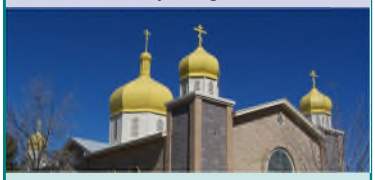
Orthodox Church in America

SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church Newsletter

Volume 26, Issue 8 August 2026

July Council Highlights

- ✠ June's Operating Income was $31,046.62 and Operating Expenses were $23,702.93, resulting in a positive balance of $7,343.69.
- ✠ After reviewing 3 bids, the board selected First Choice to crack seal, seal the parking lot, and repaint the lines as the materials they quoted will double the life compared to the other 2 bids.
- ✠ Blessing of Students and Teachers will be Sunday, August 30, 2026.



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 Dormition Fast: Commitment vs. Convenience

Fr. Steven Kostoff

Today – August 1 – is the beginning of the relatively short Dormition Fast that culminates with the celebration of the Great Feast of the Dormition on August 15. Every fast presents us with a *challenge* and a *choice*. In this instance, I would say that our choice is between "convenience" and "commitment." We can choose convenience because of the simple fact that to fast is decidedly *in*-convenient. It takes planning, vigilance, discipline, self denial, and an overall concerted effort. It is convenient to allow life to flow on at its usual (summer) rhythm, which includes searching for that comfort level of least resistance. To break our established patterns of living is always difficult, and it may be something we would only contemplate with reluctance. So, one choice is to do nothing different during this current Dormition Fast, or perhaps only something minimal, as a kind of token recognition of our life in the Church. I am not quite sure, however, what such a choice would yield in terms of further growth in our life "in Christ." It may rather mean a missed opportunity.

Yet the choice remains to embrace the Dormition Fast, a choice that is decidedly "counter-cultural" and one that manifests a conscious commitment to an Orthodox Christian "way of life." Such a commitment signifies that we are looking beyond what is convenient toward what is *meaningful*. It would be a choice in which we recognize our weaknesses, and our need precisely for the planning, vigilance, discipline, self-denial and over-all concerted effort that distinguishes the seeker of the "mind of Christ" which we have as a gift within the life of the Church. That *is* a difficult choice to make, and one that is perhaps particularly difficult within the life of a family with children who are often resistant to any changes. I still believe, though, that such a difficult choice has its "rewards" and that such a commitment will bear fruit in our families and in our parishes. (If embraced legalistically and judgmentally, however, we will lose our access to the potential fruitfulness of the Fast and only succeed in creating a miserable atmosphere in our homes). It is a choice that is determined to seize a good opportunity as at least a potential tool that leads to spiritual growth.

My observation is that we combine the "convenient" with our "commitment" within our contemporary social and cultural life to some degree. We often don't allow the Church to "get in the way" of our plans and goals, and that may be hard to avoid in the circumstances and conditions of our present "way of life." It is hard to prevail in the neverending "battle of the calendars." The surrounding social and cultural *milieu* no longer supports our commitment to Christ and the Church. In fact, it is usually quite indifferent and it may even be hostile toward such a commitment. Though we may hesitate to admit it, we find it very challenging not to conform to the world around us. But it is never *impossible* to choose our commitment to our Orthodox Christian way of life over what is merely convenient – or simply desired. That may just be one of those "daily crosses" that the Lord spoke of – though it may be a stretch to call that a "cross." This also

(Continued on page 5)

Message from Our Rector

As we approach the month of August, we can already begin preparing for the Dormition Fast, which starts on August 1 and ends on August 15. During this fast, we honor the Most Holy Theotokos. This fast is a little stricter than the Apostles' Fast, but it is only two weeks long, and we should make every effort to observe it as faithfully as possible. Fasting is an important part of our spiritual life, helping us to grow closer to Christ through prayer, repentance, and self-discipline.

The month of August is also the last month of the Church year, with September 1 marking the beginning of the new Church year. During this month we celebrate two Great Feasts, along with the commemoration of one of the Church's greatest saints.

Following the Dormition Fast, from August 15 through August 23, we celebrate the Feast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Mother of God. We do not celebrate the death of the Mother of God, but rather Her Dormition—Her "falling asleep" in the Lord. At that time, according to Holy Tradition, all of the Apostles were present, with one exception—Thomas. The Church's hymns tell us of the singing of the angels and the great spiritual joy that filled Jerusalem on the day of the Dormition of the Mother of God.

For us as Orthodox Christians, the Dormition reminds us of the prayer we offer in every Divine Liturgy and service: *"A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, peaceful, and a good defense before the dread Judgment Seat of Christ."* We see in the Mother of God the perfect example of a faithful Christian. We see our own calling reflected in Her life and in Her Dormition. That is why She is so important to 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 continually prays for us. We ask Her to be with us throughout our lives and especially at the time of our death, believing with confidence that She will intercede for us, for She is the first among the saints of the Church.

Following the Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Dormition, the traditional Blessing of flowers and herbs will take place.

Also during this month, on August 6, we celebrate the Great Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord. Peter, James, and John accompanied Christ to Mount Tabor, where He was transfigured before them and shone with the bright, uncreated light of His divinity. They also saw Moses and the Prophet Elijah standing there and speaking with Him. Altogether there were six visible persons present. However, the Father and the Holy Spirit were also there, though invisibly present with the Lord: the Father, by His voice proclaiming, "This is My beloved Son," and the Holy Spirit shining forth in the radiant cloud. Thus, there were truly eight present, and there is no contradiction in the Church's teaching. Following the Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Transfiguration, we will have the traditional Blessing of Grapes and Fruit.

Then, on August 29, we commemorate the Beheading of St. John the Baptist. Christ said that St. John was the greatest prophet "among those born of women" (Luke 7:28). Yet John, the Holy Forerunner and Baptizer of the Lord, was put to death by Herod because he preached the truth without fear. He stands as a powerful example for all of us. He lived simply, remained obedient to God, and never compromised the truth, even when it cost him his life. His witness reminds us that we, too, are called to remain faithful to Christ regardless of the challenges we may face.

As we journey through this holy month, let us embrace the opportunities the Church gives us through fasting, prayer, and worship. May we honor the Most Holy Theotokos, rejoice in Christ's Transfiguration, and imitate the faithfulness of St. John the Baptist as we prepare to begin the new Church year with renewed faith.

Fr. Mikel

BLESSING OF VEHICLES

Thank you to everyone who joined us today for the Feast of the Holy Prophet Elijah and our annual blessing of vehicles. It was wonderful to see our church parking lot filled with cars and trucks.

Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America

Delegates from across the United States gathered in Cleveland, Ohio, July 24–27 for the 99th Annual Convention of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA). Cleveland was chosen because of its historic connection to the organization. Archpriest Vladimir Prislopsky, founder of the FOCA (originally the Federated Russian Orthodox Clubs), served for 37 years as rector of Archangel Michael Orthodox Church.

The convention opened with an evening of fellowship at Archangel Michael Orthodox Church, attended by His Eminence Archbishop Daniel and His Grace Bishop Gerasim. On Saturday, delegates conducted convention business while youth participated in a FOCA-sponsored mini-camp. His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon joined the convention, offering words of encouragement before Great Vespers.

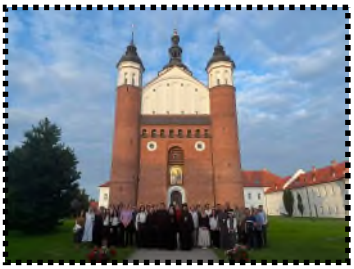
On Sunday, Metropolitan Tikhon presided at the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, concelebrated by Archbishop Daniel, Bishop Gerasim, and clergy from across the country. Following the service, Archangel Michael Church received Fr. Vladimir Prislopsky's gold pectoral cross as a memorial to his priestly ministry and his foundational role in the FOCA. At the Grand Banquet that followed, the annual Gifts of Love campaign raised nearly $6,800 to benefit the Shrine to St. Olga of Kwethluk in Alaska, including almost $4,500 collected prior to the convention and an additional $2,300 raised during the banquet.

The convention concluded Monday with the election of officers and other business. Nicholas Resetar was elected to serve as FOCA president during the organization's centennial year.

The FOCA supports national church causes with a special focus on youth ministries and supporting seminaries. The fellowship looks forward to celebrating 100 years of service in 2027. To honor this milestone, the 100th National FOCA Convention will take place in Canonsburg, PA, from July 23–26, 2027.

SUPRASL Summer 2026

James LeGendre became the first parishioner from SS. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church to attend SUPRASL SUMMER, an international gathering of Orthodox young adults from around the world. The week-long program brings together participants for prayer, friendship, creativity, and conversation rooted in the life of the Church, celebrating the unity of Orthodoxy while inspiring young adults to live the Gospel in their communities.



Before departing, James received a travel blessing from Fr. Mikel. After arriving in Poland, he had the opportunity to visit several significant Orthodox and historical sites, including Old Town Warsaw, the Metropolitan Cathedral of St. Mary Magdalene in Warsaw, Jasna Góra and the revered Black Madonna in Częstochowa, as well as Holy Spirit Orthodox Church in Vilnius, Lithuania.

SUPRASL SUMMER officially began on July 28 at the Monastery of the Annunciation in Supraśl, Poland. By the end of the first full day, what began as 85 participants representing more than two dozen countries had already begun to grow into a close-knit community of friends. The program opened with welcoming remarks from Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak and Sophia Chiriac, followed by a tour of the monastery and its surroundings. Later that day, Bishop Andrew of Supraśl welcomed His Grace Bishop Gerasim of Fort Worth, and together they celebrated the Akathist to the Supraśl Mother of God. The evening concluded with a cultural celebration where participants shared food, traditions, and stories from their home countries.

We are proud of James for representing our parish at this unique international Orthodox gathering and look forward to hearing more about his experiences when he returns.

St. Ephraim On the Transfiguration

From the land comes the joy of harvest, from the vineyard fruits that give food, and from the Scriptures teaching that gives life. The land has one season for the harvest, and the vineyard has one season for the vintage, but the Scripture when read always overflows with teaching that gives life. The land when it has been harvested lies fallow and the vineyard when the grapes have been picked is unproductive, but when Scripture is harvested the grapes of those who expound it are not lacking in it. It is picked every day and the grape clusters of the hope in it are never exhausted. Let us then draw near to this land and enjoy its life-giving furrows; and let us harvest from it grapes of life, the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, who said to His Disciples, 'There are some of those standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of man coming in his glory'.

Transfiguration of Our Lord

'And after six days He took Simon Peter and James and John his brother to a very high mountain and He was transfigured before them, and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became white like light'. Men whom He said would not taste death until they saw the image of His coming, are those whom He took and led up the mountain and showed them how He was going to come on the last day in the glory of His divinity and in the body of His humanity.

He led them up the mountain to show them who the Son is and whose He is. Because when He asked them, 'Whom do men say the Son of man is?' They said to Him, some Elias, others Jeremias, or one of the Prophets. This is why He leads them up the mountain and shows them that He is not Elias, but the God of Elias; again, that He is not Jeremias, but the one who sanctified Jeremias in his mother's womb; not one of the Prophets, but the Lord of the Prophets, who also sent them. And He shows them that He is the maker of heaven and earth, and that He is Lord of living and dead. For He gave orders to heaven and brought down Elias, and made a sign to the earth and raised up Moses.

He led them up the mountain to show them that He is the Son of God, born from the Father before the ages and in the last times incarnate from the Virgin, as He knows how, born ineffably and without seed, preserving her virginity incorrupt; for wherever God wills it, the order of nature is overcome. For God the Word dwelt in the Virgin's womb, and the fire of his divinity did not consume the members of the Virgin's body, but protected them carefully by its nine month presence. He dwelt in the Virgin's womb, not abhorring the unpleasant smell of nature, and God incarnate came forth from her to save us.

He led them up the mountain to show them the glory of the godhead and to make known to them that He is the redeemer of Israel, as He had shown through the Prophets, and they should not be scandalized in Him when they saw His voluntary sufferings, which as man He was about to suffer for us. For they knew Him as a man, but did not know that He was God. They knew Him as son of Mary, going about with them in the world, and He made known to them on the mountain that He was Son of God and God. They saw that He ate and drank, toiled and rested, dozed and slept, things which did not accord with His divine nature, but only with His humanity, and so He took them to the mountain that the Father might call Him Son and show that He is truly His Son and that he is God.

He led them up the mountain and showed them His kingship before His passion, and His power before His death, and his glory before His disgrace, and his honor before His dishonor, so that, when He was arrested and crucified by the Jews, they might know that He was not crucified through weakness, but willingly by His good pleasure for the salvation of the world.

He led them up the mountain and showed the glory of His divinity before the resurrection, so that when He rose from the dead in the glory of His divine nature, they might know that it was not because of His harsh toil that he accepted glory, as if He lacked it, but it was His before the ages with the Father and together with the Father, as He said as He was coming to His voluntary passion, 'Father, glorify Me with the glory which I had with You before the world existed'.

And so on the mountain He showed His Apostles the glory of His divinity, concealed and hidden by His humanity. For they saw His face bright as lightning and His garments white as light. They saw two suns; one in the sky, as usual, and one unusually; one visible in the firmament and lighting the world, and one, His face, visible to them alone. His garments white as light showed that the glory of His divinity flooded from His whole body, and His light shone from all His members. For His flesh did not shine with splendor from without, like Moses, but the glory of His divinity flooded from Him. His light dawned and was drawn together in Him. Nor did depart somewhere else and leave Him, because it did come from another place and adorn Him, nor was it for His use. And He did not display the whole depth of His glory, but only as much as the limits of their eyes could encompass.

'And there appeared to them Moses and Elias talking with Him'. And the words that they said to Him were such as these: they were thanking Him that their words

(Continued on page 5)

The Dormition Fast: Commitment vs. Convenience

(Continued from page 1)

entails choices, and we have to assess these choices with honesty as we look at all the factors that make up our lives. In short, it is very difficult – but profoundly rewarding – to practice our Orthodox Christian Faith today!

I remain confident, however, that the heart of a sincere Orthodox Christian desires to choose the hard path of commitment over the easy (and rather boring?) path of convenience. We now have the God-given opportunity to escape the summer doldrums that drain our spiritual energy. With prayer, almsgiving and fasting, we can renew our tired bodies and souls. We can lift up our "drooping hands" in an attitude of prayer and thanksgiving. The Dormition of the Theotokos has often been called "pascha in the summer." It celebrates the victory of life over death—or of death as a translation into the Kingdom of Heaven. The Dormition Fast is our spiritually vigilant preparation leading up to that glorious celebration. "Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold now is the day of salvation!" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

Reprinted from *https://www.oca.org/reflections/fr.-steven-kostoff/the-dormition-fast-commitment-vs.-convenience*✠

ORTHODOX TRIVIA

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

Put your Orthodox knowledge to the test with a fun **Orthodox Trivia Challenge** during coffee hour on Sunday, August 16!

Parishioners will form teams to answer 20 questions covering Scripture, saints, feast days, Church history, and Orthodox traditions. Whether you're a Church trivia expert or just enjoy learning something new, everyone is welcome. Come for the fellowship, friendly competition, and a fun way to grow in your knowledge of the Orthodox Faith!

YOU MISSED AN ABSOLUTE FEAST!

Last Sunday, July 26th, Katrina Delsante hosted an incredible Young Adults Potluck Lunch filled with amazing food, nonstop laughter, and the absolute best company. It was the perfect afternoon of connecting, sharing delicious dishes, and making memories together!

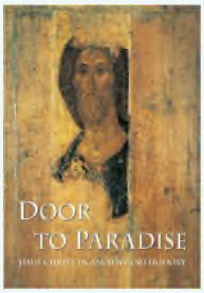
St. Ephraim On the Transfiguration

(Continued from page 4)

and those of all their fellow Prophets had been fulfilled by his coming. They offered Him worship for the salvation which He had wrought for the world for the human race; and that He had fulfilled in reality the mystery they had only sketched. There was joy for the Prophets and the Apostles by this ascent of the mountain. The Prophets rejoiced when they saw His humanity, which they had not known. The Apostles also rejoiced when they saw the glory of His divinity, which they had not known, and heard the voice of the Father bearing witness to His Son; and through this they recognized His incarnation, which was concealed from them.✠

BOOKSTORE SPOTLIGHT August in Arizona means back-to-school time! The bookstore has expanded its children's selection to two shelves worth of beautifully illustrated titles. We added one board book for young children and expanded our Lives of the Saints collection for older children. Your children's education should always start here to build a foundation so they can compare and eventually discern literature that is profitable for the soul from that which is not.

Did you order an icon of the Theotokos and Saint Elizabeth embracing or an icon of the Theotokos, The Life-Giving Spring? If so, those icons are ready for pickup. If they aren't claimed by the end of August, they will be placed on the shelf for sale.



Finally, if you speak to someone new during coffee hour or know someone interested in learning more about the Orthodox Church, free booklets entitled "Door to Paradise: Jesus Christ in Ancient Orthodoxy" are available on the bookstore counter. This illustrated 20-page introductory booklet published by St. Herman Press provides a beautiful exposition of The Church.

2026 Diocese of the West Choir Practicum

Alexander Voght

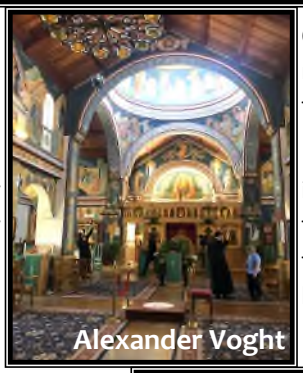
Imagine the best singer you personally know, but there are around 30 of them.

Esther Agulian Carr

Their voices harmonize and echo off hard walls covered in iconography to warm you and make you forget the outside world and everything but that moment in church. That's how the Music Practicum at St. Seraphim of Sarov Orthodox Cathedral in Santa Rosa California felt. It was a session surpassing our earthly endeavors, a break from life yet filled with intense, packed schedules.

There was vocal training and lessons on singing technique, theory, conductor training, focusing on how music should be performed in church, and working with those around you. It was a pleasure to meet many talented and kind, experienced people from other churches. There was a former opera singer, many people who grew up with talent singing in the church as a child, and some converts helping to develop new churches in smaller areas. This camaraderie is uplifting. I found at least 10 different types of flowers in bloom around the church facility, some having a lemony smell. It was honestly hard to go back to normal life after that '*work-cation*'. Working for the Church with fellow Christians for a week was more fulfilling than a year in the secular world.

Esther Agulian Carr


Alexander Voght

If anyone has an interest in improving their choir depth, the Music Practicum is great training after developing a basic foundation.

Esther Agulian Carr

Christopher Martin

Around SS Peter & Paul

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

August	1	Eleanor King
	8	Oksana & Greyson Geiler
	10	Lidya Dolenko
	13	Pamela Bolton
	14	Sophia Zaremba
		Kevin & Emma Guerrero
	15	William Osolinksy
		Arthur Rhodes
	17	Vera Moschowsky
	18	Ezekiel Lee
	19	Bill Weiss
	29	Michael Walsh

Many Years! Многая лета!

CONGRATULATIONS

With joy and gratitude, we celebrate the holy union of Beth-Madeline Anderson and Jacob Hale, who were crowned in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony on July 5, 2026.

As they begin their life together, may the Lord bless them with love, faith, patience, and His abundant grace, that their marriage may always reflect Christ's love for His Church.

"Lord our God, crown them with glory and honor."

Many Years to the newly crowned servants of God, Beth-Madeline and Jacob!

PRAYER LIST

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

John Blischak
Pamela Bolton
Sue Bieber
David Bieber
William Osolinsky
Anatoly Bezkorovainy
Jamie Arango
Ann Carroll
Antonia Adams-Clement
Tania Booriakin
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 Fr. 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 15th. 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 Tuesday evening, August 5th at 5:00pm and Divine Liturgy on Wednesday, August 6th at 9:00am, followed by the blessing of fruit.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST ORTHODOX CHURCH in Mesa, will celebrate its Patronal Feast Day on Saturday Sept 26th. Fr Andre has invited anyone who wishes to attend. His Grace Bishop Vasily will be serving the Divine Liturgy.

CHURCH SCHOOL SAVE THE DATE

August 9th

Church School Organizational and Planning Meeting for teachers, assistant teachers, and volunteers

If you would like to help in Church School or have questions, contact Stephanie Homyak, 602.432.7473

BLESSING OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS Mark your calendars! We're kicking off the school year with the Blessing of Students and Teachers on August 30, 2026, followed by some ice breaker activities in the Church Hall.

SUMMER TRAVEL This summer, parishioners traveled far and wide, bringing their Orthodox faith with them. Fr. Mikel blessed those who were traveling on Sunday, July 19th.

Priscilla and Margot attended St. Eugene's Orthodox Youth Camp in Dunlap, CA. While there, they participated in balloon wars, canoeing, crafting, answering some tough Bible questions, campfire and skit night, Christian education, time to bond, and worship!

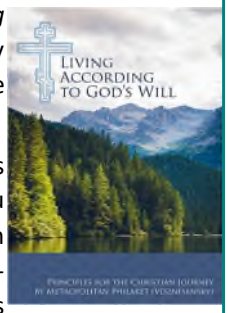
They had an amazing time and look forward to returning next year.

Matushka Lisa Bock and Alexander Voght traveled to Santa Rosa to attend the Diocese of the West's 2026 Choir Practicum.

Several members of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians (FOCA), Judy and John Bushko, Dave and Stephanie Homyak, and Luka Radjenovich, flew to Cleveland, OH to attend the 99th National FOCA Convention at Archangel Michael Orthodox Church.

James LeGendre traveled to Poland for the SUPRASL SUMMER 2026.

THE WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB has its next meeting on Saturday, August 22nd at 3pm. We are starting a new title called *Living According to God's Will.* You may purchase a copy at the bookstore for $15.



Important note It is not a problem if you miss a month. Each meeting is independent of the previous one. Join us for about 75 minutes of learning, discussion, and a little laughter. Please see Katrina in the bookstore for any questions.

CONFESSIONS are heard after Vespers on Saturday Evening. If you would like your confession to be at a different time, please let Fr. Mikel or Fr. David know. Everyone who goes to Communion is required by the Holy Synod of Bishops of the OCA to have their Confession heard at least once every 4 weeks.

FOCA NEWS Wishing everyone born in August a happy birthday! May God grant you many blessed and joyful years.

While the holiday season feels far away, it will be here before we realize it. To help share the joy of the season, the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA) will host a 50/50 raffle on Sunday, August 16. All proceeds will go directly toward sponsoring seminarians for Christmas at St. Herman's Seminary. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity and wonderful support of our future church leaders.

EXALTATION OF THE CROSS is hosting a seminar with Dcn. Seraphim Richard Rohlin on Stories of the Celtic Age of Saints. Dcn. Seraphim has travelled extensively in the British Isles researching this topic. The seminar is Friday Nov. 6 at 6 pm and Saturday Nov. 7. If you plan on attending the Nov. 7th seminar, you **MUST** register because we will provide a "Celtic" lunch. Register at *https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/11383860*.

August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
We welcome all of our guests and visitors. Please join us in the Cultural Center for Fellowship Hour following Divine Liturgy each Sunday.			Blessing of Students and Teachers Sunday, August 30, 2026 Followed by Group Icebreaker Activities			**1** Procession of the Lifegiving Cross **Beginning of Dormition Fast** 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy 5:00pm Vespers
2 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy *Project Mexico Collection*	**3** Ven Isaac, Dalmatus & Faustus of Constantinople 6:00pm ZOOM Catechumen Class	**4**	**5** Forefeast Transfiguration 5:30pm Vespers **NO CLASS**	**6** **Transfiguration of Our Lord** 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy *Blessing of Fruit*	**7** **CHURCH SCHOOL PLANNING MEETING AUGUST 9TH** **For teachers, assistant teachers, and volunteers**	**8** 5:00pm Vespers
9 Ven. Herman of Alaska Apostle Matthias 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy **MBAS Meeting**	**10** **FOCA will sponsor a 50/50 Raffle August 16, 2026 To benefit St. Herman's Seminarians** 6:00pm ZOOM Catechumen Class	**11** 6:00pm Council Meeting	**12** 6:00pm The Bible & the Orthodox Faith	**13** Leavetaking Transfiguration St. Tikhon of Zadonsk	**14** Forefeast Dormition 5:30pm Vespers	**15** **DORMITION MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS** 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy *Blessing of Herbs And Flowers* 5:00pm Vespers
16 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy **ORTHODOX TRIVIA CHALLENGE** **50/50 RAFFLE FOR ST. HERMAN'S SEMINARIANS**	**17** 6:00pm ZOOM Catechumen Class	**18**	**19** 6:00pm The Bible & the Orthodox Faith	**20** MARK YOUR CALENDAR Orthodox Trivia Challenge Sunday, August 16, 2026 During Coffee Hour	**21**	**22** **3:00pm WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB** 5:00pm Vespers
23 Leavetaking Dormition 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy	**24** Hieromartyr Eutyches 6:00pm ZOOM Catechumen Class	**25** Check out our Facebook page for more photos and videos: https://www.facebook.com/stspeterandpaulaz/	**26** Vladimir Icon 6:00pm The Bible & the Orthodox Faith	**27**	**28** Ven. Job of Pochaev 5:30pm Vespers	**29** Beheading of St. John the Baptist 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy 5:00pm Vespers
30 Relics St. Alexander Nevsky 8:40am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy **BLESSING OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS**	**31** Placing of Cincture of Mother of God **NO ZOOM CLASS**	**1** Church New Year Ven. Simeon the Stylite	**2** **NO CLASS**	**3** **SUNDAY SCHOOL** is looking for volunteers to help with our Sunday School program for 2026-2027. Please contact Stephanie Homyak, 602.432.7473, to volunteer.	**4**	**5** 5:00pm Vespers