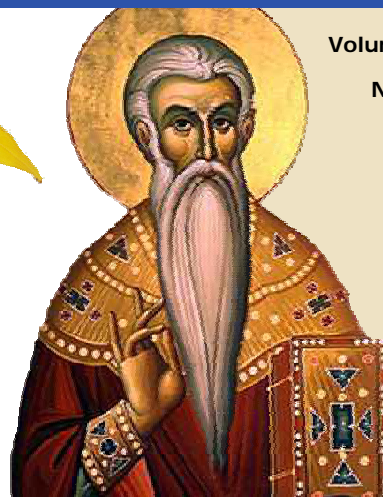


in Touch

Volume 14, Issue 11

November 2006



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

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Humanity • 2*

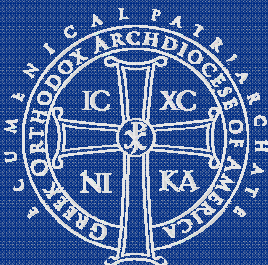
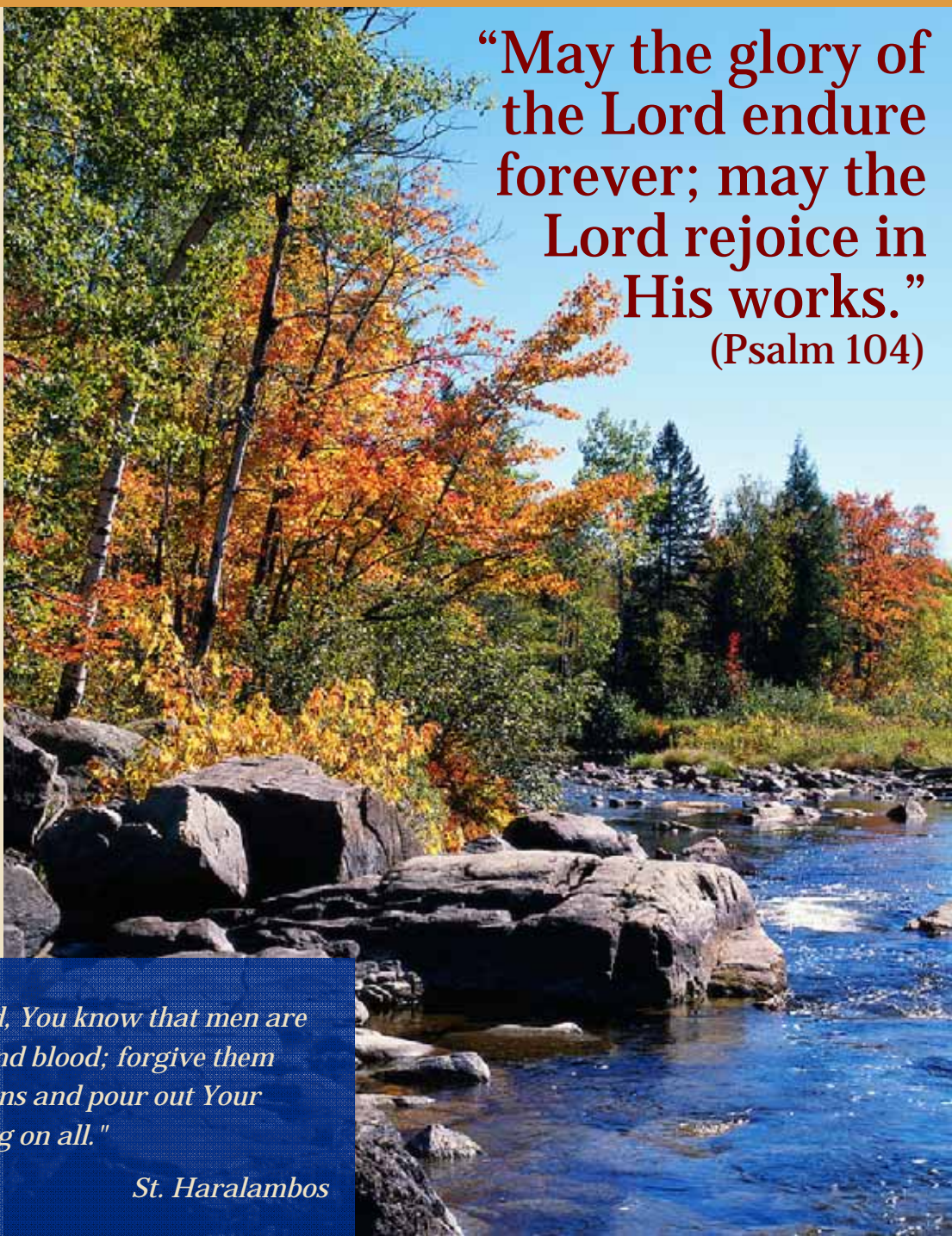
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**“May the glory of
the Lord endure
forever; may the
Lord rejoice in
His works.”
(Psalm 104)**



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

St. Haralambos

"I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you took me in."

(St. Matthew 25:35)



Our Lord teaches us to see and respond to those who are in need and who may be less fortunate than us. With this in mind, early this year, our Parish undertook the challenge of joining with three other Peoria Christian communities in the Habitat for Humanity Coalition to build a new home in Peoria.

This Parish project involved two components. First, beginning in the early spring a small but dedicated group of our parishioners (Katrina Anderson, Roy Christian, Stephanie and Christine Danos, Dennis Georgen, Nick Pappas, Melanie Perrault,

George and Rachel Retsinas) labored to frame up the home. By late summer the Aguillar family home was finished and it was dedicated last month on Saturday, October 7.

The second component of the project involved a financial commitment to help raise the money needed by Habitat for Humanity to make the project a reality. Each church community was asked to contribute \$15,000.

Now some might ask why we, as a Parish, would agree to this arrangement while we are planning to build a new church. It's really quite simple. Aside from the Christian community outreach opportunity, this money can be raised without negatively impacting our ability to fundraise for our own building project.

The State of Arizona allows for a dollar for dollar tax CREDIT on your Arizona state income tax when making contributions to certain charitable organizations. Habi-

tat for Humanity qualifies for this special tax treatment.

What's the difference between a charitable tax credit and a charitable deduction that you itemize? A charitable tax credit is much more favorable to you. A charitable tax credit reduces your Arizona tax liability dollar for dollar. In other words, it gives to your favorite qualified charity what you would otherwise pay to the State in income tax. Charitable deductions on the other hand, such as we make to the Church, are itemized and subtracted from gross income to determine the amount of our taxable income.

Note: If you itemize, the charitable tax credit is also deductible on your Federal return thus also reducing your US income tax.

Even if you do not owe any Arizona state taxes at the end of the year, if you withheld any amount larger than your tax liability, your charitable tax credit will result in a larger income tax refund from the State.

The maximum allowable contribution for the charitable tax credit is \$400, and the contribution must be made in the current calendar year (2006) to qualify for the charitable tax credit that year. Consult your tax advisor for complete details.

The calendar year is coming to a close and the time to make your 2006 contribution is running out. When making your contribution, please complete and mail the enclosed form (found on page 6) directly to Habitat for Humanity. You will receive an acknowledgment from Habitat for the contribution to use when filing your taxes.

We thank our volunteers for their labor of love, and encourage all parishioners to offer whatever financial gift they are able to make in support of our Habitat for Humanity project.



PASTOR'S COLUMN

FR. MICHAEL PALLAD



Let us all "Give Thanks"

The first Thanksgiving celebration was probably held in 1621, about 11 years after Pilgrims had first arrived in Virginia. It wasn't until 1863 when President Abraham Lincoln declared the third Thursday of November would become a national day of thanksgiving. The final paragraph of his proclamation reads:

"It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last

Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father Who dwelleth in the heavens."

Having the Thanksgiving Day

celebration just a month prior to Christmas makes for a 6-week holiday season prior to the close of the year that is focused on God's many blessings. The Nativity season for the Orthodox Church calendar begins on November 15th, and prescribes, as it does prior to all major feastdays, fasting as part of our preparation. Fasting may not be on top of most people's minds during Thanksgiving, but it would sure help with that over-stuffed feeling most of us come away with after eating our family feast. Our bodies and our souls would both be grateful if we were to focus our attention more on giving thanks than only on how much food our plates and stomachs can hold.

Holy Scripture is filled with references to God's people offering thanks. This is more than a courtesy; it is a need common to all people of faith. Realizing that all blessings are not simply good fortune but come down from our Father in Heaven, should keep the thought of offering thanks at the tip of our tongue

throughout the year, in every season.

There is a story of a Scottish minister, Alexander Whyte, who was known for his uplifting prayers in the pulpit. He always found something for which to be grateful. One Sunday morning the weather was so gloomy that one church member thought to himself, "Certainly the preacher won't think of anything for which to thank the Lord on a wretched day like this." Much to his surprise, however, Whyte began by praying, "We thank Thee, O God, that it is not always like this."

In our own words, together with those whom we love, let us offer to God thanks for His many blessings on Thanksgiving Day. He is our God, and we are His people. "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, and His steadfast love endures forever." (Psalm 136)

Holy Scripture is filled with references to God's people offering thanks. This is more than a courtesy; it is a need common to all people of faith.



**St. Haralambos
Greek Orthodox
Church**

Rev. Michael Pallad

www.stharalambos.org

Sunday Worship

September - May
Matins: 8:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy: 10:00 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.phxcoxmail.com
FrMichael@StHaralambos.phxcoxmail.com

Hours

Monday - Friday 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Parish Council

Larry Coor, President
Dave Fredericksen, Vice-President
Dean Milonas, Treasurer
Jane Milonas, Secretary
George Christie
Joan Coor

Mary Dascalos
Steve Hargan
Georgia Hargan
Greg Krochta
Mary Manos
Nick Milonas

PARISH NEWS

A Night in Greece

Due to an unforeseen conflict, we have had to cancel our showing of "Greece: Secrets of the Past," originally scheduled for Tuesday, November 29th at the Arizona Mills IMAX Theatre in Tempe. Everyone is still welcome and encouraged to see this first-rate movie at their convenience. For show times and other information, please visit IMAX.com or call the box office at 480-897-4629.



Stewardship Sunday

Next month, on Sunday, December 17th, we will be celebrating Stewardship Sunday, and are asking all parishioners to return their 2007 Stewardship Pledge Card (which will be mailed to each family later this month) at the conclusion of services. Occasionally, there are questions about whether a card needs to be turned in each year, and the answer is always the same: YES! It helps with our parish budgeting, and is also an opportunity for each family to prayerfully consider their financial commitment to St. Haralambos Church, and to offer their pledge of support on Stewardship Sunday.

General Assembly

All parishioners are invited to attend the Fall General Assembly on Sunday, November 19th, in the Social Hall, following lunch prepared by Philoptochos. Several

parish groups will be making updates and presentations, and approval of the 2007 parish budget will all be on the agenda. Everyone is invited to the assembly, but only

Members in Good Standing (baptized and/or Chrismated in the Orthodox Faith, and current in their Stewardship Pledge) are eligible to vote.

Parish Council Elections

Elections for Parish Council will take place on Sunday, December 10th. Nominations for candidates will be accepted at the General Assembly on November 19th. Interested? Please review the following:

Information You Should Know

Each and every baptized Orthodox Christian must make some effort of active commitment to his or her Church. Some serve by participating in the Choir; some do so by joining the Philoptochos Society; others assist whenever the Parish sponsors a community activity; and others participate in the life of the Church by serving as members of the Parish Council.

Being a member of the Parish Council is truly a responsible task that must be served by an individual committed to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The role of a Parish Council member is a holy and spiritual one. In assisting in the administrative responsibilities of the Church, a Parish Council member acknowledges the importance of strengthening the earthly ministry through God's Church. Being a member of the Parish Council should not be for social reasons or status in the Community; but rather an act of humility and conviction to Christ our Lord.

In accordance with the 2005 Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, all candidates wishing

to serve on the Parish Council must attend a Parish Council Seminar, under the guidance of the Parish Priest. The purpose of the Seminar is to prepare candidates for the Parish Council, as well as making them aware of the sacred responsibilities expected of a Council member.

This year's PARISH COUNCIL SEMINAR will be held on Wednesday, November 29th at 7:00p.m. in the Library. All nominated candidates must attend this seminar.

International Orthodox Christian Charities

Many thanks to those who supported the IOCC fundraiser on September 30th at St. George Orthodox Church, it was a wonderful evening. The Silent Auction and other donations, helped raise \$25,000.00!

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Once again, our parish will be working together with the Peoria Community Action Agency in sponsoring ten needy families for the holiday season. This project begins with collecting food to give each of these families a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner, including a turkey (with gravy and dressing), potatoes, mixed

vegetables, corn, yams, green beans, cranberry sauce, rolls and pumpkin pie.

This project has grown over the years to where we need several volunteers to help box and transport the food across the street to the Peoria Community Center. This will be done on Monday and

Tuesday, November 20 - 21.

Next month, we'll continue collecting food, and will also be putting up the Christmas Angel tree and asking for "angels" to purchase gifts for other needy families. Please leave all donated food items in the hallway outside the church office. Thank you!



Russian Chant Group



Come join us for a memorable evening of liturgical singing by the Valaam Ensemble, including Kievan chants as well as Russian polyphonic music of the 17th – 18th century, masterpieces of Greek, Serbian, and Georgian church music.

Held at Sts. Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Church, the first half of the performance, featuring liturgical singing, will be held in the Church. There will be an intermission, with light refreshments served in the Cultural Center, and the ensemble will conclude the evening with a selection of folk songs. For more information, please contact Stephanie Homyak at (602) 432-7473.

**Monday, November 13
7:00 p.m.**

**Sts. Peter and Paul
Orthodox Church
1614 E. Monte Vista Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85006**

**Adults: \$10.00
Youth (ages 5-16): \$5.00
Children under 5: Free
Family (of 6 or less): \$25.00**

IOCC Volunteer Opportunity

As part of their continuing disaster relief and recovery activities, IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) is sponsoring an Orthodox Christian volunteer program to rebuild houses. They are recruiting volunteers for one week – or longer – of service in such areas as siding, roofing, framing, landscaping and support. Some of the costs for volunteers' participation in this program will be subsidized by IOCC and all participants must be 18 years of age or older. IOCC is working in cooperation with Habitat for Humanity and local Gulf Coast Orthodox churches, but your valuable help is also needed. Anyone interested in volunteering can visit their website, www.iocc.org, or call the U.S. Programs Department toll-free at 1-877-803-IOCC (4622).

Thank you for helping IOCC continue to show the love of Christ and the faithfulness of our Orthodox Church to struggling families on the Gulf Coast.



Don't forget aluminum cans: we are still collecting aluminum cans for recycling. **Please remember:** we can **only** accept aluminum soda cans (not steel, tin or other materials) for this program. Please bring them in bags and leave them in specially marked barrel in the hallway. Thank you!

For your information: From May 8, 2005 through July 2006, the aluminum can recycling project has raised \$264.00! We would like to extend our thanks to Dave Fredericksen for delivering the cans to the recycle location.

ORGANIZATIONS

Philoptochos

"In all things give thanks." (1 Thessalonians 5:18)



We have so much to be thankful for!

Following Liturgy November 1st (Sts. Kosmas and Damien), a memorial will be celebrated for deceased Philoptochos members of the Parish. Hope you are able to attend.

For your information:

1. Thank you Hospice Family Care for the speaker at the October meeting. Very informative and enlightening.
2. Donation of \$500.00 to Habitat for Humanity of the West Valley.
3. Tsoureki will be for sale, Sunday,

December 10, 2006. Cost \$6.00 per loaf. No pre-ordering necessary. Proceeds for Philoptochos Charities.

4. Diaper drive continues through December 11, 2006, to be donated to Homeward Bound.
5. Light lunch provided by Philoptochos prior to General Assembly November 19, 2006.
6. Remember: Meeting first Monday of month. Next meeting November 6, 2006 at 7:00p.m.

Charlotte Servetas, President

Coffee Hour

Please Offer to Host or Sponsor the Sunday Coffee Hour

For a \$20.00 donation, the Social Hour Committee will be happy to prepare the coffee hour on your behalf. Please see Stella Pagos after Liturgy for details. Thank You, St. Anna's Philoptochos



Needed

Wheelchair in good working condition.

Contact the church office if you can help.

Thank You to Our Coffee Hour Hosts/Sponsors

Oct. 1 Anna Yacyshyn – Alice Hecht
 Oct. 8 Charlotte Servetas
 Oct. 15 Anonymous Donor
 Oct. 22 Demetrios & Magda Gryparis
 Oct. 29 Argyro Vasquez – Roy & Maria Christian

Nov. 5 John Callas – Martin & Maria Maciejewski
 Nov. 12 Kalliope Chafoulas
 Nov. 19 Chris Birtsis – John & Penny Obren
 Nov. 26 James & Elizabeth Gorman

Habitat for Humanity of the West Valley
 17749 N. El Mirage Rd. Ste. #2
 Surprise, AZ 85374 623-583-2417

Core Coalition

Church: St. Haralambos Church

Name: _____

Check Enclosed: \$ _____

Address: _____

Visa or MasterCard #: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Expires: _____ Dollar Amount: \$ _____

Phone: _____

Signature: _____

*Please make checks payable to Habitat for Humanity of the West Valley.

Habitat for Humanity does not attempt to give tax advice. Please contact your tax professional with further questions or if you wish to confirm that you qualify for this tax credit. No goods or services were provided in consideration, in whole or in part, for this gift. All gifts are transferred promptly to the program designated.



Sacraments

Congratulations and God's blessings to Rachel Sophia Retsinas who was baptized on Saturday, October 28. Her Godparents are Ray and Mary Wismierski. May God grant each of them many years.

Assisted Living, Hospitalization

The following parishioners may not be able to be with us physically, but are still loved members of our parish. Please remember them in prayer: Marianthy Bravos, Louise Constant, Orin and Mary-Jean Davis, Alice Massahos, and George Poulos.

Name Days

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

SS. Cosmas and Damian (1st)
St. Simeon (8th)
St. Nektarios (9th)
St. John (Chrysostom) (13th)
St. Philip (14th)
St. Gregory Palamas (14th)
St. Matthew the Evangelist (16th)
St. Philemon (22nd)
St. Katherine (25th)
St. Andrew (30th)

Basha's "Thanks a Million" Program

The "Thanks a Million" Basha's program raises money for churches and we have been a participant for several years. The store donates one percent of the total sales linked to our church members. Last year, the Thanks A Million program donated more than a quarter of a million dollars to Arizona schools, churches and nonprofits. We earned \$103.74 for purchases from our parishioners. It's easy to get started! To register, mention the Churches' Group ID number – 23212 at the time of your next visit. You need register only once to be eligible.

Birthdays



Argyro Vasquez (3rd)
George Speros (5th)
Larry Coor (16th)
Mary Dascalos (19th)
Judith L. Jolly (19th)
Arthur Manos (28th)
Pres. Kristin Pallad (28th)
Dean Milonas (28th)
Angeline Pappas (28th)
Andriana Henson (30th)
Estelle Lazzele (30th)

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.

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 \$10.00.

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, December 4th, 2006.**

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

Enclosed is my check for \$10.00.

(Please return to the church office)

Name (please print clearly)

DONATIONS

Orthodox Service Books

ONLY FOUR VOLUMES REMAINING!

New 12-Volume Set

A new publication from Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Monastery in Boston, Mass., is now available, and is a much-needed reference for English-speaking Orthodox Churches. The 12-volume *Minaia* (monthly service book) includes English translations of the hymns for the Feasts of Our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Holy Theotokos, and of the Saints commemorated each month, as well as order of many other services celebrated throughout

the year.

These volumes would be of great help for our parish, providing the English hymns and service texts not found in other sources. They are beautifully printed on the highest quality archival paper; each volume includes full color iconography of saints celebrated for the month, biographies of the saints and many other hymns and readings. The 12-volume set sells for \$1,200.00, and would become a permanent addition to our parish service book library.

Rather than asking an

individual donor cover the expense of these books, we would like to offer twelve families the opportunity to purchase one volume each (\$100.00), in memory of a beloved member of the family who has fallen asleep in the Lord. An appropriate name-plate will be placed inside the book, listing the name of the donor family.

For those interested, please complete the lower portion of this flyer, and send in your donation with your check payable to St. Haralambos Church, printing clearly the name for whom your gift is in memory of.



New Church Service Books Donation Form

Enclosed is my/our family's donation of \$100.00 for one volume of the *Minaia* Service Books for the St. Haralambos Church service book library.

Family Name: _____

In memory of: _____

Please return to: St. Haralambos Church
10320 N. 84th Ave., Peoria, Arizona 85345.



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.

NOVEMBER 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 8:00am Matins 9:00am Div. Liturgy St. Cosmos and St. Damian 7:00pm Know the Faith	2 7:00pm Choir	3	4
5 8:45am Matins 10:00am Div. Liturgy	6 San Francisco Metropolis Clergy Retreat 7:00pm Philoptochos	7 San Francisco Metropolis Clergy Retreat 10:30am Bible Enrichment	8 8:00am Matins 9:00am Div. Liturgy Archangels Michael and Gabriel 7:00pm Know the Faith	9 7:00pm Choir	10	11
12 8:45am Matins 10:00am Div. Liturgy	13 8:00am Matins 9:00am Div. Liturgy St. John Chrysostom	14 10:30am Bible Enrichment 7:00pm Parish Council	15 7:00pm Know the Faith	16 7:00pm Choir	17	18
19 8:45am Matins 10:00am Div. Liturgy General Assembly	20 10:00am Help Sort Thanksgiving Food Donations	21 8:00am Matins 9:00am Div. Liturgy Entrance of the Theotokos 10:30am Bible Enrichment	22	23 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed	24	25
26 8:45am Matins 10:00am Div. Liturgy	27	28 10:30am Bible Enrichment	29	30 8:00am Matins 9:00am Div. Liturgy St. Andrew 7:00pm Choir		