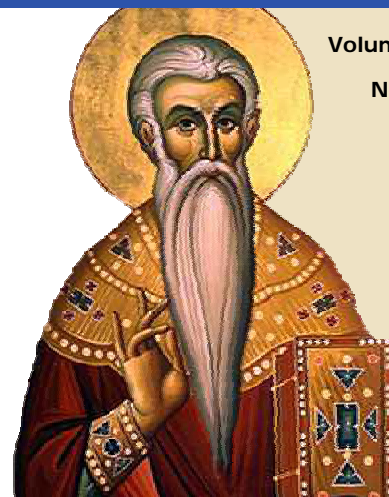


in Touch

Volume 15, Issue 11

November 2007



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

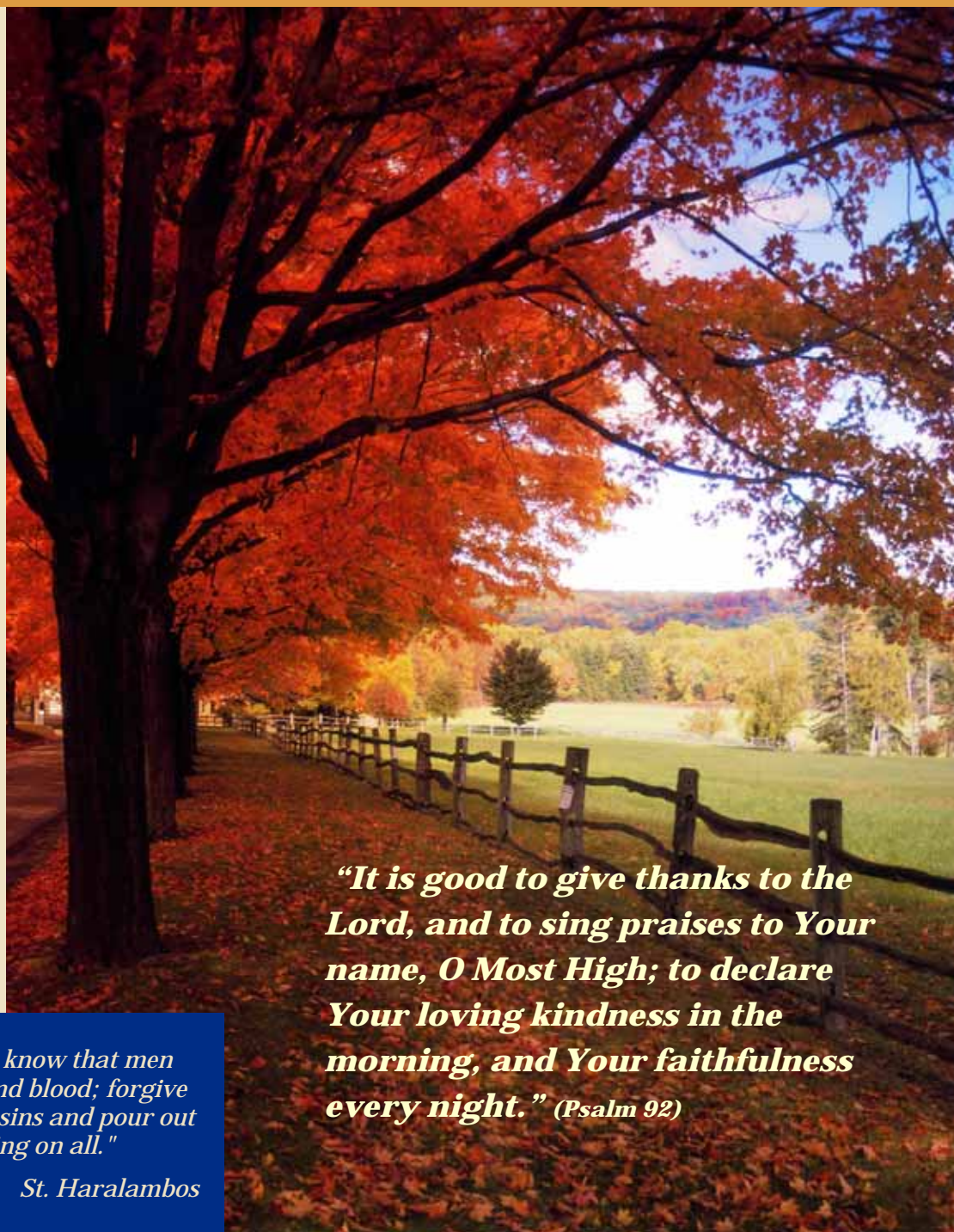
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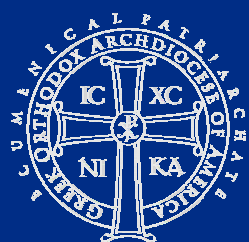
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"It is good to give thanks to the Lord, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your loving kindness in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night." (Psalm 92)



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

St. Haralambos

20th ANNIVERSARY 2007

CELEBRATING OUR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Make Reservations, Plans to Attend Dec. 1 St. Haralambos 20th Anniversary Gala

Plans are being finalized for a wonderful evening at the Arrowhead Country Club as our parish culminates our 20th Anniversary year in grand fashion. The program includes hor's d'oeuvres, dinner, dancing, special tributes, Silent Auction to benefit Kids-n-Cancer, a special performance by The Academy of Classical Ballet, and a photo montage parish history! This is an event you'll not want to miss.

The event is Saturday, Dec. 1 at 6 p.m. The formal invitations for the Anniversary dinner gala have been mailed and parishioners should have received them. For those that have responded already, thank you and we look forward to seeing you there.

For those who have not responded or by chance did not receive an invitation, please be sure to see Mary Wysmierski or Pam Lemons after Divine Liturgy on Sunday for additional information.

Advance reservations are required, so please RSVP as soon as possible. In addition, you can make your reservation during Sunday social hour during the month of November.

Dinner tickets prices are: \$50 per adult and \$25 for children under 12 years of age.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Once again all parishioners are asked to contribute canned and/or boxed food to the church for our Thanksgiving Food Drive. Sunday School students can bring their donations to their classes each Sunday. Working with the Peoria Community Action Agency, we will be donating a Thanksgiving dinner to 10 needy families in Peoria.

Frozen turkeys, potatoes, canned vegetables, stuffing mix, and pumpkin pies will be accepted until Monday, Nov. 19. On that day, beginning at 10 a.m., we will need volunteers to help sort and deliver the food across the street to the city community center. All helpers are welcome!



PASTOR'S COLUMN

FR. MICHAEL PALLAD



November is the Thanksgiving month within the Church and in American society.

The month of November has two religious celebrations, one found in the bible, and the other found in our nation's history. The first, the feastday of the Presentation of the Theotokos in the Temple, is celebrated each year on November 21st, commemorating that moment when, as a young child, the blessed Theotokos was brought to the temple by her parents, Joachim and Anna. This was to fulfill a promise they made to God in thanksgiving for her birth. Joachim and Anna were unable to conceive children, yet were both told by angels of God that their prayers were heard, and that they would be soon become parents. When Mary was three years old, she was brought to the temple to be consecrated to God.

Celebrated shortly after this feastday, we come to the American religious holiday of Thanksgiving celebrated each year on the fourth Thursday in November. Having lost nearly half of their group the first year to the harshness of winter and lack of food, the pilgrims set aside a day of feasting and prayer in thanks to Almighty God the following year for having survived with the help of native American Indians.

November is the Thanksgiving month within the Church and in American society; a wonderful

time for us to count our blessings, and to be thankful for all that God has given to us. What is one very practical and helpful way to thank God for our blessings? To think about sharing with others, to help others with needs greater than our own may not be the first thought that comes to mind, but is a great way to let God know that we are thankful, enough so that we pass that love on to others.

That does require a bit of humility, doesn't it? In our minds, we know that there are countless number of needy people – men, women and children – who are in need of basic comforts such as food and shelter. It is something else, though, to act on what we know; to put knowledge and prayer into action. But this is the Christian response to God's love – passing it along. It's also such a wonderful way to thank God – to pass it along! If someone gave you a gift, and you enjoy it so much you just have to share it with someone else, you not only bring happiness to a third person, you honor the friend who gave you the gift in the first place.

A very moving example is recorded in the 3rd chapter of the New Testament Book of Acts (Acts 3:1-8) involving the apostles Peter and John:

"Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.

Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God."

Give from what you have! Are you thankful to God for his blessings, his great mercy and love? Pass it along; give to others out of love, expecting nothing back. You bring joy to another human being, and you are saying 'thank you' to God by extending that love to others.

A wonderful time for us to count our blessings, and to be thankful for all that God has given to us.



**St. Haralambos
Greek Orthodox
Church**

Rev. Michael Pallad

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

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10320 N. 84th Ave., Peoria, AZ 85345
Office@StHaralambos.phxcoxmail.com
FrMichael@StHaralambos.phxcoxmail.com

Hours

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

Parish Council

Greg Krochta, President
George Retsinas, Vice-President
Stella Pagos, Treasurer
Peter Tremoulis, Secretary
Glen Albrant
Tracy Albrant

George Christie
Mary Manos
Dean Milonas
Peter Retsinas
Mary Wysmierski
Ray Wysmierski

Bring a Friend to Church



Why do Orthodox Churches still celebrate virtually the same Liturgy every Sunday of the year? Will it ever change? Has anyone ever thought of changing it, or trying something different?

The answers to these and other questions will be discussed on a special evening Divine Liturgy on Wednesday, Nov. 14 at 6 p.m. Here is an opportunity to invite family members who haven't been to church in some time, or to bring friends who have never been to a Liturgy, to find out why it is the oldest and most meaningful form of

Christian worship – and why it is still relevant today.

Several times during the Liturgy, the service will stop for explanations concerning the meaning of the Liturgy, the rituals and processions, as well as its background and development. After the Liturgy finishes, there will be time for questions and answers, and everyone will be invited to stay for refreshments served in our Social Hall.

Mark the date in your calendars, and bring a friend!

Adult Education

The final two sessions of the "Know the Faith" classes are held this month on Monday, Nov. 12 and 19 at 7 p.m. in the library. All parishioners and friends are

welcome. The class text is *The Orthodox Church* by Bishop Kallistos (Timothy) Ware, and covers the development of Orthodox Christianity to the 20th century.

Clarification

On page 7 of the September issue of *In Touch*, the Investment Committee article should have contained the name of John Obren as a committee member.

Pan-Orthodox Women's Retreat

A retreat for the women of our Orthodox parishes will be held on Nov. 9-10, at Saints Peter and Paul Church located at 1614 E. Monte Vista Road in Phoenix. The speaker will be Rev. Fr. Dan Suci, parish priest at St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church in San Antonio. Friday evening's program runs from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday begins at 9 a.m. with registration and finishes at 4 p.m.

with Great Vespers.

"The retreat will foster friendship and promote unity among Orthodox women as we seek to grow in Christ and work together to reflect His love in our parishes and our world," said St. Haralambos parishioner Charlotte Servetas.

Youth Events

Youth Game Night

A fun evening of games, music and munchies just for the young people of our parish (up through high school) will take place on Friday, Nov. 16, in the church social hall.

The fun will begin at 7 p.m. and finish at 8:30 p.m. Friends are welcome.

The following Sunday, Nov. 18, will be **National Youth Sunday**, a day of recognizing and celebrating the youth of our parish.

Parish Council Elections

Elections for Parish Council will take place on Sunday, Dec. 9. Nominations for candidates will be accepted at the General Assembly on Nov. 18. 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.

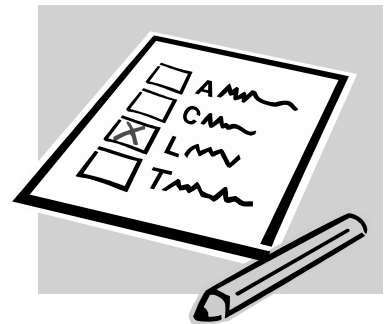
Being a member of the Parish Council is truly a

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 Thursday, Nov. 29, at 7 p.m. in the Library. All nominated candidates must attend this seminar.



Greek Folk Dancing Classes

For kids ages 5-12, dance session begins at 5 p.m. For children ages 13 and up, the session starts at 6 p.m. Classes are held on Sundays, on the church grounds. The program is open to all members of St. Haralambos. For more information, please contact Olga Fredericksen, 623-979-0513.



General Assembly

The Fall General Assembly will be held on Sunday, Nov. 18, in the Social Hall following the liturgy. The agenda will be mailed 10 days in advance, along with the proposed 2008 parish budget. Our Philoptochos will be providing lunch prior to the Assembly. Everyone is invited to attend and participate in the discussions.

ORGANIZATIONS



Chanter Training

Men and women interested in learning to chant for the Sunday Matins service are invited to attend the training sessions on Sunday mornings at 8:45a.m. These sessions will take the place of the Sunday Matins service. The hymns are in English, and notated with staff notation, and maintain the musical style of Byzantine chant. Requirements for chanters include the ability to sing on pitch, and the desire to learn the melodies of one of Christianity's most ancient musical traditions.

Philoptochos

By Charlotte Servetas, President

"In all things give thanks." (I Thessolonians 5:18)

Looking at the calendar, November is going to be a busy, challenging month. After a month of baking and preparing food, the festive week-end of Nov. 2, 3 and 4 is here. Oompa!!

Our monthly meeting date has been changed to Monday, Nov. 12, at 7 p.m. in the Social Hall.

Philoptochos will serve refreshments after the "Teaching Divine Liturgy", Nov. 14, at 6 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 17, St. Anna's will host the Southwest Regional conference, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Pat Aleck from Philoptochos Metropolis office will be conference chairperson. Light

lunch will be served. I urge all members to attend to learn about our role in the San Francisco Metropolis.

Philoptochos will serve light lunch prior to General Assembly meeting on Nov. 18.

The one thing we do best is spend money such as:

1. National Cancer Fund: \$100.
2. Diocese Women's Health: \$100
3. Raffle tickets for Children Medical Fund luncheon: \$100

At October's meeting we had three visitors. Would you please come see what we are about?

Remember the next meeting is Nov. 12.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Coffee Hour

Thank You to Our Coffee Hour Hosts/Sponsors

Oct. 7	Aphrodite Devolites	Nov. 4	"Taste of Greece" Festival
Oct. 14	Demetrios & Magda Gryparis, Carl & Dina Surman	Nov. 11	Peter & Lee Retsinas
Oct. 21	Argyro Vasquez and Maria Wardzinski	Nov. 18	General Assembly - Philoptochos
Oct. 28	Tom & Margaret Michailidis	Nov. 25	James & Elizabeth Gorman

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

St. Christopher's Bookstore

Father Arseny, 1893-1973: Priest, Prisoner, Spiritual Father, translated by Vera Bouteneff

Piotr Andreyevitch Streltsoff took the name Father Arseny when he became a priest. A man who calls himself "the servant of God Alexander" compiled accounts written by people who knew Fr. Arseny.

Behind the Iron Curtain, believers in God were consigned to mental hospitals or sent to labor camps. Fr. Arseny was confined for many years to the most brutal camp where prisoners were sent to die; most did. After the fall of the Soviet Regime, it was revealed that 160,600 clergy and nuns died in labor camps, either shot or buried alive.

(Continued on page 7)

ORGANIZATIONS

St. Christopher's Bookstore

(Continued from page 6)

The narrators tell how Fr. Arseny literally saved their lives and brought them to the Faith by his example. Many claimed that, due to his constant prayers, miracles occurred in their lives. "Fr. Arseny loved people unconditionally, seeing in each the image of God." His spiritual children said he had the gift of prophecy and knew their sins before confessing them. For example, he dissuaded two prisoners from attempting to escape and one from committing suicide because he could read their minds.

In camp, Fr. Arseny wearing a quilted cotton jacket, split logs (frozen in winter) without an ax and carried in all this wood to light fires before other prisoners returned from work. If the fires were not ready, Fr. Arseny would be punished. He prayed constantly that God wouldn't abandon him, surviving beatings that left him unconscious for days and confinement in a tiny cell for 48 hours in weather that dipped to 22 degrees below zero.

Oftentimes, Fr. Arseny gave up his meager ration to a sick person and stayed up all night

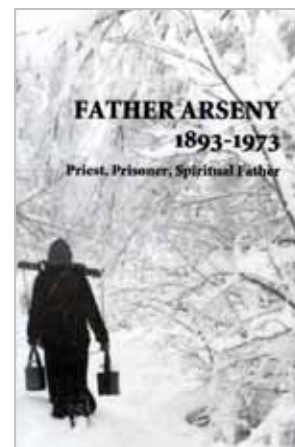
nursing him, despite being exhausted and half-starved himself. Other nights he stood by the fire to dry out shoes of another prisoner.

One prisoner described how Fr. Arseny stepped into the middle of a bloody fight for food between the criminals and other prisoners, ordering them in the name of God to stop fighting and they did! Another time, Fr. Arseny stepped out of line, an infraction that could get him shot, to help support a prisoner with frozen feet in weather reaching 50 degrees below zero.

The camp was a place of "hopeless horror," of awful beatings, degradation, hunger and unbearable cold. But, Fr. Arseny could guide people to find peace in prayer. One person wrote, "He was courageous and strong...God was his strength...and his hope...he stood strong amidst...suffering...'Arseny' means 'courageous.' What an appropriate name."

Another prisoner wrote, "His soul was as big as the whole world!"

The book is both compelling and inspiring to read.



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.

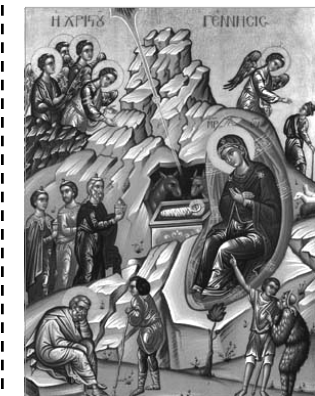
Please print your name clearly, exactly as you would like it to appear on the card. You may mail this form to the church office or sign up on Sundays during the Coffee Hour. Please make checks payable to: St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church. **The deadline is Monday, Dec. 3, 2007.**

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)



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 and Mary-Jean Davis, Alice Massahos and Effie Stathopoulou.

Please also remember in prayer: Charlotte, Mary, Zoe and Argyro as they recuperate from recent surgery.

Birthdays



Argyro Vasquez (3rd)
George Speros (5th)
Larry Coor (16th)
Thomas Pallad (18th)
Mary Dascalos (19th)
Judith L. Jolly (19th)
Arthur Manos (28th)
Presv. 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.

Sacraments

Margaret Michailidis was Chrismated into the Holy Orthodox Faith on Aug. 26, and her sponsor was Lindsay Vardalos.

Artemesia Tremoulis, daughter of Peter and Sabrina, was baptized on Sunday, Oct. 7, taking the name of St. Katherine. Her godparents are Antoni and Athena Papamatheakis.

Joshua Milonas, son of Jeff and Tricia, was baptized on Sunday, Oct. 14, taking the name of St. Andrew. His godfather is Steven Milonas. Brothers Jared (John) and Jack (Anthony) Milonas were Chrismated on the same day, having Daniel Milonas and Tyler Savoy as their godfathers.

May God grant all the newly baptized and Chrismated, along with their godparents, many years of good health and happiness.

Name Days

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

SS. Cosmas and Damian (1st)	St. Matthew the Evangelist (16th)
St. Nektarios (9th)	St. Katherine (25th)
St. John Chrysostom (13th)	St. Andrew (30th)
St. Philip, the Apostle (14th)	

Simple Fund-raising Opportunity

By participating in Bashas' "Thanks A Million" program, a percentage of each purchase can be directed to St.

Haralambos Church. Just sign up at

Bashas for a "Thank You" card and have your card programmed with Group ID number 23212. This program will run through Mar. 31, 2008. For further information, go to www.bashas.com/charity.



NOVEMBER 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:00am Div. Liturgy Sts. Cosmas and Damian 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	2 5:00pm - 10:00pm Greek Festival	3 11:00am - 10:00pm Greek Festival
4 8:45am Chanter Training 10:00am Div. Liturgy 12:00pm - 8:00pm Greek Festival	5 Metropolis Clergy Retreat	6 Metropolis Clergy Retreat	7 4:00pm Organ Stop Pizza trip	8 9:00am Div. Liturgy Feastday of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	9 6:00pm Women's Retreat (St. George Church)	10 9:00am Women's Retreat (continued)
11 8:45am Chanter Training 10:00am Div. Liturgy	12 7:00pm "Know Your Faith" 7:00pm Philoptochos	13 9:00am Div. Liturgy St. John Chrysostom 7:00pm Parish Council	14 6:00pm Teaching Divine Liturgy	15 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	16 7:00pm Youth Games Night	17 10:00am Southwest Region Philoptochos Meeting
18 8:45am Chanter Training 10:00am Div. Liturgy National Youth Sunday General Assembly	19 10:00am Sorting Food Donations 7:00pm "Know Your Faith" (Final Class)	20	21 9:00am Div. Liturgy Entrance of the Theotokos	22 Thanksgiving Day (Office Closed)	23	24
25 8:45am Chanter Training 10:00am Div. Liturgy	26	27	28	29 7:00pm Parish Council Candidate Seminar 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	30	