

SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church Newsletter

Volume 25 Issue 3

March 2025

February Council Highlights

- ✘ January's Operating Income was \$14,981.77 and Operating Expenses were \$15,464.27, resulting in a net loss **\$482.50** for the month of January.
- ✘ Operating Budget of \$211,000 for 2025 approved at Annual Meeting.
- ✘ Roof repairs to commence on Monday, March 3rd
- ✘ Exterior church doors refinished.



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

Archpriest Mikel Bock,
Rector
907.444.8545
frmikel@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

John Bushko
Council President
614.204.0413

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

The Meaning of the Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian

Fr. Alexander Men Every day of Great Lent, with the exception of Saturdays and Sundays, the prayer "O Lord and Master of my life" is read. According to tradition, this prayer was written in Syria in the fourth century by the ascetic Mar Afrem or, as we have grown accustomed to calling him, Ephraim the Syrian. He was a monk, poet, and theologian, one of the most eminent sons of the Syrian Church, who entered world literature as a remarkable writer.

The words of the prayer, which were quite accurately transmitted by Pushkin [1], sound as follows when translated from the Syrian: "O Lord of my life, Who gave me life, Who is the center and focal point of my life. "Give me not a spirit of idleness," that is, laziness, which is, according to the old adage, the mother of all vices. Laziness seems like an innocent thing, but it engenders much that is dark and black.

"Despondency (Despair)." Christianity is a joyful doctrine; joyful, too, is he who is despondent – for it will leave him. St. Seraphim of Sarov, the great Russian saint of the nine-

teenth century, said: "We have no ways to be despondent, for Christ has saved everyone."

"Ambition (Lust for power)." This means love of authority. Everyone has it; do not think that the cult of personality exists only in politics: it can also be present in the family or in any small community. Everyone has in himself the seeds of the aspiration to crush the will of others, to strangle and subdue it.

"Idle talking." I exempt children: they have the right to chatter, but only until the age of fifteen or sixteen. When children chatter they are learning to communicate and are practicing their language; but when these "children" are already twenty, or sometimes older than forty – this means they are being pitiless towards their own lives. Let us consider (and let us be honest with ourselves): how much longer do we have to live? Not much longer at all. Therefore, I repeat, we should value life and love the gift that God has given us, remembering that we will carry into eternity only that which we have in our hearts. Idle talk and blathering are frightful words, for they involve killing time.

"Spirit of chastity." Further on the prayer says: "a spirit of chastity... patience, and love bestow upon me Thy servant." Chastity is purity of relations with the world and with people, wholeness of soul, without duality, and without the passions gaining possession over you.

"Humble-mindedness (Humility)." This means the wisdom of the healthy person. Humility here, in the given context, means knowing where you stand against the backdrop of eternity. Do not inflate yourself like the frog in Krylov's fable– it burst [2]. There is no need to exaggerate, but one should know one's worth. The wisdom of modesty is extraordinary and beautiful. The wisdom of modesty is not abasement beyond pride, but healthiness of soul. Here is an example for you. When someone begins to imagine himself as something that he is not, he is only a few steps from megalomania. Megalomania is a pathological state of pride. One person announces that he is the chairman of the Council of Ministers or Napoleon, and he is placed in a psychiatric hospital; another makes no such pronouncement, for which

(Continued on page 4)

Rector's Message

As we begin the month of March we are already beginning the Great Fast. We tend to look at the Fasts as an inconvenience in our life, but the Great Fast is supposed to disrupt our life, and to make us realize how much we are distracted in this life and that we need to learn to rely on Christ and not the things of the world. Many of us will start the fast with good intentions. Then, as fast goes on, we start to lose focus, so we must pray and try to persevere and learn to trust Christ to help us through.

The season of the Great Fast and the Holy Week Fast is the time of preparation for the feast of the Resurrection of Christ.

If we just go through the motions of the Fast, not really participating in it and then approach the Resurrection of Christ as just another Sunday service then we will have missed the opportunity to work on our soul and purify it. Without this proper preparation, the deeper meaning of Christ's crucifixion and Resurrection are lost.



This is a time we should renew ourselves through: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It is a time that we take a deep look into ourselves, which should bring us to repentance, to a real changing of our minds, hearts and deeds in obedience with Christ and his

teachings. It is the time of our return to the great commandments of loving God and our neighbors. It is not easy to do, but with focus and with trust in Christ we can begin to live our life the way Christ intended us to.

We are all called to be perfect, as Christ says in Matthew's Gospel; Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. It is a struggle to fast for the 40 days but the spiritual benefit is great. Like Zacchaeus, it was a struggle for him to climb the tree, but in the end he was able to see Christ.

Our job as human beings is to draw closer to Christ and fulfill His holy will, which is what we say every time we say The Lord's Prayer. When we fast from foods, TV, ra-

dio, social media etc we are eliminating those things that prevent us from pursuing a relationship with Christ and, in this way, we are able to see those things that are sinful in our life. In other words, we should be trying to have that pure heart, as it says in the Beatitudes: *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God!*

The fast should be kept as best we can but not by the mouth alone but also by the eye, the ear, the feet, the hands and all members of the body. The eye must abstain from impure sights, the ear from malicious gossip, the hands from acts of injustice, it is useless to fast from foods, and yet to indulge in criticism and slander. It is our repentance that God desires, not our remorse.

We sorrow for our sins, but we do so in the joy of God's mercy. We mortify our flesh, but we do so in the joy of our resurrection into life everlasting. We make ready for the resurrection during Great Lent, both Christ's Resurrection and our own.

May we all have a spiritually beneficial Great Fast!

Fr. Mikel Bock

Annual Parish Meeting Highlights

In his Rector's report, Fr. Mikel reminded us that we should always be a community of Orthodox Christians and that the mission of every Orthodox Church is for people to learn the faith, live the faith, and to be able to bring the Truth of the Gospel to all people in the community.

✘ Parish voted to accept the bid from Sunvek Roofing for the replacement of the shingles and foam roof repair on the Cultural Center.

✘ John Hecht was elected as lay delegate for the Diocesan Assembly.

✘ John Bushko elected as delegate for the All-American Council.

✘ This year's Food Drive will be done in conjunction with FOCUS Phoenix to support their outreach to the homeless in Phoenix.

✘ Operating Income for 2024 was \$245,783.03 and Operating Expenses were \$217,412.37, resulting in a positive balance of \$28,370.66.

✘ Proposed 2025 Operating Budget of \$221,080.00 presented and passed.

✘ Auditors report that financial records are "accurate and free from major errors."

✘ Slate of officers and trustees positions for 2024 presented and elected.

John Bushko	President
Nick Enoch	Vice President
David Homyak	Treasurer
John Hecht	Financial Secretary
Luka Radjenovich	Recording Secretary
Katrina Delsante	Auditor
Robert Hoff	Auditor
Heather Pfeiffer	5-year Trustee
Bill Weiss	4-year Trustee
Stephanie Homyak	3-year Trustee
John Blischak	2-year Trustee
Lesley Zaremba	2-year Trustee
Arthur Rhodes	1-year Trustee
Lydia Osolinsky	1-year Trustee

Congratulations to our newly elected Parish Council!



Community Corner

FAMILY GAME "NIGHT" On Saturday, February 15th, SS Peter and Paul held its first Family Game "Night." Organized by Chris Blaise and Stephanie Homyak, the event was organized to foster community building, encourage interaction between families from different demographics within the parish, provide a fun and relaxed environment for fellowship, and create positive memories while strengthening relationships among church members, all while promoting a sense of belonging and connection beyond traditional religious services.

Thanks to all who participated, and special thanks to the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA) for providing pizza, chips, and a veggie platter.



FUTURE OLYMPIAN Dylan competed in the Jonathan Horton Challenge and he had his best AA score of his life. Dylan placed 2nd overall and 3rd on vault, high bar, parallel bars, and floor exercise. He even won a special ring for his All-Around finish. Dylan's team did wonderful and won the team title!



KARATE KIDS On February 14th, Margot and Priscilla Davis passed their 3-hour-long karate belt exam. Margot advanced to 2nd Brown belt and Priscilla moved up to 2nd Red belt. Both girls are less than a year from Black Belt!

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED TAKING AN ONLINE CLASS FROM THE OCA? Nya enrolled in the OCA's Basic Sight-Singing and Ear Training class. This class is designed specifically with the needs of singers in Orthodox church choirs, emphasizing the mastery of basic intervals, scales, and rhythms that are encountered in liturgical hymns.



The Meaning of the Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian

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reason he is not in the hospital, but in his soul he thinks he is superior to everyone else.

“**Patience, and love.**” What is patience? I will put it briefly so that you will remember. Patience is not the state of cattle, which tolerate everything. It is not humiliation – not at all. It is not a compromise with evil – under no circumstances. Patience is the ability to maintain equanimity of spirit in circumstances that impede such equanimity. Patience is the ability to achieve one’s goals when encountering various obstacles along the way. Patience is the ability to maintain a joyful spirit even when there is an excess of grief. Patience is a victory and an overcoming; patience is a form of courage. This is what real patience is.

Finally,

love. **Love** is the utmost happiness of man; it is the ability of our souls to be open, immanent (as the philosophers say), inwardly open to the other person. When you are riding the escalatory in the subway, test yourself to see if you are able to love or not. When you look at the people riding on the other side and you find it repulsive to look at their faces, it means that all the pores of your soul are clogged and that your feeling of love is in an embryonic state.

But the power of Christ’s grace is capable of rebuilding a person in such a way that he sees people in an entirely different manner; so that his first reaction will be benevolence; so that he will immediately see the beautiful in both women and men, in as inspired manner, even where no one else notices it; so that when see-

ing a suffering face he will feel compassion; so that he will be open. Such a person is always happy, because he is united with people and lives lovingly.

At the end of the prayer it says: “Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my failings and not condemn my brother.” You understand this. The greatest cure from condemnation is the ability to criticize oneself. We are extremely careful – I would say observant and even psychologically sophisticated – when we are considering the sins of our neighbors or the sins of other people. Here we display maximum knowledge of all moral laws in all their subtleties. Here we act like strict judges, although we have no right to do so, since we ourselves are guilty of the very things of which we condemn others.

You ask me: perhaps this is appeasement and compromise with evil? Under no circumstances. Never. We must call evil by its name. But we must have compassion for the person who falls into this sin.

This is the essence of this prayer read daily with prostrations during Great Lent.

—From the lecture “Great Lent,” delivered on April 1, 1989.

Translated from Russian on Pravmir.com✠



CGS CLASS During Lent the CGS class will be studying several parables and diving more into the Good Shepherd.



John Henry is working with our Liturgical Calendar work. (Left)



Irina is working with the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple work. (Right)

PREPARING PALM BRANCHES AND PUSSYWILLOWS Mark your calendars for Lazarus Saturday (April 12) after liturgy. Volunteers are needed to prepare the palm branches and pussywillows. The palms and pussywillows will be blessed at Vespers that evening and be distributed on Palm Sunday.



A WORD FROM THE HOLY FATHERS

In this time of fasting and prayer, brethren, let us with all our hearts forgive anything real or imaginary we have against anyone. May we all devote ourselves to love, and let us consider one another as an incentive to love and good works, speaking in defense of one another, having good thoughts and dispositions within us before God and men. In this way our fasting will be laudable and blameless, and our requests to God while we fast will be readily received.

—St. Gregory Palamas

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

The eucharistic Divine Liturgy is not celebrated in the Orthodox Church on lenten weekdays. In order for the faithful to sustain their lenten effort by participation in Holy Communion, the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is served. The service is an ancient one in the Orthodox Church. We officially hear about it in the canons of the seventh century, which obviously indicates its development at a much earlier date.

On all days of the holy fast of Lent, except on the Sabbath, the Lord's Day, and the holy day of the Annunciation, the Liturgy of the Presanctified is to be served (Canon 52, Quinisext, 692).

The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is an evening service. It is the solemn lenten Vespers with the administration of Holy Communion added to it. There is no consecration of the eucharistic gifts at the presanctified liturgy. Holy Communion is given from the eucharistic gifts sanctified on the previous Sunday at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, unless, of course, the feast of the Annunciation should intervene; hence its name of "presanctified."

The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is served on Wednesday and Friday evenings, although some churches may cele-

brate it only on one of these days. It comes in the evening after a day of spiritual preparation and total abstinence. The faithful who are unable to make the effort of total fasting because of weakness or work, however, normally eat a light lenten meal in the early morning.



During the psalms of Vespers, the presanctified gifts are prepared for communion. They are transferred from the altar table where they have been reserved since the

Divine Liturgy, and are placed on the table of oblation. After the evening hymn, the Old Testament scriptures of Genesis and Proverbs are read, between which the celebrant blesses the kneeling congregation with a lighted candle and the words: "The Light of Christ illumines all," indicating that all wisdom is given by Christ in the Church through the scriptures and sacraments. This blessing was originally directed primarily to the catechumens—those preparing to be baptized on Easter—who attended the service only to the time of the communion of the faithful.

After the readings, the evening Psalm 141 is solemnly sung once again with the offering of incense. Then, after the litanies of intercession and those at which the catechumens were dismissed in former days,

the presanctified eucharistic gifts are brought to the altar in a solemn, silent procession. The song of the entrance calls the faithful to communion.

Now the heavenly powers [i.e., the angels] do minister invisibly with us. For behold the King of Glory enters. Behold the mystical sacrifice, all fulfilled, is ushered in.

Let us with faith and love draw near that we may be partakers of everlasting life. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

After the litany and prayers, the Our Father is sung and the faithful receive Holy Communion to the chanting of the verse from Psalm 34: "O taste and see how good is the Lord. Alleluia." The post-communion hymns are sung and the faithful depart with a prayer to God who "has brought us to these all-holy days for the cleansing of carnal passions," that he will bless us "to fight the good fight, to accomplish the course of the fast, and to attain unto and to adore the holy resurrection" of Christ.

The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is traditionally considered to be the work of the sixth-century pope, Saint Gregory of Rome. The present service, however, is obviously the inspired liturgical creation of Christian Byzantium.

From "The Orthodox Faith," (Volume II, Worship, Lenten Services) by Fr. Thomas Hopko ✠

SS Peter and Paul Pascha Card

Name(s) : _____

Name(s) to appear on card:

Mailing Address:

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

Deadline: April 6, 2025

Return completed form to Stephanie Homyak or the Church Office.

Proceeds to benefit St. John the Baptist Monastery Building Fund.



Bits . . .

BOOKSTORE While we discipline our bodies through fasting from certain foods during Great Lent, we should feed our minds with the spiritual. In addition to our daily scripture readings, which we do inside and outside of Great Lent, we should provide extra nourishment for our souls with the lives of the saints and their writings. An Orthodox saint is one who has applied the Gospel, that is, they have embodied the words of Christ with their daily lives. This is not the calling of a select few, but for all of us.

Here are a few titles to consider:

Sermons from the Life of St. John Chrysostom. St. John isn't called the "Golden-Mouthed" for nothing. This beautiful collection of sermons are timeless, relevant and come from a place of fatherly love for his flock. The book is separated into separate sermons, so they can be read a little bit at a time. Read a sermon, and then



reflect on it. No need to read it all in one sitting. \$25 Another title we have by St. John Chrysostom reads more like a story and this is the correspondence during his exile to his spiritual daughter St. Olympia. St. Olympia struggled with despondency as she saw her beloved Constantinople wrestling with unrest. St. John, amidst his own sufferings, supported her with such love and gentle admonitions! **Saint John Chrysostom Letters to Saint Olympia**, \$21

Another idea would be to read St. Theophan's **Thoughts for Each Day of the Year.** St. Theophan takes us through the yearly cycle of Gospel and Epistle readings, humbly and reverently offering us brief but powerful daily meditations on the word of God. He also addresses the problems of his day: lack of faith, coldness of heart, trust in the rational mind rather than in the revealed Truth of God which



are problems of our day as well. Again, this is a wonderful book for small daily "bites" to meditate upon without overwhelming ourselves, \$18

And finally, a Lenten classic by the beloved Fr. Alexander Schmemmann...**Great Lent, The Journey to Pascha.** The Lenten season is meant to kindle a "bright sadness" within our hearts. Its aim is precisely the remembrance of Christ, a longing for a relationship with God that has been lost. Lent offers the time and place for recovery of this relationship. The darkness of Lent allows the flame of the Holy Spirit to burn within our hearts until we are led to the brilliance of the Resurrection, \$19.

If you are unsure, stop and ask for suggestions! We have many bibliophiles in our parish that can steer you in the right direction. From the very young child to those more mature in their journey, there is a title at our parish bookstore for everyone.

Around SS Peter & Paul

MARCH BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

- March 7 Lauren Hecht
- 9 Brian Flynn
- 10 Stephanie Homyak
- 12 Sophie Behnen
- 17 Mike Wagner
- 19 Christi and David Sourk
- 20 Jonah Anderson
- 21 Lilly Anderson
- 22 Dylan Arango
- Erich Barlow
- 29 Tania Booriakin
- Judy Bushko
- 30 Alexander (Sasha) Keck

Many Years

Mnogaya Leta!

CHEESEFARE LUNCHEON

Sunday, March 2, 2025

MENU

- 2 Crepes with sweet cheese mixture
- 1 Crepe with spinach, cream cheese & egg
- 2 Crepes - no filling

DESSERT

- Fruit Salad • Cream Puffs • Cake

DONATION

- Adults \$ 12
- Children \$ 6
- 5 and under Free



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:

Robert Hoff

Gina Mudrenko

Jamie Arango

Marie Lobb

Ann Carroll

Antonia Adams-Clement

Walter Booriakin

The suffering people of Ukraine

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

... and Pieces

PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY MEALS After the presanctified liturgies on Wednesday evenings during lent, a light meal of soup, salad, and bread is offered in the church hall. This is a shared meal, and we ask those who are attending to consider signing up to bring an item on one or more of the evenings. Presanctified liturgies will be held March 5, 12, 19, and 26, and April 2 and 9. Please see Marty Gala to sign-up. We also need volunteers to help setup and clean up every Wednesday.

REFURBISHMENT OF THE FRONT DOORS occurred on Monday, February 24th. An oil based finish was used that soaks into the wood on the exterior side of the door. The vendor will make a follow-up visit to add an expanded bottom seal along the bottom of the doors. This specialty seal to be obtained will be added at a later date.



FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION On Tuesday, March 25th, we celebrate the Great Feast of the Annunciation. On this feast, we recall the announcement made by the Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary in Nazareth that she had been chosen by God to be the Mother of the promised Savior (Luke 1:26-38). Vespers will be held on Monday, March 24th at 6:00pm, and Divine Liturgy of the Feast will be celebrated Monday, March 25th at 9:00 am (Hours 8:40am)

PASCHA FLOWERS Please participate in beautifying our church for the celebration of Holy Week and Pascha by donating towards the purchase of flowers.

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY PROCESSION Youth will participate in the annual procession of icons on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 9, 2025. Children are encouraged to bring their own favorite icon from home to carry in the procession. Extra icons will also be available. *We ask that children sit in the front pews on either side of the church after Communion.*

PARISH PASCHA CARD PARISH Each year SS Peter and Paul sends Pascha cards to friends and members (some of whom are not able to come to church very often or at all). It is a simple way to tell people, "We remember you and love you" while sharing the joy of the feast. The deadline to have your name included is April 6th. Proceeds will benefit St. John the Baptist Monastery Building Fund.

MEMORIAL SATURDAYS As we approach and enter the season of the Great Lenten Fast, beginning our journey to Holy Pascha, we pause to remember and pray for our loved ones who have gone before us in hope of the Resurrection. See Father Mikel to provide a list of names you would like commemorated or to update your current list. See calendar for dates.

FRY'S COMMUNITY REWARDS Did you know you can support SS Peter & Paul just by shopping at Fry's? It's easy (and free) to enroll in Fry's Community Rewards at www.frysfood.com. We currently have 22 families enrolled and earned \$48.24 last quarter.

LENTEN SOUP SALE Get ready to stock your refrigerator and freezer with lenten soups that can be enjoyed throughout the fast. The Myrrh Bearers Altar Society will hold a lenten soup sale during coffee hour on Sunday, March 9th. Most soups will be freezer friendly. Soups will be \$8 a quart or \$15 for two quarts. The soups make for an easy dinner or lunch on the go.

MYRTLE AND OIL The St. Macarius Sisterhood announces its new writing platform for spiritual reflections, poetry, meditations on the lives of the saints, and more! <https://myrtleandoil.com>. They hope it will be living water for many thirsty souls.

MISSION TRIP TO KODIAK ISLAND, ALASKA

In preparation for the One Hundred Year Anniversary for the Protection of the Theotokos Chapel in Akhiok, Alaska, we are seeking volunteers to help restore the church to its original luster. The work involved will be putting up new vinyl siding, plywood skirting, metal roofing, painting the interior, lifting and carrying supplies, organizing, cleaning, cooking, and community outreach. Are you skilled at building? Excellent! Even if you are not, we need people who can help with the general grunt work and labor. Can you assist with cooking? Wonderful! Can you organize children's sports, games, and Bible studies in the school gym? Good opportunity to witness and spread the Gospel!

We'll start work on Monday, July 28th in the village of Akhiok which is on the southern tip of Kodiak Island. After working a week and a half on the church, we'll then head back to the City of Kodiak in





time to participate in the St. Herman Pilgrimage beginning on August 7th.

We hope you can make it to one of the most beautiful places on Earth! If you are interested in this missions opportunity, please contact Steve Doerksen at (928)714-6190 or innocent.doerksen@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you!

LOOKING AHEAD: VESPERS OF PASCHA It is an annual tradition in our parish to continue the celebration of the Pascha Midnight Liturgy with Paschal Vespers, this year on Sunday, April 20, at 1:00 p.m. The Vespers service is followed by an "Easter Egg Hunt" for the children as well as a festal pot-luck.

March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
23 MEASTFARE SUNDAY Last Judgment 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy CHURCH SCHOOL	24 Sunday of Orthodoxy Procession of Icons Sunday, March 9, 2025 	25	26 St. Porphyrius, Bishop of Gaza	27 St. Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn	28 Ven. Basil the Confessor	1
			MEAT FAST WEEK			
2 CHEESEFARE SUNDAY FORGIVENESS SUNDAY 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy Forgiveness Vespers NO CHURCH SCHOOL CHEESEFARE LUNCHEON	3 BEGINNING OF GREAT FAST March 23, 2025 St. John the Baptist Monastery will be selling icons, crosses, prayer bracelets, and more. 6:00pm Compline & Great Canon	4 6:00pm Compline & Great Canon	5 5:40pm 9th Hour 6:00pm Presanctified Liturgy Lenten Meal	6 6:00pm Compline & Great Canon	7 8:40am 9th Hour & Typica 9:00am Presanctified Liturgy	8 Theodore Saturday 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy 3:30pm Bible Study 5:00pm Vespers
9 SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy Procession with Icons NO CHURCH SCHOOL MBAS MEETING 6:00 Pan Orthodox Vespers Assumption Greek Orthodox Church	10 LENTEN SOUP SALE March 9, 2025 \$8 a quart or \$15 for two quarts 	11 St. Sophronius 6:00pm Council Mtg	12 5:40pm 9th Hour 6:00pm Presanctified Liturgy Lenten Meal	13	14 St. Benedict of Nursia 8:40am 9th Hour & Typica 9:00am Presanctified Liturgy	15 Soul Saturday 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy 3:30pm Bible Study 5:00pm Vespers
16 ST GREGORY PALAMAS 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy CHURCH SCHOOL FOCA MEETING 6:00 Pan Orthodox Vespers St John the Baptist Romanian Orthodox Church	17 Join us for a light lenten meal following Wednesday evening Presanctified Liturgy. Please contact Marty Gala or Heather Pfeiffer to sign-up to bring soup, fruit, or bread.	18 6:00pm Bible Study	19 5:40pm 9th Hour 6:00pm Presanctified Liturgy Lenten Meal	20	21 8:40am 9th Hour & Typica 9:00am Presanctified Liturgy	22 Soul Saturday 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy 3:30pm Bible Study 5:00pm Vespers
23 VENERATION OF THE PRECIOUS CROSS 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy CHURCH SCHOOL 6:00 Pan Orthodox Vespers St Sava Serbian Orthodox Church	24 Forefeast ANNUNCIATION 6:00pm Vespers	25 ANNUNCIATION 8:45am 9th Hour 9:00am Vesperal Divine Liturgy 6:00pm Bible Study	26 5:40pm 9th Hour 6:00pm Presanctified Liturgy Lenten Meal	27	28 8:40am 9th Hour & Typica 9:00am Presanctified Liturgy	29 Soul Saturday 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy 3:30pm Bible Study 5:00pm Vespers
30 ST JOHN CLIMACUS 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy CHURCH SCHOOL 6:00 Pan Orthodox Vespers St Ignatius Antiochian Orthodox Church	31 St. Innocent 5:40pm 9th Hour 6:00pm Presanctified Liturgy	1 Ven Mary of Egypt 6:00pm Bible Study	2 5:40pm 9th Hour 6:00pm Presanctified Liturgy Lenten Meal	3	4 8:40am 9th Hour & Typica 9:00am Presanctified Liturgy	5 10:00am BAPTISMS 5:00pm Vespers
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.						

2025 Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers

Please join our Brothers & Sisters at the host parishes for these
Sunday Evening Lenten Vespers Services

All Vespers Services Begin at 6:00 PM



The First Sunday of Lent—Sunday of Orthodoxy March 9, 2025

Host Parish: Assumption Greek Orthodox Church
8202 E. Cactus Rd., Scottsdale 85260 (480) 991-3009

The Second Sunday of Lent—Gregory Palamas March 16, 2025

Host Parish: St. John the Baptist Romanian Orthodox Church
3749 W. Behrend Dr., Glendale, AZ 85308 (623) 582-3150



The Third Sunday of Lent— Veneration of the Holy Cross March 23, 2025

Host Parish: St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church
4436 E. McKinley, Phoenix, AZ 85008 (602) 275-7360

The Fourth Sunday of Lent – St. John of the Ladder March 30, 2025

Host Parish: St. Ignatius Antiochian Orthodox Church
2402 N Usery Pass Rd, Mesa, AZ 85207 (480) 892-6224



The Fifth Sunday of Lent—St. Mary of Egypt April 6, 2025

Host Parish: Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
1973 E. Maryland Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85016 (602) 264-7863