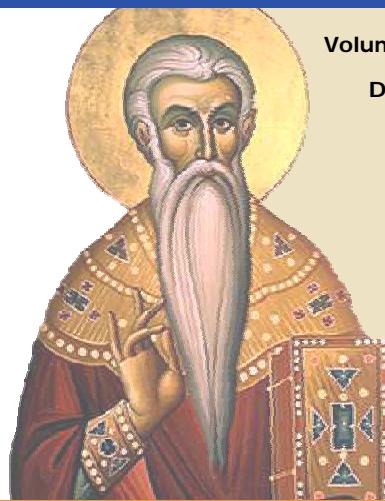


# inTouch

Volume 16, Issue 12

December 2008



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

**Stewardship**

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**Building a**

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**Sunday**

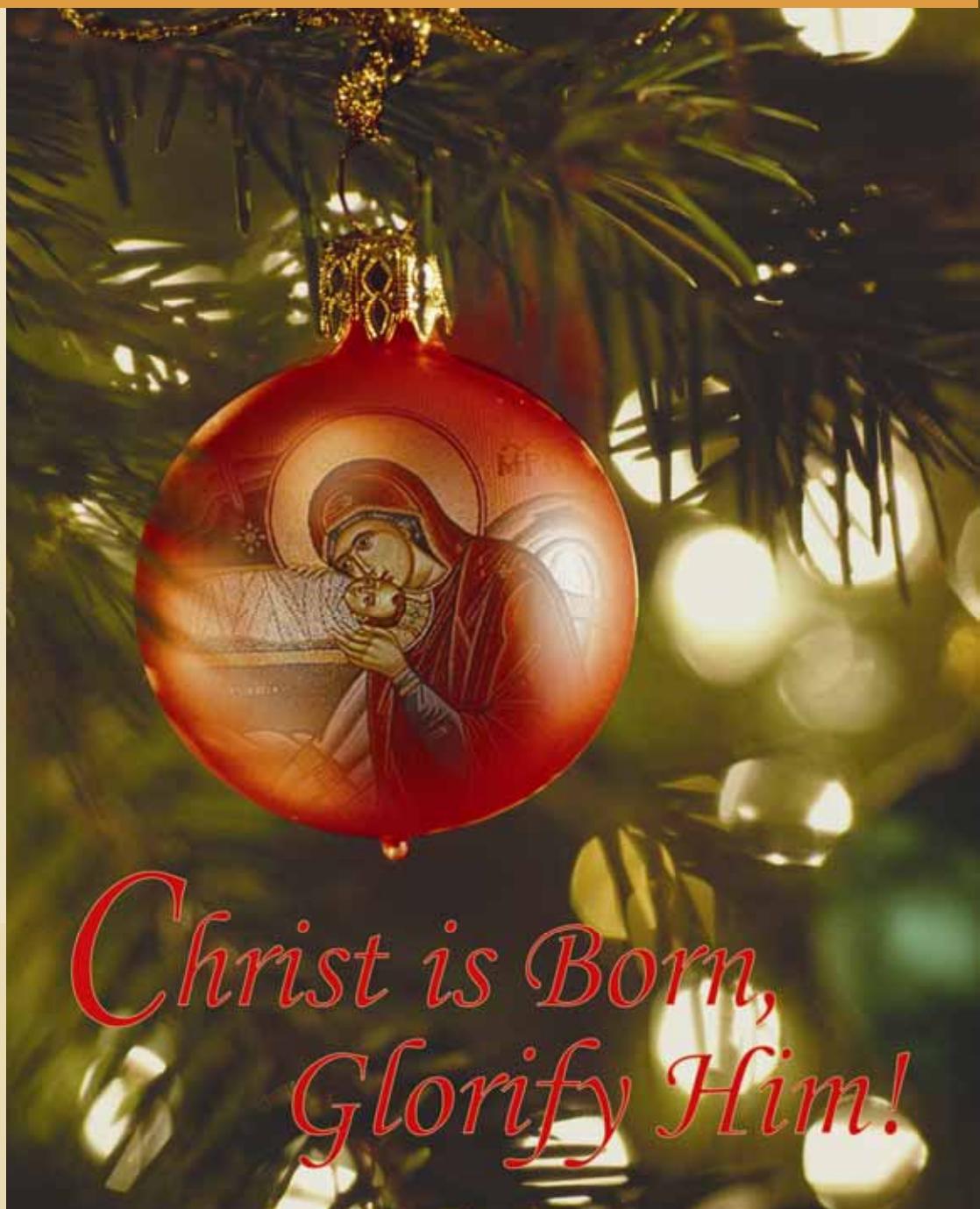
**School • 5**

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**The Icon of**

**the Nativity • 8**



*Lord, You know that men are flesh and blood; forgive them their sins and pour out Your blessing on all. — St. Haralambos*

# Greek



Now that the 2008 Greek Festival is behind us, we want to take this opportunity to thank all of our wonderful volunteers who donated endless hours before, during and after the Festival to assure its success. The purpose of this annual event is not only to raise money for our Church, but to bring the community and our Parish together as one. We hope that everyone who attended, volunteered, sponsored or participated in any manner, came away with the feeling that St. Haralambos Church is a warm, friendly Parish, that happens to put on a great Greek Festival!

Pam Lemons & Stella Pagos



# Festival

## Stewardship Sunday

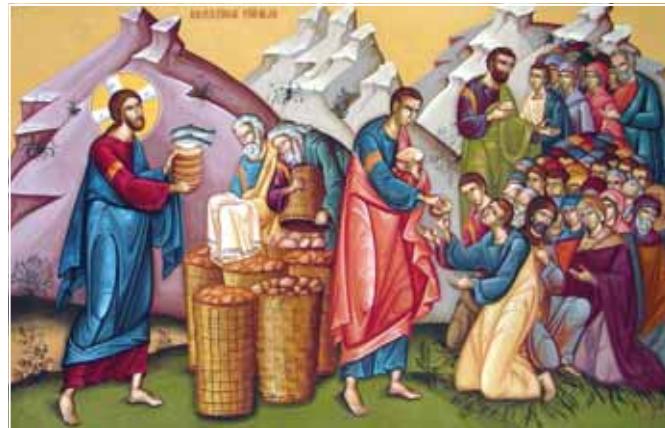
Sunday, Dec. 14 is Stewardship Sunday, and we ask all parish families to return their 2009 Stewardship Pledge Card during the special Stewardship service that follows the liturgy . As our parish continues to grow, we hope each family remembers its Christian responsibility to care for our Church. In addition to

supporting the operational expenses of our church, all parishioners should see how they can best respond to the many ministerial needs that help us grow in our faith. Stewardship goes beyond dollars and cents, and is a fundamental teaching of how we respond to the gifts that God has given us. All that we have is a gift from God, and by cheerfully giving to the church a

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*As our parish continues to grow, we hope each family remembers its Christian responsibility to care for our Church.*

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portion of our time, talents and treasures, God is truly glorified, we cultivate a spirit of generosity, and our church community continues to thrive. Stewardship materials will be sent to all our families. Please call the office if additional materials are needed.

# PASTOR'S COLUMN

FR. MICHAEL PALLAD



## The support of time, talent and treasures.

With the recent approval of the 2009 parish budget at last month's General Assembly, we all saw, once again, the importance of balancing projected income and expenses, while at the same time planning for a productive new year. The budget committee did an excellent job, led by the presentation by Mike Danielek, who clearly and patiently explained the reasons behind the decisions to increase or decrease certain budget categories. The unanimous approval of the assembly gave the "Amen" for us to move into the new year with a tightened financial belt, while at the same time striving to expand our parish ministries. This two-fold approach goes to the very foundation of parish life: on the one hand being fiscally prudent so as not to place too heavy a financial burden on our parishioners, and on the other, to realize that even in uncertain financial times, the mission and ministry of the Church does not stop. We realize that because the Church is both a divine and human institution, we do not

work by or for ourselves, but under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Our goal is not just to make sure we stay within the restrictions of a balanced budget, but to look with open eyes and hearts to the spiritual needs of our neighbor, which are not always satisfied by dollars and cents.

We are asking all parish families to continue to give from their hearts to the ongoing ministries of St. Haralambos Church through their Stewardship pledges. This giving is not compulsory, but must always come from the heart, willingly and cheerfully. The Church never intends to tax its members and provide services in return. Quite the contrary, what the Church offers, though its regular schedule of worship and sacraments, education, fellowship and ministries are benefits both priceless and intangible. The support of time, talent and treasures of parishioners should be in grateful recognition of this, along with awareness that everything we have in life

comes from God's love and mercy.

If we can not cheerfully return back to God, through our stewardship in the Church, a portion of His blessings, then we haven't yet come to a mature understanding and appreciation of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

Stewardship Sunday is Dec. 14. This is a day for each of us to happily offer not just a pledge card to help

support the parish budget, but to acknowledge ourselves as God's servants, working together with our God-given talents, abilities, cheerful attitudes and encouraging spirits to build up St. Haralambos

Church, and glorify our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

A very merry Christmas to all, and a healthy and happy New Year!

*...the Church is both a divine and human institution, we do not work by or for ourselves, but under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.*



St. Haralambos  
Greek Orthodox  
Church

Rev. Michael Pallad

[www.stharalambos.org](http://www.stharalambos.org)

### Sunday Worship

September - May  
Matins: 8:45 a.m.  
Divine Liturgy: 10 a.m.  
  
June - August  
Matins: 8:30 a.m.  
Divine Liturgy: 9:30 a.m.

### Office

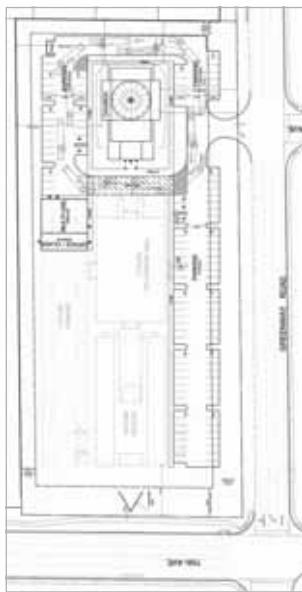
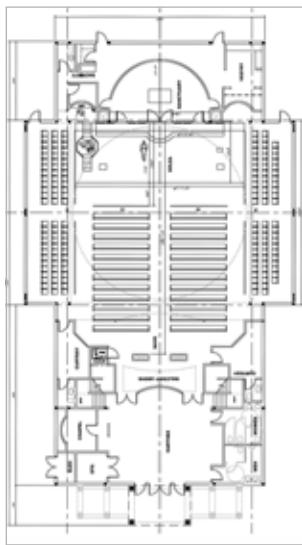
623-486-8665  
10320 N. 84th Ave., Peoria, AZ 85345  
[Office@StHaralambos.phcoxmail.com](mailto:Office@StHaralambos.phcoxmail.com)  
[FrMichael@StHaralambos.phcoxmail.com](mailto:FrMichael@StHaralambos.phcoxmail.com)  
  
*Hours*  
Monday - Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Parish Council

George Retsinas, President  
Ray Wysmierski, Vice-President  
Roberta Szklarski, Secretary  
Stella Pagos, Treasurer  
Mike Danielek  
Olga Fredericksen

Mary Manos  
Peter Retsinas  
Katherine Tally  
Peter Tremoullis  
Mary Wysmierski

## For Everything a Season: Building a New Church



### **When will we begin building our New Church?**

Ninety days after we have sufficient building funds (\$3,000,000) we will plan for our ground-breaking of the new Church.

We are currently in the process of having our 'site plan' revised for the City of Peoria. The city has requested numerous revisions to our site plan that our architect and the engineers are addressing as this article is being written. Once the revisions are complete we will re-submit the plan for final approval.

When the site plan receives final approval we will have a permanent address assigned, the orientation of all of our buildings will be established and we can then concentrate on our fund raising activities.

### **Next month we will begin a monthly update of our fund raising goals.**

Beginning in the January "In-Touch", this space will be handed off to our fund raising committee to report on all of their fund raising activities.

These monthly updates will give all of us inspiration and guidance as well as heartfelt encouragement to move toward our fund raising goals.

### **After the 'New Church' groundbreaking.**

Once we have the funds and proceed to break ground our monthly construction update will resume with articles, which will include photographs of our progress accompanied with narrative description of the building activities for the Church. The construction articles will include:

1. Earthwork – Grading, excavating, backfilling, trenching and site improvements;

2. Concrete – Formwork, reinforcement, structural concrete;
3. Steel – Structural metal framing systems, dome, barrel roof, and walls;
4. Exterior Wall System – Sheathing, insulation, vapor barrier, fire-proofing, flashing, gutters;
5. Roofing System – Preformed standing metal roofing and insulation;
6. Doors & Windows – Special doors (entrance), interior doors and windows;
7. Finish Systems – Furring and lathing, acoustical coatings and painting (exterior & interior);
8. Special Systems – Elevator, restroom fixtures, drinking fountains, signage, fire protection;
9. Equipment – Lighting, sound accentuation, liturgical furnishings (subject to budget);
10. Special Construction – Control systems (HVAC, fire systems, sound, lighting, organ);
11. Mechanical – Electrical – Plumbing – Finish installation, controls, ductwork;
12. Commissioning & Remediation – Dedication of the new building;
13. Maintenance & Warranties – Closeout manual.

### **We Need Your Help Now!**

It is important that we join all those who have put their enthusiasm, generosity and energy into this beautiful new 'Church' project and who have come forward with their building pledges showing their commitment to this awesome task.

*(Continued on page 5)*

# ORGANIZATIONS

## Philoptochos



By Charlotte Servetas,  
President

CHRIST IS BORN!  
GLORIFY HIM!

Christmas pot-luck  
supper and celebra-  
tion will be Monday  
Dec. 1, at 6 p.m. in our

social hall. Bring a wrapped gift for a  
child and be sure to include age and

gender on a tag. The gifts will be given to  
West Side food bank for distribution.  
Spouses and guests invited. A musical  
program will be presented by the Peoria  
High School choral group at 7 p.m.

Remember those less fortunate by  
donating canned foods or monetary  
donation for the holidays.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, EVERYONE!

## Sunday School

By Mike Danielek, Sunday School Director

As Christmas rapidly approaches, let all  
of us look forward to our Sunday School  
Christmas Program on Sunday, Dec. 21.  
Presv. Kristin, Lindsay Vardalos and  
Margaret Michailidis are preparing our  
students for their performances.

From the Sunday School Teachers,  
Students and Volunteers:

Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year 2009!

### Sunday School Canned Food Drive

#### Benefiting Peoria families and the West Side Food Bank

We will be collecting canned or boxed  
foods for the months of November and  
December. Food  
items can be brought  
to the Sunday School  
classes, or left in the  
collection boxes in  
the hallway outside  
the Social Hall.



## Building a New Church

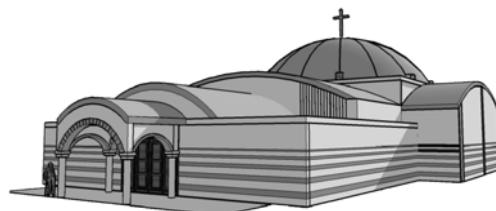
(Continued from page 4)

Think about all who preceded us here at  
St. Haralambos. We want to join those  
founders who came before us and  
continue the dream of building a true  
Byzantine 'Greek Orthodox Church'. This  
will be our permanent and beautiful  
Church home that will serve not only  
Peoria but also Sun City, Surprise,  
Buckeye, Youngtown, western Maricopa  
County and the entire Northwestern  
Phoenix Metropolitan area.

We must continue to carry the torch for  
our elders in their memory. God wants

and intends for us to have the best, and if  
we all work together, we can accomplish  
His Will.

*May God's Will Be Done!  
"Equal Sacrifice... NOT... Equal Giving"*



## Coffee Hour

Thank You to Our Coffee  
Hour Hosts/Sponsors

Nov. 2	Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
Nov. 9	Gus & Bella Danos
Nov. 16	Philoptochos - General Assembly
Nov. 23	Carl & Dina Surman
Dec. 7	Available
Dec. 14	Available
Dec. 21	Available
Dec. 28	Available

*Note: Due to publication printing  
deadlines, any modifications or  
changes to coffee hour listing will  
be noted in next month's  
newsletter.*

# ORGANIZATIONS

## St. Christopher's Bookstore

### **SCIENCE AND FAITH**

By Vladimir Vukanovic, 113 p., 1995

In searching for truth, religion and science obviously “follow different paths,” but Vladimir Vukanovic explores the question: “Is it possible they both motivate belief in God?” The author quotes approximately eighty scientists such as Einstein and Newton to convince the reader that the answer is “Yes!”

All of the scientists quoted insist that their study of the physical world led them to conclude that it is designed with meaning and purpose by an omnipotent, intelligent being.

Two basic facts are at the center of his argument: “nature follows an orderly pattern, and there is constant change in nature from the simple to the complex.” Natural phenomena are “not haphazard;” they follow “fundamental laws” that permitted “the evolution of the universe from its plasma state to the formation of...atoms, molecules, galaxies, stars and planets, and ... life,” despite the “high odds against it.”

Vukanovic claims, “Nobody can deny the existence of an astonishing number of ‘coincidences’” and the precise balance of opposing forces which made life possible. Many facts indicate that there is in nature the “anthropic principle” which directed the evolution of the universe towards human life, the human brain and “more importantly to a feeling of love...which is God’s image in us.”



Interestingly, Vukanovic doesn’t argue against the Big Bang Theory or Darwin’s Theory of Evolution. He explains these scientific theories and others and then uses quotes from the Bible to show that science and religion don’t contradict one another. He quotes another scientist who said that both the creationists and the evolutionists “err when they think they have a monopoly on the truth of creation... Creation by evolution is what occurs.”

What does science predict for the future? It predicts that eventually “life in any form will cease to exist” because “formation of any orderly structures, under any circumstances, generally occurs only with an increase in total entropy,” the degradation of energy and matter. The sun will “come to an end and so will everything else in the universe.” Time will have no meaning—

hence the timelessness of eternity.

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***God “first created the conditions for life, then life itself in forms of increasing complexity, culminating in human beings”***

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The author believes God “first created the conditions for life, then life itself in forms of increasing complexity, culminating in human beings” who have “the possibility for spiritual development and for...love.” We have the “opportunity to be {God’s} collaborators... if love directs our actions...That is why we pray for God’s love in our lives” now and for all eternity.

# ORGANIZATIONS

## Community Christmas Card



We will again be providing parishioners the opportunity to send Christmas greetings with a beautiful full-color icon greeting card to all our parish families. For each family name, the cost is just \$10.

Please print your name clearly, exactly as you would like it to appear on the card. You may mail this form to the church office or sign up on Sundays during the Coffee Hour. Please make checks payable to: St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church. **The deadline is Monday, Dec. 8, 2008.**

Please include my family's name in this year's Community Christmas Card.

Enclosed is my check for \$10.  
(Please return to the church office)

Names (please print clearly)

**Are there citrus trees in your yard?  
Do they produce more fruit than you can use?  
Don't let the fruit go to waste!**

Call the church office, and we'll arrange for parishioners to stop by your house and pick the fruit. The fruit will be taken to the church and stored for either juicing or donating to the West Side Food Bank. If you'd like to have your fruit trees harvested by St. Haralambos parishioners, please complete and return this form to the church office.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

What type of citrus trees do you have? \_\_\_\_\_  Not Sure

I don't have any citrus trees, but would like to help out in the following areas:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit pickers (must be at least 12 years old)        | <input type="checkbox"/> Juicing (at the church)                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation (to homes, or to West Side Food Bank) | <input type="checkbox"/> I have a juice machine I can donate to the church. |

## Sacraments

Congratulations to Mr. Tyler Savoy who was married to Ms. Sarah Kirkland on Saturday, Nov. 8. May God grant them many years of good health and happiness.

## Assisted Living/Hospitalization

The following parishioners may not be able to be with us physically, but are still loved members of our parish, and we ask you to please remember them in prayer: Orin Davis, Nikita and Josette Reisler, and John and Mary Karavaras.

## Birthdays



Martha Jannis (8th)  
John Ioannou (16th)  
Steve Mallos (17th)  
Leonidas Karandreas (18th)  
Peter Retsinas (25th)  
Connie Scouffas (27th)

If you don't see your name, or those of family members, and would like to be included on the monthly birthday listing, please send the information to the church office.

## Name Days

Many years/*Chronia Polla* to those named after the following saints:

- |                                  |                                       |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| St. Myrope (2nd)                 | St. Modestos (16th)                   |
| St. Theodore of Alexandria (3rd) | St. Sebastian (18th)                  |
| St. Barbara (4th)                | St. Juliane (21st)                    |
| St. Savvas (5th)                 | St. Anastasia (22nd)                  |
| St. Nicholas (6th)               | St. Eugenia, Virgin and Martyr (24th) |
| St. Ambrose (7th)                | Nativity of Christ (25th )            |
| St. Daniel the Styliste (11th)   | St. Simeon (28th)                     |
| St. Lucia (13th)                 | St. Melania (31st)                    |

## The icon of the Nativity

tells the story of Christ's birth from the Scriptures. It also shows that all creation is taking part in Christ's birth. The angels give thanks with their song; the heavens give the star; the Wise Men give their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The poor, humble shepherds give their praise and amazement; the earth gives the cave, and humanity gives the Virgin.



# DECEMBER 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 6:00pm Philoptochos Christmas Potluck	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 7:00pm Choir	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. Nicholas	
<b>7</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Parish Council Elections	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 7:00pm Parish Council	<b>12</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. Spyridon	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Stewardship Sunday	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7:00pm Choir	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Sunday School Christmas Program	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9:00a.m. Royal Hours of Christmas	<b>25</b> 6:30p.m. Christmas Divine Liturgy	<b>26</b> <b>27</b> Christmas Day (Church Office Closed)	
<b>28</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			