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**Albanian Orthodox Archdiocese in America ~ [www.aoaa.org](http://www.aoaa.org)**  
**SS Peter and Paul Albanian Orthodox Church ~ [sspeterpaulphila.org](http://sspeterpaulphila.org)**  
**9230 Old Bustleton Avenue ~ Philadelphia, PA 19115 ~ Church Phone: 215-676-3311**  
**Pastor: Father Stephen Siniari ~ Phone: 609-385-3757 ~ Email: [frsiniari@gmail.com](mailto:frsiniari@gmail.com)**

FATHER STEPHEN'S MESSAGE TO THE FAITHFUL

*Take an Existential Stance*

Sin is the measure of our awareness of separation from God, of separation from life -- it is the measure of our conscious recognition of death. And it is only through conscious experience of death that man can approach the revelation of life, the possibility of rising with Christ.

Thus sin becomes a starting-point for repentance, **metanoia**. This word in Greek means "change of mind", in other words a change in man's whole attitude -- in his existential stance, not simply his behavior.

Repentance is the recognition that man's self-sufficiency is inadequate; it is a search for the life which is realized in personal relationship with God, a thirst for personal communion with Him.

Let them take courage who are humbled by their passions. For even if they fall into every pit and are caught in every snare, when they attain health they will become healers, luminaries, beacons and guides to all, teaching about the forms of every sickness and through their own experience saving those who are about to fall.

-- **St John of the Ladder**

The image of God in man and the dynamics of life which form the human persons cannot be erased, however much we foul the original beauty of loving distinctiveness and freedom.

The truth of the Church illuminates the hell of human failure in order to show man that even the insatiable impulses from which his existence suffers -- the passions of pleasure in their autonomous state -- are marks of the alienated personal desire for participation in true life, marks which testify to the nobility of his descent.

-- **Freedom of Morality - Yannaras**

**Special Announcements from Fr. Stephen**

Father Stephen may be reached at **609-385-3757**, Monday - Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM or by email: **[frsiniari@gmail.com](mailto:frsiniari@gmail.com)**. Please remember that all confessions and consultations on Sunday mornings shall take place from 9 AM to 10 AM before the Divine Liturgy. Thank you.

Father Dudash may be reached at **484-552-8079** or by email: **[ghiggee@gmail.com](mailto:ghiggee@gmail.com)**

## Events and Announcements

### LITURGICAL SCHEDULE - FEBRUARY/MARCH 2013

Please note: this is a curtailed Service Schedule due to our recovering priest. Any changes to the schedule (specifically Holy Days falling on weekdays) will be announced in Church, emailed to you & posted on our website.

**MEETING OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2 - NO Services at SS Peter & Paul**

**SUNDAY OF PUBLICAN & PHARISEE - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24 - Divine Liturgy, 10 AM**

**PRE-SANCTIFIED - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 - 7 PM**

**SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY - SUNDAY, MARCH 24 - Divine Liturgy, 10 AM**

**ANNUNCIATION - MONDAY, MARCH 25 - Divine Liturgy, 9 AM**

**PRE-SANCTIFIED - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27 - 7 PM**

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### SCHEDULE OF OTHER SERVICES

**BIBLE STUDY - EVERY WEDNESDAY - 7 PM - 8:30 PM** in the Church Hall - Led by **Fr. Dn. Gregory**

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### CHURCH NEWS AND REMINDERS

**ICONS FOR ICON PLEDGE SUNDAY - If you have not yet returned your icons, please do ASAP.**

**MEMBERSHIP DUES 2013 ARE \$125 -** Dues can be paid at any time to our treasurer, James Schaeffer.

**COFFEE HOUR** - The Coffee Hour sign up sheet is located upstairs in the Church Hall by the door to the kitchen. Please write your name, email address and phone number by the date you sign up for. Questions, see Linda Biando.

**SPECIAL SERVICES** If you are planning to have a special service in the Church, please be considerate and notify either Father Stephen or the Church Committee one week in advance.

When you are planning for a Baptism, Wedding, Funeral, or any other Prayer Service in the Church, please speak with Father Stephen in advance to determine if there is any way you can contribute to help the Church in helping others. Thank you.

**Please note:** if the services of the Church Choir are required, please notify the Choir Director, Christina Murianka, as soon as possible.

**NO SMOKING/NO CELL PHONES** Please remember that SS Peter & Paul has a no smoking policy in the building and that ringers on cell phones should be off during the Divine Liturgy.

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - Monday, February 4, 7 PM.** All Parishioners are welcome to attend.

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### PLEDGES & DONATIONS

**SUPPORT OF THE NEW CHANCERY** - SS Peter & Paul has pledged **\$5,000** to support the new Chancery for the Archdiocese. We are asking for pledges from our parishioners and friends, to be paid off within the next 2 years. Please see Jim Schaeffer to make your pledge. *Please do not send your donation/pledge to the Archdiocese, but give it to our Church, so we can fulfill our commitment to the Archdiocese. Thank you for your continued generosity!*

**PLEDGES FOR OUR NEW LIFT** - The projected total cost will be **\$70,000**. We have received pledges totaling **\$11,000** thus far. We ask that you prayerfully consider a pledge or donation (which can be fulfilled over a 2 year period) towards completion of the Lift Project which will benefit many in our community for years to come. **Contact our Parish Treasurer, James Schaeffer, or any member of the Parish Board to make your pledge and support the community of SS Peter & Paul. Thank you for your generosity!**

*Pictures of the progress will be posted on our website soon. Now is the perfect time to make your pledge for this much needed addition to our Church! Please be generous and pledge as soon as possible. Thank you for your generosity!*

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### THE JOY OF GIVING

**COLLECTION SUNDAYS** - May God bless you for your generosity!

**1st Sunday** of each month - Collection for the Poor

**2nd Sunday** - IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities)

**3rd Sunday** - Pastoral Fund

### OTHER DONATIONS:

Church Library

Pop Tab Collections for Ronald McDonald House

Wine: Altar wine: **Manischewitz Concord Grape** (please do not donate any other brand of concord grape)

Oil: **Virgin Olive Oil**

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## Events and Announcements *(Continued)*

### UPCOMING EVENTS AT SS PETER & PAUL

**LADIES' SOCIETY PULLED PORK & POTATO SALAD SUNDAY - Sunday, January 27**

**SWEARING IN & BLESSING OF PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS - Sunday, February 3**

**SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY - Sunday, February 3** - After Divine Liturgy. *Please join us in this fundraiser to enjoy (& take home) some fabulous home-made soups!*



**ICON PLEDGE SUNDAY - Sunday, February 10 - (Inclement weather date to be announced)**

Immediately following the Divine Liturgy. *This is SS Peter & Paul's single largest fund-raiser of the year and is integral in funding our operating expenses. Please make every effort to attend and please bid generously. Absentee bids are gratefully accepted.*

**LADIES' SOCIETY HOT DOG SUNDAY - Sunday, February 17**

**LADIES' SOCIETY MEETING - Sunday, February 17**

**LADIES' SOCIETY MEATBALL SANDWICH SUNDAY - Sunday, March 10**

**LADIES' SOCIETY LENTEN LUNCHEON - Sunday, March 24**

### UPCOMING EVENTS AT OTHER LOCATIONS

**ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 5TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S DAY DANCE - Saturday, March 16, 7 PM to 11 PM.** Tickets are \$30 per person, \$10 for children under 12. For additional info, contact: [info@stjohnsphila.org](mailto:info@stjohnsphila.org)

### GENERAL INTEREST

**CHANGE YOUR ELECTRICITY PROVIDER & BENEFIT OUR CHURCH** - Switch through this website (<http://www.sspeterpaul.streampowerup.biz>) & SS Peter & Paul will receive **\$4/month for each person who switches** and Sophia Demas will receive \$1/month (donated to our Church). *If you do not have access to the internet, just bring your electric bill to Church and you'll be able to get signed up.* A direct link is on our website on: "**Current Announcements**" page.

**ANCIENT FAITH RADIO 24 hour a day internet Orthodox radio station:** <http://ancientfaithradio.com>

**MAKE A PURCHASE THROUGH AMAZON AND HELP ST GEORGE CATHEDRAL IN SOUTH BOSTON** - Go to the Cathedral website: [www.saintgeorgecathedral.com](http://www.saintgeorgecathedral.com) and scroll down to "Shop Amazon" on the left side.

### MISCELLANEOUS

**E-MAILS:** New Bulletins are available online by Saturday 8 PM on the last Saturday of the month. If you would like to be kept up-to-date by e-mail or to be removed from our "paper" mailing list, please e-mail Alicia at: [aliciaj17@me.com](mailto:aliciaj17@me.com)

**SS PETER & PAUL CHURCH STORE** - Open Sundays at 9:30 AM (1/2 hour before Divine Liturgy) **Items available:** **SS Peter & Paul 90th Year Celebration DVD** (\$15); Divine Liturgy Books, Icons; Crosses (Baptismal, lapel pins, Georgian style, orthodox); Prayerbooks (English); Censors; CDs and cassettes; Religious Books. Also available: **IN THEIR OWN TONGUE**, a documentary chronicling the Albanian Archdiocese in America.

**DAILY BREAD** - Suspended until further notice

**WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL LIGHTS** - Envelopes are available at the Church Store counter for special prayers to be said during the week in conjunction with the burning of the Seven-Day Votive Light hanging above the Royal Doors. Suggested offering: \$10, which will go towards building up our Pastoral Fund with the ultimate goal of supporting a full time priest.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEWS ABOUT PARISHIONERS

- If you have any items to include in next month's Bulletin, please see **Alicia** or call her at **215-530-0118** or email: [aliciaj17@me.com](mailto:aliciaj17@me.com) *The deadline for the next Bulletin is **Sunday, February 17**. Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletin at the Church on **Sunday 2/24/13**.* Bulletins will be mailed to any Parishioners unable to attend.

*Please remember to let Alicia know the names of our members who are ill or in need of prayer so that they can be included in our Bulletins. \*\*\*Please note: You cannot arbitrarily be removed from the Prayer List. You must let Alicia know to remove your name. Thank you.*

MISCELLANEOUS (Continued)

**Thank You** to all members of the Parish who have helped out or volunteered in any way with their time and efforts, and a very special **thank you** to anyone whose name was inadvertently omitted from the Bulletin.

**Parishioner's Corner**



A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY is wished to the following parishioners and friends who are celebrating **February Birthdays**: *Edna Bachelor, Joe Bacon, Janet (Bachelor) Caparros, Margot Craig, Virginia Daka, Theodore Dementri, Ralph John, Thomas Kenny, Christine Nass, Andrew Quirias, Georgia Reeves, Lilly Shallapi, Andi Steffa, Gregory Vrato, Sr.*

*May God grant them all many, many years!*

**ANYONE WITH EMAIL ACCESS** (who is not currently receiving email Bulletin notifications from Alicia) - please email Alicia at **aliciaj17@me.com** to be put on the list to receive a pdf version of the Bulletin and no paper Bulletin. *Please help us conserve paper and expenses! Thank you!*

**DONATE AN ITEM A MONTH CAMPAIGN** - We are in need of the following items: **paper coffee cups, paper plates.** *Your continued help is truly appreciated! No styrofoam, please! A sincere "Thank You" to all parishioners who so kindly donated any requested items.*

**THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE NEEDED** - 1) Unwanted tools in good condition; 2) Empty honey jars for holy water. *Thank you!*

**GREETING CARD RECYCLING PROJECT** - Please bring in any Nativity, Pascha or Icon greeting cards. The Sunday School children will be "recycling" them into postcards, writing short messages and sending them to our Parishioners who are "shut-ins". We want them to know that they are still loved and remembered. The cards will be sent during the respective holiday seasons.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CLEAN UP AFTER COFFEE HOUR** - The sponsoring of Coffee Hour has worked out well (sponsors are still needed). We need volunteers to help with the clean up after Coffee Hour. Please volunteer to help. **Thank you!**

**GOOD COMPANY & GOOD FOOD: HELP BUILD UP OUR PASTORAL FUND** - A new tradition has started -- serving a hot meal on most Sundays to build up our Pastoral Fund. If you have any ideas or are interested in participating or sponsoring a particular Sunday, please talk to **Jim Schaeffer** or **Letitia Desloges**. *Your help and support is needed to get this project up and running!*

**GREGORY VRATO, SR.**, is at the *John Neumann Nursing Home*, Room 729, at the intersection of Haldeman & Tomlinson Road (make a right on Tomlinson and the parking lot is immediately on your right). Visitors are welcome anytime from noon to 8 PM

*Please continue to keep Gregory in your prayers. May God grant him good health!*

**Let Us Keep Them in our Prayers**

Please continue to pray for the full and speedy recovery of: **Gregory Vrato, Sr., Matthew Murianka, Joyce Dorsey, Mary Palmerick, Thimi Daka, Sophie Bacon, Margot Craig, Eteri Okropiridze, Mary Ann Clark, Alexandra Pana, Nicholas Desloges, Martha Murianka, Anthony Sarris, Jeannie Rifkin, Nick Zeo, His Eminence Archbishop Nikon, Eurania (Elaine) Quirias, Lester Speero, Lester Paul Speero, Sandy Speero, George Speero, Marie Muzekari, Fr Stephen Siniari**

*God knows the names and ages of all who need His love and mercy...*

HOLY DAYS AND NAME DAYS IN FEBRUARY (Continued on next page)

<b>February 1</b>	St Bridget of Ireland
<b>February 2</b>	Meeting of Christ in the Temple
<b>February 3</b>	Righteous Godbearer Simeon and Anna the Prophetess
<b>February 6</b>	St Photius, Patriarch of Constantinople
<b>February 10</b>	St Haralambos; St Valentina
<b>February 11</b>	St Blaise; Righteous Theodora
<b>February 14</b>	St Cyril, Teacher of the Slavs
<b>February 18</b>	St Leo the Great, Pope of Rome
<b>February 24</b>	Publican & Pharisee; 1st & 2nd Finding Honorable Head of St John the Baptist
<b>February 26</b>	St Porphyrius, Bishop of Gaza; St Sebastian
<b>February 27</b>	St Raphael Bishop of Brooklyn
<b>February 28</b>	St Basil the Confessor; SS Marana, Kyra & Domnina of Syria; St John Cassian



## HIEROMARTYR BLAISE THE BISHOP OF SEBASTE

*(Commemorated on February 11)*

The Hieromartyr Blaise (Blasius), Bishop of Sebaste, was known for his righteous and devout life. Unanimously chosen by the people, he was consecrated Bishop of Sebaste. This occurred during the reign of the Roman emperors Diocletian (284-305) and Licinius (307-324), fierce persecutors of Christians. St Blaise encouraged his flock, visited the imprisoned, and gave support to the martyrs.

Many hid themselves from the persecutors by going off to desolate places. St Blaise hid himself away on Mount Argeos, where he lived in a cave. Wild beasts came up to him and meekly waited until the saint finished his prayer and blessed them. He also healed sick animals by laying his hands upon them.

The refuge of the saint was discovered by servants of the governor Agrilaus, who had come to capture wild beasts to loose on the Christian martyrs. The servants reported that Christians were hiding on the mountain, and he gave orders to arrest them. Those sent out found there only the Bishop of Sebaste. Glorifying God Who had summoned him to this exploit, St Blaise followed the soldiers.

Along the way the saint healed the sick and worked miracles. A destitute widow complained to him of her misfortune. A wolf had carried off a small pig, her only possession. The bishop said to her, "Do not weep, your pig will be returned to you..." The wolf came back and returned his prey unharmed.

Agrilaus, greeting the bishop with words of deceit, called him a companion of the gods. The saint answered the greeting, but he

called the gods devils. Then they beat him and led him off to prison.

On the next day, they subjected the saint to tortures again. When they led him back to the prison, 7 women followed and gathered up the drops of blood. They arrested them and tried to compel them to worship the idols. The women pretended to consent to this and said that they needed to wash the idols in the lake. They took the idols and threw them in a deep part of the lake. After this the Christians were fiercely tortured. The saints endured the torments, strengthened by the grace of God, their bodies were transformed and became white as snow. One of the women had two young sons, who implored their mother to help them attain the Kingdom of Heaven, and she entrusted them to the care of St Blaise. The 7 holy women were beheaded.

St Blaise was again brought before Agrilaus, and again he confessed his faith in Christ. The governor ordered that the martyr be thrown into a lake. The saint signed himself with the Sign of the Cross, and walked on the lake as though on dry land.

Addressing the pagans standing on shore, he challenged them to come to him while calling on the help of their gods. 68 men of the governor's retinue entered the water and drowned. The saint, heeding the angel who had appeared to him, returned to shore.

Agrilaus was in a rage over losing his servants and gave orders to behead St Blaise, and the 2 boys entrusted to him, the sons of the martyr. Before his death in the year 316,

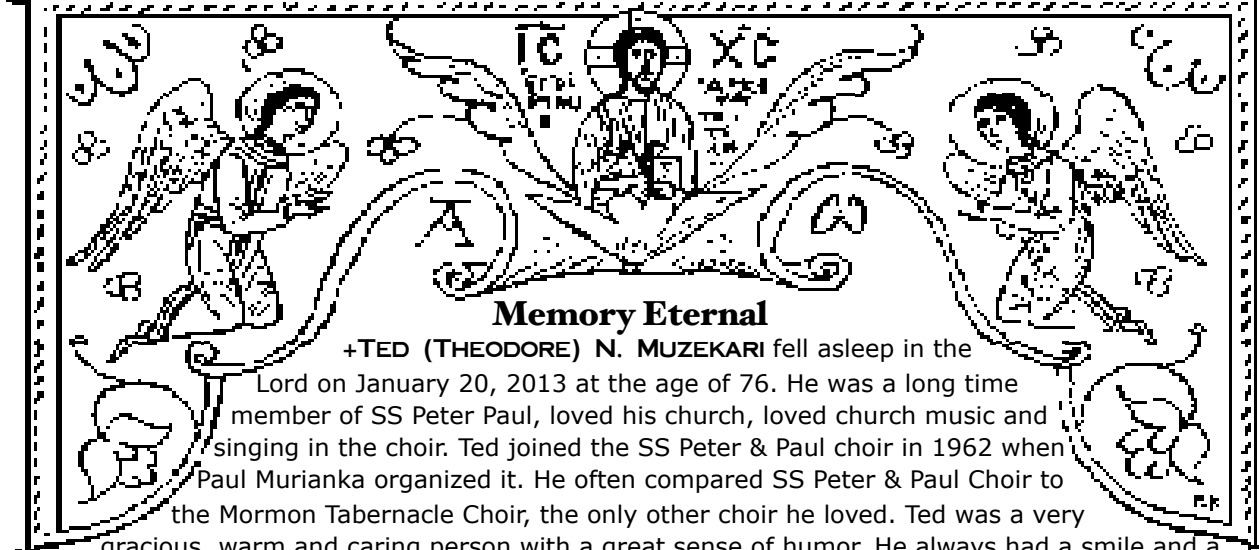
the martyr prayed for the whole world, and especially for those honoring his memory.

The relics of the Hieromartyr Blaise were brought to the West during the time of the Crusades, and portions of the relics are preserved in many of the lands of Europe.

We pray to St Blaise for the health of domestic animals, and for protection from wild beasts.

*Reading & Icon Courtesy of OCA Website*





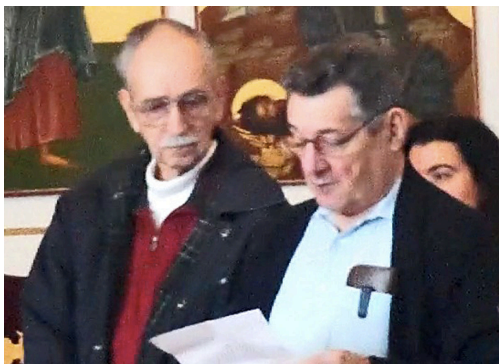
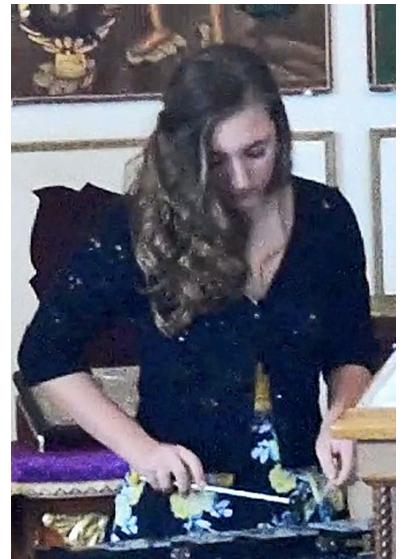
**Memory Eternal**

**+TED (THEODORE) N. MUZEKARI** fell asleep in the Lord on January 20, 2013 at the age of 76. He was a long time member of SS Peter Paul, loved his church, loved church music and singing in the choir. Ted joined the SS Peter & Paul choir in 1962 when Paul Murianka organized it. He often compared SS Peter & Paul Choir to the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, the only other choir he loved. Ted was a very gracious, warm and caring person with a great sense of humor. He always had a smile and a hello for everyone; he made each encounter a personal one and everyone loved Ted. Always willing to lend a hand or a listening ear, Ted was nonetheless a very private person and did not want anyone to see him after he became ill. Ted will be lovingly remembered, sadly missed and dearly cherished by family, friends, Church members, and all those whose lives Ted touched.

*May + Ted's memory be eternal!*

*Children's Nativity Choral Program at SS Peter & Paul ~ December 23, 2012*

YouTube Video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oUD-NUXjyS4&feature=youtu.be>





TENTATIVE LITURGICAL SCHEDULE - JANUARY 2013 - JANUARY 2014

Please note: this is a curtailed Service Schedule due to our recovering priest. Any changes to the schedule (specifically Holy Days falling on weekdays) will be announced in Church, emailed to you & posted on our website.

- JAN 1 - (Tue) CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD; ST. BASIL THE GREAT, Divine Liturgy 10 AM
- JAN 6 - (Sun) THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD & GREAT BLESSING OF WATER, Divine Liturgy 10 AM
- FEB 2 - (Sat) MEETING OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE, (***\*No Services at SS Peter & Paul\****)
- FEB 24 - (Sun) PUBLICAN & PHARISEE, Divine Liturgy 10 AM
- MAR 20 - (Wed) PRE-SANCTIFIED, 7 PM
- MAR 24 - (Sun) SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY, Divine Liturgy 10 AM
- MAR 25 - (Mon) ANNUNCIATION, Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- MAR 27/APR 3, 10, 17, 24 - (Weds) PRE-SANCTIFIEDS, 7 PM
- APR 27 - LAZARUS SATURDAY, Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- APR 28 - (Sun) ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM, Divine Liturgy & BLESSING OF PALMS, 10 AM
- MAY 1 - HOLY WEDNESDAY (Holy Unction) 7 PM
- MAY 2 - HOLY THURSDAY (Twelve Passion Gospels) 7 PM
- MAY 3 - HOLY FRIDAY (Vespers, Taking Down From Cross) 3 PM; Lamentations at Tomb 7 PM
- MAY 4 - HOLY SATURDAY (Vespertine Liturgy of St Basil) 9 AM; ORTHROS/PASHKAL CANON/LITURGY 11 PM
- MAY 5 - PASCHA SUNDAY (Agape Vespers; Gospel in many languages) NOON
- JUN 13 - HOLY ASCENSION THURSDAY, Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- JUN 23 - HOLY PENTECOST SUNDAY, Divine Liturgy 10 AM
- JUN ? - (Sat/Sun - *To Be Announced*) CELEBRATION OF SS PETER & PAUL FEAST DAY with His Eminence Archbishop Nikon; Divine Liturgy 9 AM; *Parish Meal after the Divine Liturgy*
- JUN 29 - (Sat) SS PETER & PAUL FEAST DAY, Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- AUG 6 - (Tue) HOLY TRANSFIGURATION, Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- AUG 15 - (Thu) DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS, Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- SEP 14 - (Sat) EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS, Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- OCT 1 - (Tue) PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS, Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- NOV ? - (Sat/Sun - *To Be Announced*) ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM FEAST DAY & His Eminence Archbishop Nikon's visit to our Sister Parish (***\*No Services at SS Peter & Paul\****)
- DEC 25 - (Wed) NATIVITY, Divine Liturgy 10 AM
- JANUARY 2014**
- JAN 1 - (Wed) CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD; ST BASIL THE GREAT, Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- JAN 6 - (Mon) THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD & GREAT BLESSING OF WATER, Divine Liturgy 9 AM