

# Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church Newsletter

Volume 11, Issue 1

January 2011

## December Council Highlights

- ✘ November's Operating Income was \$10,601 and Operating Expenses were \$9,947, resulting in positive income of \$644 for the month of November, and a year-to-date deficit of **\$3,029.57**.
- ✘ Interested candidates for the Church Council should contact Fr. David or Andy Evans.
- ✘ Annual Meeting to be held Sunday, January 30, 2011.
- ✘ Considerable discussion on funding the balance of Parking Lot Project costs before actual ground breaking/construction can begin.



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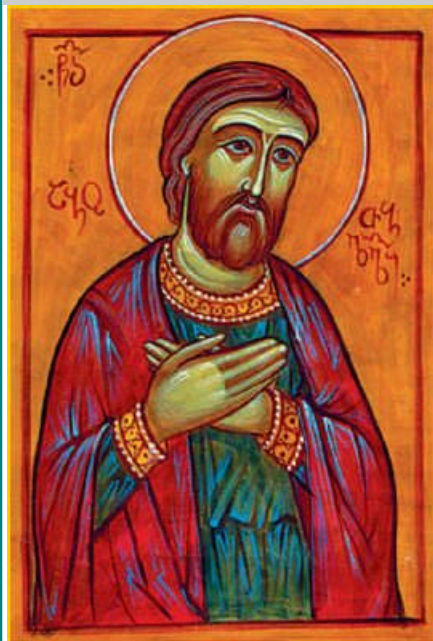
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## Arguing Your Way to Faith



On January 8 the Church remembers Saint Abo, who lived near Baghdad in the eighth century. He was a maker of perfumes and oils, and a devout Muslim.

The lives of saints include many stories of people who came to their faith after a flash of insight showing them that Christianity is true, or that Jesus Christ is the only God. The "wise thief" on the cross is said, in the Holy Week hymn, to have decided to follow Christ "in a single moment." Saint Abo, though, became a Christian much more gradually. We might say that he argued his way into the faith. For those of us who are committed to the Church but have questions and quandaries, his story is a helpful one.

Abo's profession of perfume-

making required him to have some knowledge of chemistry, and he also knew the teachings of Islam very well. He was capable, while still a teenager, of conversing intelligently and confidently on many subjects. Plying his successful trade in Baghdad, he was soon to meet someone with whom he would converse many times, and who would change his life.

The caliph (Moslem ruler) of Baghdad became upset with his provincial governor in Kartli, an area of the country of Georgia, after hearing slanderous reports. He recalled the governor, whose name was Nerses, to Baghdad, and put him in jail.

During his imprisonment, Nerses met and talked with Abo. The prisoner found comfort in having an intelligent person to spend long hours with. Abo liked hearing Nerses' descriptions of Georgia. After a few years, freed by a new caliph, Nerses invited his friend to accompany him to Georgia. The country had been converted to Christianity centuries earlier, but Arab Muslims now had control. When Abo arrived in Kartli with Nerses, he noticed the deep faith of the subjugated Georgian Christians, and was intrigued. He began talking with priests and bishops about their beliefs.

Abo didn't make his discussions

easy for the clergy. He argued about points of faith, asked piercing questions, and challenged them to show him the truth of Christianity. Because he was a sincere inquirer, they were able to do so, and he became a Christian..

It was a dangerous choice, and in the following years Abo twice fled with Nerses to areas not under Arab rule, to escape persecution. But in 782, despite warnings about his safety, he went to the Arab-ruled capital city, Tblisi, to preach the Christian faith. He encouraged the Christians who were suffering under Arab rule, and worked to convert Arab Muslims. Denounced to authorities as a betrayer of Islam, he was beheaded in 786.

If he had not questioned, challenged, and argued, would Abo have developed such unshakable faith? He might urge us to ask our own questions, even to argue, but to be open to real answers. That is the way, this former perfume-maker might say, to erase doubts and to discover what he called "the beautiful fragrance of Jesus Christ."

*This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America. This and many other Christian Education resources are available at <http://dce.oca.org>.*

## Message From Our Rector

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
Christ is born! Glorify Him!

It is my joy to once again extend to you festal greetings and the "joy of the feast" as we continue our celebration of the Lord's Nativity and as we also prepare to celebrate the Great Feast of Holy Theophany. May the Lord, Who was born for us in Bethlehem and Who revealed Himself at His Baptism in the Jordan, bless each one of you, your families, friends, and loved ones as we enter the New Year.



Although it falls on the Commemoration of the Lord's Circumcision and the Feast of Saint Basil the Great, New Year's Day is in itself not a liturgical feast. Nonetheless, it offers us the opportunity, on the first day of the calendar year, to thank God for the blessings we have received in the year gone by and to ask his blessings upon the year that is just beginning. It is my prayer and hope that the Lord will continue to bless all the members of our parish community in the coming year and that 2011 will provide ample opportunities for us to grow in love of God and one another. Many of you are familiar with the song "Let

There Be Peace on Earth." The first lines of the song express our common hope for peace on earth: "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me. Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be." As we enter the New Year we are all well aware of the many wars and conflicts between peoples and nations around the world. We also know of the violence and various forms of crime that take place in our own nation and in our own city and state. We hear about it in the news every day. In the face of this

knowledge, it is our common hope and prayer that the "peace that was meant to be" will become a reality in the coming year.

But, how can this happen? How can peace break into the world? The key is found in the first line of the song just mentioned: "Let there be peace on earth **and let it begin with me.**" We can only hope for peace in the world if we ourselves are living peaceful, peace-centered (and thus Christ-centered) lives. We can only hope for peace in the world if we ourselves are peaceful people. Only if our relationships with those around and us and to the world are based on and lived in the spirit of peace.

Every January 2, the Orthodox Church commemorates the repose of Saint Seraphim of Sarov. Saint Seraphim, the great Russian mystic, who reposed on January 2, 1833, is well known throughout the Christian world as a powerful intercessor, healer, wonderworker, and spiritual father and teacher. Possibly the most well-known and most-often quoted of his spiritual teachings is "Have peace in your hearts and those around you will find their salvation." In this saying, Saint Seraphim teaches us that the peace of the world is dependent upon **us** and upon our ability to obtain, maintain, and nurture the spirit of peace in our own lives. If we are peaceful people, the spirit of peace we carry in our hearts will influence the lives of those around us.

As we enter the New Year, let us ask Saint Seraphim to intercede for us and enable each one of us to obtain the spirit of peace in our own lives—within our homes, families, schools, places of employment, and in all the places we live our lives. And let us pray that, having obtained a spirit of peace, we may, in turn, bring that peace to the world. "Let there be peace on earth—and let it begin with **US.**"

With love in the Lord,

*Father David*

## Parking Lot Update

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

In recent weeks, the City of Phoenix has formally approved virtually, but not quite, all of our plans *vis-à-vis* the building of our new parking lot. We are still waiting to hear from the City with respect to the "salvage plan" filed in conjunction with the landscape plan. Hopefully by the time of our annual meeting on January 30, we will be in a position to inform you that the City has given its long-awaited bureaucratic blessing to all of our plans.

In the meantime, we are in the process of soliciting bids for some prefatory plumbing work that we have decided needs to take place prior to the construction of the parking lot. We have so far received two bids on this project and we are waiting on a third. Once all of the bids are received, we will select a plumber to do the work under what will eventually be our parking lot. It is expected that this plumbing project will, standing alone, cost

our Church several thousand dollars to complete.

As of November 30, and through your generous donations, we have a little over fifty-thousand dollars (\$50,000) in reserve for the parking lot project. While that sum of money will cover the expense associated with the plumbing project referenced above, as well as the architectural and engineering fees associated with the creation of the actual construction documents, it will no doubt fall far short of what is required to actually build the parking lot. Presently, we are in the process of soliciting another non-binding bid so that we may guesstimate exactly how much money we will need raise to complete the entire project. By the time of the annual meeting, we may have a number to share with all of you but, for now, it is fair to assume that we are talking about several tens of thousands of dollars that still needs to be raised from within our Parish. In the meantime, we will proceed steadily with

the behind the scenes prefatory works that needs to be completed and, what is more important, that we can afford using the funds we have in reserve.

Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend the upcoming annual meeting as I will be in Las Vegas for a previously scheduled family event. That being said, I am always more than happy to answer any questions or concerns that you may have regarding the parking lot project. Please feel free to ask me your questions after Church or, if you wish, give me a call at 602/363-0464 or send me an e-mail at oilernick@aol.com. The only way the parking lot project will be completed is with your generous financial support. The Church Council and I want to make certain that you are fully confident that we are proceeding this project in a measured and fiduciary manner.

Regards,

# Multiple Theophanies

Very Rev. Vladimir Berzonsky

“And when Jesus had been baptized, just as He came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to Him and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is My Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’” (Matthew 3:16) The voice of the Father, the Lord Jesus and the Spirit like a dove -- Three Persons acting in unison for our salvation. Here is the meaning of Theophany, or God’s manifestation par excellence. The Church spells it out in the hymn: “The voice of the Father bore witness to You, calling You His beloved Son; and the Spirit in the form of a dove, confessed the truth of that word; O Christ Who has revealed Yourself, glory to You.”

Yet the renowned theologian St. Maximus the Confessor tells us that more Theophanies are exposed to the perceptive who know where to search for them.

Creation itself is a Theophany. The Bible states in the beginning: “God [the Father] said [the Son and Word] let there be [light, waters, etc.] and there was... [an act by the Holy Spirit]. The Spirit completes the plan of the Father Who spoke the Word of God. All thinking human beings [if that is not an oxymoron] are able to understand this. Those who don’t think through creation presume that it just happened without a Personal God planning and carrying it out. Even many who appreciate the beauty of the universe, who are overwhelmed with the splendor and majesty of it all, even as scientists hold as a premise the design and intricacy of each atom and solar system have little reason to muse on how it happened and why it continues -- even when they devote their lives to restoring the cosmic loveliness cosmetically. To our shame they even transcend Christians and other religious bodies in protecting and preserving the environment.

God has also revealed Himself through the history of Israel. Even Islam, its contemporary opponent, honors Judaism and Christianity as people of the Book, or Word of God. Yet it is only the Christians who explain Israel’s history as the plan of the Father being worked out in the Son and living Word, then written at the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, proving once again the common action of the Holy Trinity.

Through the Bible we discover the themes of separation of the Lord’s children from the pro-

fane and ignorant—those capable of and willing to respond to God’s love with an openness to His will, preparing the way for the Savior Messiah. What those chosen people were selected to do was to preserve and reflect upon the Word of God, and to become a “light to enlighten the gentiles,” not to set themselves as an exclusive ethnic nation apart from all others for all time. As St. Paul observed, since they had not fulfilled the plan of the Lord, God grafted the gentiles into the root of Israel to grow and flourish throughout the ages.

Even since Pentecost we go in search of Christ in those who are called by His Name, whose lives are devoted to preparing themselves for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, who pray, fast, and receive Christ in His Body and Blood. He thereby incarnates Himself in us, or desires to do so, and we know that because of it we are dedicated to purifying ourselves from sin. Even God is limited by His divine nature; hence He calls us to come out and separate ourselves from all that is sinful, shameful, vulgar and destructive.

Reprinted from the “Thoughts in Christ”, January 4, 2004, Bulletin 10, Vol. XLI, Orthodox Church in America web site, <http://www.oca.org/CHRIST-thoughts-article.asp?SID=6&ID=1>

## From the Fathers . . .

*“The roof of any house stands upon the foundations and the rest of the structure.*

*The foundations themselves are laid in order to carry the roof. This is both useful and necessary, for the roof cannot stand without the foundations and the foundations are absolutely useless without the roof - no help to any living creature. In the same way the grace of God is preserved by the practice of the commandments, and the observance of these commandments is laid down like foundations through the gift of God. The grace of the Spirit cannot remain with us without the practice of the commandments, but the practice of the commandments is of no help or advantage to us without the grace of God.”*

St. Symeon the New Theologian

## 2011 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

*As we consider God’s blessings, we are in awe of His immense goodness toward us. The greatest gifts to us are His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior and the constant presence of His Holy Spirit working in the Church and in our lives.*

*God endows each of us with personal gifts, talents, and material possessions. Stewardship is acknowledging that God is the source of each gift that has been received and each possession that has been accumulated. It reminds us that these gifts are not our own; that we have a trusteeship over them and not an ownership.*

*Our Church meets the financial needs of its annual ministries and operating budget through stewardship. Our parishioners are stewards of SS Peter & Paul, and they accept direct responsibility for the financial support and progress of our Church and its mission.*

*We are asking you to prayerfully consider your commitment to God and His Church as we begin the new year. The financial level at which you arrive should be a spiritual expression of gratitude and love to God for all you have received.*

*Remember, Christ loved us so much that He sacrificed Himself for us. What can we sacrifice for His church?*



# December in Pictures at SS Peter and Paul

## ST. NICHOLAS VISITS SS PETER AND PAUL

## DECORATING THE TREE MBAS BAKE SALE

## HOLY SUPPER and CHRISTMAS



What better way to welcome St. Nicholas than singing "O KTO, KTO"



Trinity enjoys a visit with St. Nicholas.



Lori helps the kids find the ornaments to decorate the tree.



The church was adorned with poinsettias for Nativity Compline.



St. Nicholas had a smile and a gift for everyone.



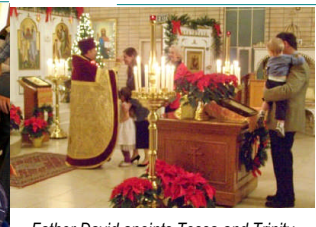
The tree is adorned with icons, crosses, and stars.



Protodeacon Alexis serves with Father David.



A job well done; time for a group hug.



Father David anoints Tessa and Trinity Smith with holy oil.



Anastasia looks on as Leah visits with St. Nicholas.



Alex and St. Nicholas.



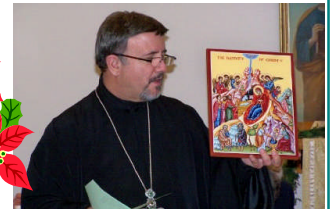
Valentina enjoys a visit with St. Nicholas.



Wow, St. Nicholas, what a full beard you have!



The kids draw names for the raffle.



Father David shows the Nativity icon.



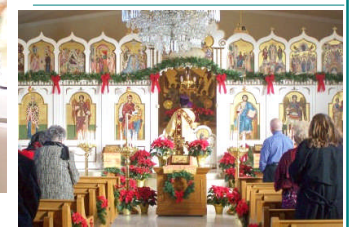
The Sunday School students pose for a group picture.



There were lots of tasty treats for sale at the Myrrbearers' Christmas Bake Sale.



Katie and mom enjoy Holy Supper.



Christ is Born! Glorify Him!



Nancy chats with Bessie Demos.



Communion on the Feast of the Nativity.

# The Fiery Ordeal



On Thursday January 21 we read these words from I Peter 4: 12-13: "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when His glory is revealed."

Peter here reminds us that if we are to share life forever with Christ, we must expect that first we will be tested in this world that rejects Him. Peter goes on, "If you are reviled for the name

of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you." On this Thursday we remember two Christians who lived centuries later than Peter, and who underwent their own "fiery ordeals" and tests of faith.

The first, Saint Agnes, was a Roman maiden born to a Christian family in the late third century, when the Christian-hating Diocletian reigned as emperor. Agnes refused to marry a pagan and give up her faith, and so at a very

young age she was brutally tortured and finally died. Her story is similar to those of other female martyrs.

Maximus the Confessor, who lived in seventh-century Constantinople, had a brief career in public service, and then chose to enter a monastery. Political upheaval forced him to flee to Carthage, where he became embroiled in a controversy about the divine and human wills of Jesus Christ. He insisted that Christ had two wills, and not just His divine will, as some were asserting. Without a human will, Maximus said, Christ could not be truly human.

In the year 658, Maximus' position endangered him. The Patriarch of Constantinople accepted the one-will teaching, and the Emperor had been persuaded to do the same. Maximus was exiled as a heretic. Four years later his tongue was cut out and his hand was cut off so that he could no longer speak or write his "false" teachings. He died a few years later.

The Sixth Ecumenical Council, convened in 680, declared that Christ being perfect God and perfect Man did have both a divine will and a human will. All charges against Maximus were posthumously dropped. He would become a saint of both the Eastern and Western Churches.

To be misunderstood, as Maximus was, is a painful human experience that many of us may share, though not at so great a price as the one he paid. Or we may find ourselves in a hostile environment, as Agnes did, though it may not take our life as it took hers. We will have our own ordeals, and they'll seem fiery enough. It will be hard, when we are going through them, to believe that one day we will "shout for joy." Perhaps it was hard for Agnes and Maximus too, but now they stand ready to shout with us when the great day comes.



## Troparion - Tone 8

Champion of Orthodoxy,  
teacher of purity  
and of true worship,  
enlightener of the universe  
and adornment of hierarchs:  
all-wise father Maximus,  
your teachings have gleamed  
with light upon all things.

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# Church Humor

A kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work.

As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."



A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds.

After explaining the commandment to "honor thy Father and thy Mother, she asked,

"Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, "Thou shall not kill."



A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal, its throat was very small. The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale.

Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible. The little girl said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah".

The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?"

The little girl replied, "Then you ask him".



The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted on the apple tray:

"Take only ONE . . . God is watching."

Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

*"God is a fire that warms and kindles the heart and inward parts. Hence, if we feel in our hearts the cold which comes from the devil - for the devil is cold - let us call on the Lord. He will come to warm our hearts with perfect love, not only for Him but also for our neighbor, and the cold of him who hates the good will flee before the heat of His countenance."*

St. Seraphim of Sarov

# Using the Gift of Speech

On January 12 and 13 we read from the letter of James (3:1-4:6), who writes about the gift of speech. He describes the power speech can have for good or evil, depending on how we use it. Though the tongue is a very small instrument, he writes, it is a fire, and even a huge forest can be set ablaze by a tiny fire.

James strikingly contrasts the two ways we can use our tongues to speak: "With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine yield figs? No more can salt water yield fresh" (3:9-12).

But it is not only the way we speak that's important. We also need to be sure that the particular words we choose are meaningful, and faithful to the truth. Empty words, meaningless chattering words, are a waste of the gift of speech, and lies of course are violations of the purpose of speech. On the 13th we remember



a saint who wrote about the need for meaningful and truthful words. He is Hilary of Poitiers.

Born in Poitiers, France, Hilary had an excellent education which included Greek—unusual for a fourth-century Western European. Married and a father, he was so admired in Poitiers that he was elected bishop in about 353. But only three years later he was banished to Phrygia for several years. This was the result of his arguments against heretical Arian teachings. His writings, and his defense of Saint Athanasius, were so compelling that he is sometimes called the "Athanasius of the West." But the emperor was not pleased, and allowed Hilary's enemies to banish him.

Even in exile, Hilary continued to govern his diocese in France. It was during this time that he studied some of the Eastern Fathers' writings, and deepened his understanding of the Church's teachings about the Trinity. This enabled him to write about the importance of using the right words, both meaningful and true, to speak about the Three Divine Persons: "For one to attempt to speak of God in terms more precise than He Himself has used—to undertake such a thing is

to embark upon the boundless, to dare the incomprehensible. He fixed the names of His nature: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Whatever is sought over and above this is beyond the limits of perception, beyond the embrace of understanding."

Saint Hilary would object to the modern effort to find words other than Father, Son and Holy Spirit to identify the Persons of the Trinity. He would agree with James that words and speech are important, because both have been given to us by God.

### From the feast of St. Hilary...

*"... that we should always and in all places give thanks, pay our vows, and consecrate our gifts to Thee, O Holy Lord, Father almighty, everlasting God. Who of old didst choose Thy blessed confessor Hilary for Thyself to be a prelate of sanctified confession, shining brightly with radiance vast, mighty in the meekness of his ways, burning with the fervour of his faith, flowing with the fountain of his speech. For the One in Whom his glory lay, is revealed by the multitudes thronging his sepulchre, the purification of those that hasten to it, the healing of the diseased there, the signs of astonishing miracles..."*

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## Around Ss. Peter & Paul

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 George Moriarty  
Tekie Andebrhan
- 3 John Tanner
- 5 Pat Starkey
- 6 Walter Booriakin
- 10 Lori Ratushuk  
Hadya Shawky
- 16 Ted Demos  
Liliya Armstrong
- 17 Mark Littrell
- 19 Christy Callaway  
John Hecht  
George & Nadya Moriarty
- 25 Anastasia Ratushuk
- 26 Theodora (Teddi) Brent
- 27 Dan Vinay  
Embafrash Tessema
- 28 Samuel Melendrez
- 29 John & Carol Yavornitzky



*Nativity Epistle reading.*



*Father gives his Nativity Sermon.  
Christ is Born! Glorify Him!*

### PRAYER LIST

*"I was sick and you visited me."  
Matt 25:36*

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

- Lydia Osolinsky and daughter Margot
- Pauline & Dan Vinay
- Marie Yevin
- Peg Linderman
- Beatrice Washington
- Rose and Bill Koval

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

**Many Years! Mongaya Leta!**

# Bits and Pieces

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Our annual parish meeting will be held on Sunday, January 30, 2011, after the Divine Liturgy. Registered voting parish members and all parishioners are encouraged to be present for this annual meeting during which we reflect upon our parish life during the past year and make plans for the future. If you are interested in running for election to the parish council, please contact Father David or Andy Evans.

## THANK YOU

I wish to offer my sincere thanks to all of you who sent cards and who gave gifts as we celebrated the joyous Feast of the Nativity. Your many expressions of love and kindness are deeply appreciated. *Father David*

## NATIVITY CELEBRATION

Our parish celebration of the Lord's Nativity was truly beautiful. From the music, to the assistance of our Altar servers, to the flowers and decoration of the Church and hall, to the Holy Supper—everything we did gave glory to God as we celebrated the Birth of His Son. May the Lord Himself bless all those who made our celebration what it was. *Father David*

## THEOPHANY HOUSE BLESSINGS

The rich liturgical tradition of the Orthodox Church includes a variety of services and blessings. Each year, after the celebration of the Feast of Theophany and the Blessing of Water (January 6), it is customary for the priest to visit parishioners' homes, bringing with him the newly blessed Holy Water to sprinkle and thereby bless the home. Father David will be available to bless homes throughout the month of January. To arrange to have your house blessed, please speak with Father David.

## STEWARDSHIP/PLEDGES/BUDGET

You will be receiving your 2010 Statement of Contributions, for your tax purposes. It is also time to start thinking about your pledge for 2011. Development of the 2011 budget is underway. Operating and utility expenses have been increasing, so more income will be required from pledges and other sources. Please be generous when filling out your 2011 Pledge Form. You can pick up your pledge forms in the Church vestibule. Please complete and return by the Annual Meeting, January 30, 2011. If you have any questions please see or contact the Church office.

## FLOWERS

Flowers for the church were donated in September by Rose Kurowski; October—Ann Garza; November—Vi Wasilenko and Mary Maul; December—Rita Mudrenko and Jane Evans. Thank you to all who donated flowers throughout the year and to those who helped to keep the flowers groomed, placed them appropriately in church and back to the cooler to help preserve them. Thank you to all who contributed to help defray the cost of the Christmas flowers (Poinsettias).

*Elena Kerr*

## CHURCH CALENDARS

Many thanks to John Blischak for sponsoring our 2011 parish calendar.

## MBAS

Many thanks to the Myrrh Bearers Altar Society and all the hard work they put in preparing for the holidays: baking nut rolls, the Christmas bake and raffle, beautifying the church, and hosting Holy Supper.

The Myrrh Bearers will have their annual luncheon on February 13th. Further details will be forthcoming.

## BOOKSTORE

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

The beautiful feast of Theophany greets us as we enter the new calendar year, and the bookstore carries a small selection of Holy Water bottles that will enable you to store your blessed water in a manner befitting this sacred item. \$3-\$5, depending on size.

The Orthodox Pocket Calendar for 2011 is available for purchase at the bookstore for \$4. All proceeds are directed to the Myrrh Bearer's Altar Society. Quantities of this item limited, so acting quickly would be prudent.

## HOLY SUPPER

One hundred seven parishioners, family/friends attended Holy Supper. It was a beautiful evening that began with everyone attending Compline and Litya before Holy Supper. Thank you all for attending and contributing to this special evening. Thank you to those who donated to defray the cost of the fish.

*Elena Kerr*

## CHRISTMAS RAFFLE AND BAKE SALE

Once again both of these events were a success because of parishioner participation. Thank you to those of you who donated prizes for the raffle, to those that bought tickets, to the Myrrh Bearer bakers, to parishioners who brought in items for the bake sale, and to those who bought the delicious homemade items.

*Elena Kerr*



Prizes for the Christmas Raffle . . .

## FROM THE TREASURER

Happy New Year! As a step to further economize in our church's operating expenses and be more environmentally-minded, we will be recycling envelope boxes from past years for use in 2011. We have grown a supply of excess boxes of envelopes over the last few years that were not utilized. Due to the increased cost of printing new boxes, we would be looking at an approximate cost of \$1,000 for a hundred sets. In recycling the prior year's boxes, the identification number and the day/year have been marked out. The identification number has been overwritten with your assigned number. If you would like the exact date to be on each envelope, please feel free to take a 2011 church calendar and write them in. It would be a great help to the treasurer of not having to write in all those dates.

Not everyone will be issued a 2011 recycled box of envelopes. Initially, only those folks who used their envelopes will be issued another set. If anyone who does not receive a 2011 box set wants a set, just ask the church treasurer and a set will be made up, assigned, and provided to you. For all others that use the blank/generic envelopes from the pews or from the back of the church, please continue using those as you have. The treasurer will make sense of it all. Thank you to all of you who answered the year-end call and made it possible for our church to end the year in the operating black. Your donations are most appreciated!

## WELCOME

We welcome all visitors to SS Peter & Paul. We hope your visit was enriching and enlightening. Please join us in the Cultural Center, behind the church, for our Fellowship Hour. It's a chance to meet some of our members, other visitors, and enjoy some coffee and fellowship. It's also a great time to take a look at our bookstore.

# January 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
<p><b>Additional Spiritual Needs</b> Forms are available in the church narthex for listing names to be remembered during Proskomedie and Liturgy. Please hand them to an usher or the office for delivery. If you have additional spiritual needs, please call Father David at 602.253.9515.</p>		<p><b>We welcome all of our guests and visitors. Please join us in the Cultural Center for Fellowship Hour following Divine Liturgy each Sunday.</b></p>				<p><b>1 Circumcision of Christ</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy 5:00pm Great Vespers</p>		
<p><b>2 Ven. Seraphim of Sarov</b> 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p><b>3 Forefeast of Theophany</b></p>	<p><b>4 Synaxis of the 70 Apostles</b></p>	<p><b>5 Eve of Theophany</b> <b>STRICT FAST</b> 6:00pm Great Compline and Litya</p>	<p><b>6 Holy Theophany</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy Great Blessing of Water</p>	<p><b>7 Synaxis of St. John the Baptist</b></p>	<p><b>8 Saturday after Theophany</b> 5:00pm Great Vespers</p>		
<p><b>9 Sunday after Theophany</b> 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Church School</b> <b>MBAS Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>10 St Gregory of Nyssa</b> St Theophan the Recluse</p>	<p><b>11 Ven. Theodosius the Great</b> 6:00pm Council Meeting</p>	<p><b>SS Peter and Paul Annual Meeting</b> <b>Sunday, January 30, 2011</b></p>		<p><b>12 St. Sava of Serbia</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> 5:00pm Great Vespers</p>
<p><b>16</b> 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Church School</b></p>	<p><b>17 Ven. Godbearing Anthony the Great</b></p>	<p><b>18 SS Athanasius &amp; Cyril</b></p>	<p><b>19 St. Macarius the Great of Egypt</b></p>	<p><b>20 St. Euthymius the Great</b></p>	<p><b>21 St. Maximus the Confessor</b></p>	<p><b>22 Apostle Timothy</b> 5:00pm Great Vespers</p>		
<p><b>23</b> 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Church School</b></p>	<p><b>24 Blessed Xenia of Petersburg</b></p>	<p><b>25 St. Gregory the Theologian</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27 Translation of the Relics of St. John Chrysostom</b></p>	<p><b>28 Venerable Ephraim &amp; Isaac of Syria</b></p>	<p><b>29</b> 5:00pm Great Vespers</p>		
<p><b>30 Synaxis Three Hierarchs</b> 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Church School</b> <b>SS PETER &amp; PAUL ANNUAL MEETING</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	<p><b>1 Forefeast of the Meeting of Christ in the Temple</b> 6:00pm Vespers</p>	<p><b>2 Meeting of Christ in the Temple</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy Blessing of Candles</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b> 5:00pm Great Vespers</p>		
<p>Mark your calendars. . . <b>MBAS Annual Luncheon</b> February 13, 2011</p>								