult to his worship of the pagan gods. He told Poplia not to do any more singing, and went on his way. But when he was ready to leave the city he passed the house again, and heard the next verses of the psalm: "They have mouths, but do not speak. They have eyes, but do not see; ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell; feet, but do not walk, and they do not make a sound in their throat. Those who make them are like them; so are all who trust in them." This time Julian had Poplia dragged into the street and beaten. He told her that when he returned from his military campaign in Persia she would be executed. But Julian never returned from that campaign. He was killed in Persia, perhaps by an enemy soldier or, some believe, by one of his own men who saw him as a danger to the people of the Roman Empire. Poplia lived out the rest of her life, just a few years, in peace. She witnessed to her faith even when it was risky to do so. The Church gives her the title of confessor.

Reprinted from *Saints in Times of Trouble*, <https://dce.oca.org/files/activity-books/saints-in-trouble.pdf>

## St. Poplia's Travels



# The Seven Maccabean Martyrs: Rejoice, O Martyrs of the Lord

(Continued from page 3)

carried you for nine months in my womb, and nursed you for three years. I reared you and brought you up to this point in your life, and have taken care of you. I beseech you, my child, to look at heaven and earth and see everything in them, and know that God made them out of nothing; so also He made the race of man in his way. Do not fear this executioner! But be worthy of your brothers and accept death, that in God's mercy I may receive you back again with your brothers."

While she continued speaking, the young man said to the king, "What are you waiting for? I will not obey the king's command, but I obey the command of the law, given to our fathers through

Moses. But you who have invented all manner of evil against the Hebrews, will not escape the hands of God, for we are suffering because of our own sins. So if for the sake of reproof and discipline, our living Lord is angry for a little while, He will again be reconciled with His own servants. But you, O unholy man and most defiled of all men do not be elated in vain and puffed up by uncertain hopes when you raise your hand against the children of heaven. You have not yet escaped the judgment of the almighty, all-seeing God. For now our brothers have endured a brief suffering and then passed on into everlasting life under God's covenant. But you, by God's judgment, will receive just punishments for your haughtiness. Like my brothers, I

give up body and soul for the laws of our fathers, crying out go God, that He may soon show His mercy to our nation, and by afflictions and calamities make you confess that He alone is God, and through my brothers and me bring to an end the wrath of the Almighty which has justly come upon our entire nation."

Then the king became bitterly enraged at his contempt and treated him worse than the others. So, putting his trust completely in the Lord, he died in his innocence. Last of all, the mother died, after her sons.

Reprinted from Holy Trinity Orthodox Church newsletter, *The Trisagion*, <https://holytrinity-oca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Trisagion-08-2024-August-Draft-3.pdf>

## Youth Corner: St. Poplia, Confessor of the Faith

### WORD SCRAMBLE: ST. POPLIA

Unscramble the words in the group below and draw a line to match them to the correct spelling.

Scrambled Word	Correct Spelling
LUAP	TIMOTHY
SSALMP	EUNICE
TMHYOTI	IDOLS
NOCTIHA	ROMAN
HOJN	PERSIA
SLOID	PAUL
CEENIU	ANTIOCH
ASOPETTA	JULIAN
MARNO	JOHN
NILUJA	PSALMS
SIPARE	APOSTATE

Now put the words where they belong to complete these sentences:

1. St. Poplia was a citizen of the \_\_\_\_\_ Empire.
2. The Emperor at that time was named \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Because he had turned his back on Christianity, the Emperor was known in history as "the \_\_\_\_\_."
4. Poplia's son was named \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Her home was the city of \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Poplia and the group of nuns she led often sang \_\_\_\_\_ together.
7. The Emperor was angry because the verses the nuns were singing seemed to criticize his worship of \_\_\_\_\_.

8. The Emperor told Poplia she would be executed when he returned from a military campaign in \_\_\_\_\_.
9. The apostle \_\_\_\_\_ writes about another faithful Christian woman, who also had a son.
10. Her name was \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Her son's name was \_\_\_\_\_.

### WORD SEARCH

Find the following words: ABBESS, DEACONESS, PRAYER, PSALM, WORSHIP, ANTIPHONAL, MONASTIC, CONFESSOR, WIDOW, MOTHER.

Z R R M Q Z H Y X C Z  
 G O C C I T S A N O M  
 A E X P I H S R O W L  
 P J X A B B E S S Z A  
 R O S S E F N O C L S  
 A E F V U W O D I W P  
 Y S H P M V C Y F Y K  
 E F V T T V A M G D N  
 R E D P O R E E C U K  
 O W F K A M D V Q D K  
 B L A N O H P I T N A

# On the Dormition of the Theotokos

*(Continued from page 1)*

turning toward God, toward the Truth. Repentance means becoming quiet, peaceful, humble, and meek. Everyone knows that it is very pleasing to be in the company of a person who is meek, peaceful, and kind. A person who has no peace generates restlessness and radiates it all around, so that in the company of such a person we feel unsettled, and we too become restless. This is because we have not united with the Lord through unceasing prayer. We have peace when we are with the Lord and His Most Holy Mother; she is always here to help whenever we call upon her. In her we have unshakable support, which remains the same for all ages and which will not change. We cannot find this support anywhere else on earth, not even among our family members, let alone in things like riches, earthly power, and honor. We can be left without all these things, but the Lord and His Most Holy Mother will never leave us.

And so, my children, as we celebrate the great feast day of the Most Holy Theotokos, let us prepare ourselves for the heav-

enly life...The Heavenly Kingdom is peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. We need to humble our hearts, which take insults so deeply, and also our so-called dignity, for we cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven in pride, as when we take to heart each slander our neighbor casts. We must accept our lessons from everyday life, for each day brings us cares, worries, and insults. We must learn not to take insults to heart, for who knows what awaits us during the course of our earthly lives? God is merciful to us and has concealed our future from us. Otherwise, not one among us would be able to go on, knowing what the future holds for him. We must live through many misfortunes and sorrows in order to learn how to rise above all these problems that disturb our inner peace. We must learn to acquire the Divine peace and joy of the angels and saints, for the Kingdom of Heaven is acquired while we are still in this life.

In this life we are in heaven one moment and in hades the next. You can see this

for yourself and learn from it. When our thoughts are quiet and kind, when we forgive every slander and insult, we have Divine peace, joy, and stillness! But when we become angry because of someone's unkind words, we are at once in hades! Everything collapses, and we lose all the joy of living that we had before. Can you see how terrible living in hades is? Here, in this life, we are given the chance to taste both the heavenly life and the life of hades. We should choose that which gives us peace, the Heavenly Kingdom. We all desire this, without any exceptions, whether our lives are good or bad. All people long for peace and goodness, for ineffable love that never changes, and only God is this kind of love. He alone is unchangeable. He is always the same, and He is the basis of all things—preeminently of mankind. He is ever waiting for us to return to His embrace, but all we do is shy away from Him. He wants to give us peace and to comfort us so that we may experience the joy of living, but all we ever see are the cares and worries of this world.

## Around SS Peter & Paul

### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

August 1	Peter Radjenovich Eleanor King
8	Yana Molodova
10	Lidya Dolenko
13	Pamela Bolton
14	Sophia Zarembo Kevin & Emma Guerrero
15	William Osolinsky Arthur Rhodes
17	Vera Moschowsky
19	Susan Weiss

**Many Years! Многая лета!**



### BLESSING OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

Will be held on Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at the end of Divine Liturgy. The annual blessing marks the beginning of the Church School Year. We encourage all students and teachers to be there.

After the blessing, we will have our Splash Bash Church School Party for the youth. There will be a slip and slide, water balloons, a water table, pool noodles, and beach balls.

Refreshments will be served for the youth.

### PRAYER LIST

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

*Peter Radjenovich  
Pam Bolton  
John Bushko  
Antonia Adams-Clement  
Walter Booriakin  
Jamie Arango  
Tammy Horton*

*The suffering people of Ukraine*

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

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

# Bits and Pieces

**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.

**DORMITION FAST** We begin the month of August by observing the Dormition Fast, the two-week period (August 1-15) leading up to the celebration of the Dormition of the Theotokos on August 15<sup>th</sup>. This fast offers us the opportunity for a spiritual focus as we prepare to honor the Holy Theotokos who, at the end of her earthly life, entered the glories of the Kingdom which was proclaimed by her Divine Son. We ask her continued intercession and protection as we prayerfully prepare for her special feast.

**FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION** This feast commemorates our Lord's transfiguration before his disciples on Mt. Tabor. In His Transfiguration He reveals His glory to the disciples. In Him they (and we) now see for themselves the glory of God present in the person of Christ. Vespers for the feast will be Saturday evening, August 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm and then Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, Divine Liturgy at 9:00am. followed by the blessing of fruit.

**ST. HERMAN** On August 9<sup>th</sup>, we commemorate Saint Herman, or own "American saint," who, although born in Russia, achieved holiness as he worked out his salvation in Russian Alaska. The first of the saints to be glorified in North America, Saint Herman's life and example provides us with a deep insight into how we live our Orthodox faith as Christians in a multi-cultural society. May our commemoration of Saint Herman be a reminder of his intercession for the Church in this land as well as to reminder of the missionary efforts which brought the Orthodox Faith to North America. May we, as Orthodox Christians in America and heirs to this missionary legacy, continue to share the work of proclaiming the Gospel in this land.

**SUMMER AIR CONDITIONING REMINDER** When running the Hall's A/C remember to keep all doors closed and return thermostats to their original setting after use. Run away A/Cs costs SS Peter and Paul . . . and you!

**CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (CGS)** We are excited to begin a new school year with Catechesis of the Good Shepherd here at Saints Peter and Paul! This program is for students ages 3-6 (thru kindergarten) and is a hands-on, Montessori-based approach to religious education for children. Please see Lesley Zaremba to enroll your child in the program or to set up a student orientation.

We invite you to learn more about CGS and how it is implemented here at our parish at a short presentation during coffee hour on Sunday, September 18, 2024.

**THE BACKPACKS HAVE LEFT THE BUILDING** Thanks to everyone for your generosity and for supporting the kids and families of Whittier Elementary School. We couldn't have done it without your support!

In a few months we will begin to take collections for the Christmas program for the school kids, if you wish to be the primary coordinator for this project please see Fr. Mikel, or Bill Weiss. No experience is required as there will be people to help and guide you throughout the process.

**CONTRIBUTIONS** If you are donating cash and you wish to receive a statement of your contributions to the church, please put the cash in an envelope with your name and email address.

**FOCA NATIONAL CONVENTION** We had a mini reunion of past and present members of SS Peter and Paul at the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians Convention in Akron, OH last week. From left to right, Sophia DeRhodes, Stephanie Homyak, Archbishop Daniel, Claudia DeRhodes, and Pat Starkey.



Highlights from the convention:

- His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, imploring us to be patient in continuing to discern what is good for us to do.
- Archbishop Daniel focused on the good works that the FOCA continues to do, including recognizing a floor drive that brought in over \$3,000.00 for the St. Theodosius Fire Restoration Project.
- Bishop Gerasim brought us reflection on our own motto as we were encouraged to continue to toil, understanding that the results of that toil are not always seen immediately.
- 2025 Gifts of Love earmarked for St. Theodosius Cathedral.
- Development of Emergency Assistance Fund to help OCA seminarians falling into financial distress. Funded by the former Building Maintenance Fund.
- Contribute \$1,540.00 earmark toward purchase of OCA Chaplain Award Crosses as presented by the Metropolitan of the OCA.
- 2025 FOCA Convention to be held in conjunction with All American Council.

**PARKING** When parking please be courteous and do not block anyone in. If the church lot is full you may park on the street or across the street at Bamboo Bakery.



# August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>Blessing of Students and Teachers Sunday, August 25, 2024 Followed by Back to Church School Splash Bash</p>				1	2	3
				1 Procession of the Lifegiving Cross Beginning of Dormition Fast		5:00pm Vespers
4 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>FOCA Meeting</b>	5 Forefeast Transfiguration  6:00pm Vespers	6 <b>Transfiguration of Our Lord</b> 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy <i>Blessing of Fruit</i>	7  6:00pm Bible Study	8  6:00pm Vespers	9 Ven. Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker & Equal-to-the-Apostles Apostle Matthias 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy	10  5:00pm Vespers
11 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>MBAS Meeting</b>	12	13 Leavetaking Transfiguration St. Tikhon of Zadonsk	14 Forefeast Dormition  6:00pm Vespers	15 <b>DORMITION MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS</b> 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy <i>Blessing of Herbs And Flowers</i>	16 "Image of Christ Not-made-by-hands"	17  5:00pm Vespers
18 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>CGS PRESENTATION</b>	19	20 Hieromartyr Alexander Holovitsky	21  6:00pm Bible Study	22	23 Leavetaking Dormition	24  5:00pm Vespers
<p>We are looking for volunteers to help us with our Back to Church School Splash Bash on August 25, 2024. Contact: Stephanie Homjak at 602.432.7473.</p>						
25 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy <i>Blessing of Students and Teachers</i> <b>SPLASH BASH</b>	26 Vladimir Icon  Fellowship of Orthodox Christians meets the first Sunday of each month. We invite you to join us and learn more about the FOCA.		27	28 Ven. Job of Pochaev  5:00pm Vespers Bible Study to follow	29 Beheading of St. John the Baptist 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy	30 Afterfeast Beheading of the Forerunner St. Alexander Nevsky
1 Church New Year Ven. Simeon the Stylite 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy	2 <b>Labor Day</b>	3	4  6:00pm Bible Study	5	6	7 Forefeast of the Nativity of the Mother of God  5:00pm Vespers
<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>						