

# Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church Newsletter

Volume 13 Issue 1

January 2013

### December Council Highlights

- ✘ November's Operating Income was \$9,903.17 and Operating Expenses were \$10,404.03 resulting in a deficit of **\$500.86** for November, and a year-to-date deficit of **\$600.38**.
- ✘ Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 27, 2013.
- ✘ Settlement of \$12,000 received from CCG Construction.
- ✘ Proceeds from parish Christmas card pay off the remaining balance of the parking lot project.
- ✘ At it's December meeting, the parish council unanimously expressed its gratitude to those who provided for the recently-complete church renovation. The entire parish community joins in expressing its gratitude for this generous gift.



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## A Public Saint and a Private Saint

**On January 10 the Church celebrates the memory of Gregory of Nyssa, a saint who probably preferred solitary thought, study and prayer to public preaching and lecturing. Yet he was called to both public and private activity in his life.**

Born in 335 in Caesarea, Cappadocia, Saint Gregory was one member of a family that produced an extraordinary number of saints. He grew up thinking, hearing and speaking about theology and was profoundly influenced by his older brother Basil—known to us as Basil the Great—and by their friend Gregory of Nazianzus.

With his solid theological background, Gregory was ready as an adult to write about deep and complex Church teachings in ways that people could understand. This became especially important when the doctrine of the Trinity was questioned and argued about. Gregory explained that God is One in three undivided Persons who always work together. Part of what he said has been expressed in this way: "Every operation which extends from God to the Creation...has its origin from the Father, and proceeds through the Son, and is

perfected in the Holy Spirit." He also said, "Whatever comes to pass does so by the action of the Three. But what comes to pass is one thing, not three things." In addition to defending and explaining the faith in public, Gregory was, despite his reluctance,



appointed Bishop of Nyssa by his brother Basil in the year 372. Basil knew his younger sibling was not altogether suited to such a public administrative role, but he needed someone he could depend on. As a bishop, Gregory had to deal with the false teachings of the Arians, who constantly challenged him. Seeking to damage

his reputation, they accused him of financial mismanagement and got him removed

from his episcopal see, and even banished for a time. Though the false charges were dropped, the experience of such publicly-expressed hostility was hurtful and embarrassing. He was able to come back to his diocese a few years later, and because the necessity was so great, he continued to defend the faith against the Arians in

public. He attended the Ecumenical Council of Constantinople in 381, and preached on special occasions. But he turned down the opportunity to become bishop of the important area of Sebaste.

Gregory needed his private time to produce his great theological works. In addition to his writings on the Trinity, he completed Basil's sermons on the six days of creation (unfinished at Basil's death in 379) and gave the world a thorough outline of theology, the "Address on Religious Instruction." There were many other works as well, including mystical writings like the "Life of Moses" which compares the Hebrews' wilderness journey to Mount Sinai to the human soul's journey through this difficult life to a vision of God.

### Kontakion - Tone 1

You kept watch with the eyes of your soul, holy bishop, revealing yourself as a watchful pastor for the world. With the staff of your wisdom and your fervent intercession, you drove away all heretics like wolves. You preserved your flock free from harm, most wise Gregory!

Gregory did not choose public life, and it didn't bring him success. Yet its challenges spurred him to use his private hours for the creation of theological works that were, and still are, basic to the understanding of the Orthodox faith.

# Message From Our Rector

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year, as with the beginning of each calendar year, we have wished and greeted one another

one another with "Happy New Year!" I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you all, *from my heart*, a very Happy, Peaceful, and Blessed



New Year. With these words, I wish you a **new** year. That is to say, it is my wish that, as we begin a New Year according to the civil calendar, each and every one of you will also begin a new year in your spiritual life and that each one of us will strive, ever more attentively, to walk in the footsteps of Jesus Christ and to live as His faithful disciples. This was Saint Paul the Apostle's wish for the Ephesians, when he wrote to them: "Be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new man, who, according to God, is created in justice and holiness of truth" (Ephesians 4:23).

I also wish you a *peaceful* year. By that I mean that it is my prayer and hope that 2013 will be for you a year filled with the peace which the angels announced to the shepherds in the fields surrounding Bethlehem on the night when Jesus was born, singing: "Glory to God in the highest; and on earth peace to men of good will." This is the peace which Christ restored through His Life, His Passion, His Death and Resurrection – which we share in when we receive the Divine Mysteries. However, my wish, as sincere and heartfelt as it is, can-

not bring you this peace; you must make the effort to obtain it for yourselves. In the year that lies before us, seek for this peace by participating in the Sacramental life of the Church worthily.

Nurture this peace by studying and reflecting upon the Word of God. And preserve this peace by a good and faithful life! If, at the end of every day, your conscience bears witness that you have served and loved God and your neighbor well during the day just past, then you will have peace and happiness, a peace which the world cannot give and cannot take away; a happiness which surpasses all other joys.

I also wish you a *blessed* New Year. May your homes, jobs, schools, family life, relationships, health, and all your endeavors be blessed by God. That is to say, may they all bring you closer to the Lord and to a greater understanding of and appreciation for all He has done for us and all He desires for us.

As we enter into the New Year, I also wish to assure you of my prayers. As you have heard me mention in the past, I remember each one of you by name in my daily prayers. I ask that you do the same for me and for all the members of our parish family so that, supporting and lifting one another up in prayer, we may remain faithful to the mission with which we have been entrusted and may continue to find the peace that comes to those who know, love, and serve the Lord.

With love in the Lord,

*Father David*

## 2013 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

*As we consider God's blessings, we are in awe of His immense goodness toward us. The greatest gifts to us are His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior and the constant presence of His Holy Spirit working in the Church and in our lives.*

*God endows each of us with personal gifts, talents, and material possessions. Stewardship is acknowledging that God is the source of each gift that has been received and each possession that has been accumulated. We are asking you to prayerfully consider your commitment to God and His Church as we begin the new year.*

*Remember, Christ loved us so much that He sacrificed Himself for us. What can we sacrifice for His church?*



The church renovation begins.



During the renovation, church services were held in the Cultural Center.



Our beautifully renovated church!

## ‘Blessed are the Pure in Heart for They Shall See God’

*Fr. Steven Kostoff*

I would like to begin by wishing everyone a blessed New Year. While I am a few days late, the new year 2013 is just beginning, and we still have a long way to go. So a greeting at this point is not altogether untimely. I am avoiding the usual cliché of wishing everyone a “happy” New Year, simply because that term evokes something so ephemeral and elusive that it threatens to lose any significant meaning through an almost mindless and constant repetition. Certainly, the word “happy” has a meaning that is easily understood and shared by all, for we all share emotional, social and cultural expectations and perceptions that allow for a common discourse regarding our goals and ideals. Otherwise, we would not be able to communicate effectively. But when questioned for clarification, perhaps it is then that the elusiveness behind the concept of happiness becomes more apparent and our definitions become more uncertain. Are we “happy” when we get everything that we want? Would “having it all” make us truly happy? Would winning one of those gigantic lotteries exponentially increase our level of happiness beyond the conceivable? Or, are we happy when we manage to avoid any calamities or tragedies? Does a life free of hardship or heart-break render us happy? Put another way, are we happy when we experience pleasure and avoid pain? Just how happy can we be when others around us are suffering or experiencing tragedy? Can you be happy when someone close to you is unhappy? Not easy questions to answer, I believe.

In a provocative essay by the Polish philosopher, Leszek Kokakowski, titled “Is God Happy?” the author strikes a blow to those who may equate their success with genuine happiness, however we define that term:

There are, of course, people who consider themselves happy because they are successful: healthy and rich, lacking nothing, respected (or feared) by their neighbors. Such people might believe that their life is what happiness is. But this is merely self-deception; and even they,

from time to time, at least, realize the truth. And the truth is that they are failures like the rest of us.

The term “blessed” – much more biblical and with a deeper resonance – calls to mind a relationship with God. We are blessed by God, and we bless God in return: “*Bless the Lord, O my soul! Blessed art Thou, O Lord!*” We need only to recall the Beatitudes spoken by Christ. But the Beatitudes tell us that those who are *blessed* are so because they are “meek;” because they “mourn;” that they “hunger and thirst after righteousness;” and that they are blessed because they are “persecuted for righteousness’ sake.” Not exactly what is on the mind of most people when that glittering ball dropped in New York’s Times Square! When all the kissing ended and toasts had been made, and when all the confetti had landed and the balloons had popped, a question inexorably forced itself upon the festive gathering: Now what? Perhaps that is why countless people are really quite *unhappy*. Looking in the wrong place makes the search for happiness a rather unattainable—and even unsatisfying—pursuit. Because happiness is such an ephemeral experience with a “here today, gone tomorrow” quality about it, after many years one can become discouraged or cynical due to its impermanence. All the promises implied by the “pursuit of happiness” may never be quite delivered. And that can cause a reaction filled with disappointment or discontent. By resisting the blessedness that comes from a Source beyond the temporal and passing quality of daily life, we could be missing the “one thing needful” that brings blessedness to our lives. To be blessed is to seek a “quality of life” marked by greater depth and permanence. It cannot be taken away by an unforeseen accident or even tragedy. This is because blessedness is God-sourced.

Now, of course, no one in his or her right mind will ever wish to be unhappy, for no one wishes to be more-or-less miserable. If happiness is what we are seeking,

there are countless moments in life when we experience that happiness – together with joy, contentment, deep satisfaction, perhaps even a certain ecstasy. Life yields so many wonderful possibilities for such deeply sought-after experiences. For many, it is those experiences that “keep us going,” so to speak. And for many, life is the pursuit of connecting those moments ever more closely. That may be true for all human beings at all times, but for Christians, those experiences are again deepened by and through a living faith in the living God. Such experiences are good in and of themselves, but they also offer a foretaste of a far deeper reality: “*But as it is written, ‘What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him’*” [1 Corinthians 2:9-10]. I believe, then, that if we are seeking to have a “blessed” New Year, then what we are seeking is to become closer to God and to grow in our relationship with Him. It is to look beyond the superficial enticements that pose as true happiness for more challenging but much more satisfying relationships and accomplishments within the very human spheres of our daily lives. Our resolutions would then be active attempts at true repentance. When all is said and done, it is truly blessed to put God above all.

Again, I wish one and all a Happy—rather, a *Blessed!*—New Year!!!

Reprinted from “Reflections in Christ”, January 4, 2013, Orthodox Church in America web site, <http://oca.org/reflections/fr.-steven-kostoff/blessed-are-the-pure-in-heart-for-they-shall-see-god>

### CHURCH PARKING LOT PAID OFF!!!!

Thank you all who worked, supported, and contributed to the parking lot project. Through your efforts, we have achieved our goal of paying off the parking lot by the end of 2012. The proceeds from the parish Christmas card help us meet this goal. The gross income from the card was \$945, with expenses of \$87.63 (envelopes and postage), for a net income of \$857.37. Thank you to everyone for your support!

# December in Pictures at SS Peter and Paul

## ST. NICHOLAS VISITS SS PETER AND PAUL

## DECORATING THE TREE CHRISTMAS EVE

## HOLY SUPPER and CHRISTMAS



Ava enjoys a visit with St. Nicholas.



Nataliya enjoys a visit with St. Nicholas.



Natalya and Zach decorate the tree.



Our parish family gathers for Holy Supper.



One by one, the children visit with St. Nicholas.



St. Nicholas had a smile and a gift for everyone.



Michelle, Katrina, and Juliana.



The church was adorned with poinsettias for Nativity Compline.



Nativity: Christ is Born! Glorify Him!



Nativity epistle reading.



It's Mikey's turn to visit with St. Nicholas.



Father David leads the prayers during Holy Supper.



Ava spreads the straw.



Father David reads the Metropolitan's message for Nativity.



Anastasia admires her gift from St. Nicholas.



Tristan is all smiles as he chats with St. Nicholas.



Everyone stands for a toast during Holy Supper.

# A Homeless Wanderer Who Found the Kingdom

**On January 24 the Church celebrates the memory of Blessed Xenia of Petersburg. She was born in the 18th century to a noble family, and married a colonel who was a member of the Imperial Chorus. But she is probably best known as a "Fool for Christ."**

This term is based on Saint Paul's words in I Corinthians 4: 10: "We are fools for Christ's sake." The men and women who became "Fools for Christ" or "Holy Fools" gave up the normal life of family, job and home. They lived in complete dependence on God, and rejected the pursuit of security, status, or the respect of other people.

Xenia's early life followed the conventional path for a young woman of her time. But it changed dramatically when her husband Andrei died suddenly at a lively evening party with his soldier companions. She had loved him dearly and was concerned that there had not been time for him to make a final confession and to receive the Eucharist before he died. We don't know exactly how her concern influenced her next actions, but we do know that she sold her considerable



possessions and gave away the proceeds, began wearing Andrei's military uniform, and called herself by his name. She gave her house to a friend, stipulating that it must be used to give shelter to those who could not afford to provide shelter for themselves. Her shocked family tried to have her declared mentally incompetent, but the court found her to be of sound mind.

Xenia left Petersburg and set out on an eight-year pilgrimage, going from one monastery to another and seeking spiritual guidance from the elders and holy people she met along the way. When she returned to Petersburg, she lived as an impoverished wanderer through the streets of the city's worst slum.

Out of fear and mistrust, some people treated this strange woman in a tattooed military uniform with derision, shouting or spitting at her. But others were kind, offering her a bit of food or money out of the little they had. She would always give these gifts to needy people, and became recognized for her own charity as well as the good effect she seemed to have on those around her.

They began to ask for her blessing, and welcome her presence.

Xenia, like other holy fools, was given the gift of doing miracles and seeing the future. She was able to save people from coming dangers, and once bluntly told a single woman who hoped to marry, "As you sit here drinking coffee, your future husband is burying his first wife." Some time later, the woman met and married the widower to whom Xenia was referring.

In her chapter on Saint Xenia in the book *Encountering Women of Faith*, Barbara Harris succinctly describes the gift holy fools give

## Protharion - Tone 5

Having lived as a stranger in the world,  
you outwitted the deviser of evil  
by your pretended foolishness, O Xenia.  
You received the grace from God  
to foresee and foretell things to come.  
Now, as you have been translated from earth to heaven,  
you are numbered with the choirs of the angels.

us: "With their eyes turned toward God and through extreme poverty and humility, fools offer us an extraordinary example of a voluntary kenotic [self-emptying] life."

*This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America. This and many other Christian Education resources are available at <http://dce.oca.org>.*

## Church Humor

**The Sunday School teacher** was describing that when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom she turned into a pillar of salt, when Bobby interrupted. "My mommy looked back once while she was driving," he announced, "and she turned into a telephone pole."



**Another Sunday School teacher** said to her children, "We have been learning about how powerful the kings and queens were in Biblical times. But there is a higher power. Who can tell me what it is?" Tommy blurted out, "I know, A c e s . "

**After explaining the commandment to**

honor your father and mother, a Sunday School teacher asked her class if there was a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters.

One boy, the oldest in his family, immediately answered, "Thou shalt not kill."



**Lot again...** A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt. His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"

**At the pearly gates again,** a taxi driver

and minister are waiting in line. St. Peter consults his list and says to the taxi driver, "Take this silken robe and golden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

St. Peter next greets the minister saying, "Take this cotton robe and wooden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

"Just a minute," says the minister. "That man was a taxi driver, and he gets a silken robe and golden staff while I get a cotton robe and wooden staff. How can this be?"

"Up here, we work by results," says St. Peter. "While you preached, people slept; while he drove, people prayed."



# Truth at Great Personal Cost

**On January 21 we remember Saint Maximus the Confessor, who was born in the year 580 in Constantinople. He defended the faith so uncompromisingly that he is one of the great Fathers of the Church.**

Maximus did not start out to be a monk or priest. His parents were members of the nobility, and he was highly intelligent and well-educated. When offered an important position in the court of the Emperor Heraclius, the young man accepted it and filled it very well.

But Maximus soon realized that the imperial court was not the place for him. He gave up his position and joined a monastic community outside the city. This was the right choice; he loved the monastic life and later became abbot of the monastery. His prayer life guided him to read, study and write about Jesus Christ with great depth of understanding.

Life, though, was not destined to be peaceful. In the year 626 his monastery was invaded and dismantled. The monks were forced to leave, and Maximus fled from Alexandria to Carthage, and from Carthage to Rome.

It was in Rome that he met Pope Martin I,

with whom he discovered a very important common interest. Both of these scholarly, pious men opposed a false teaching about Jesus Christ called monothelism. Those who adhered to this teaching said that He had only one will—His divine will.

For Maximus and Martin, this was a dangerous falsehood because it undermined Jesus' complete and real humanity. To be the Savior of humanity, Maximus said, Jesus had to have two wills: His divine will as Son of God, and His human will as truly one of us.

Unfortunately, the Patriarch accepted the Monothelite teaching. Even worse, the Emperor himself accepted it, largely for political reasons. So Maximus was accused of treason, taken back to Constantinople against his will, and thrown into prison where he languished for years. But he staunchly defended the faith, and the true humanity of the incarnate God, throughout all those years.

When he was in his early eighties, Maximus was finally sentenced. His tongue was cut out so that he could no longer speak "treasonous" words, and his hand

was cut off so he could no longer write them. He endured all this, as well as exile, public humiliation and beatings, still insisting that Jesus Christ had possessed a human will and a divine will. Many years later, at the Sixth Ecumenical Council which took place about two decades after his death, the Church exonerated him and declared his teachings to be true.

Saint Maximus once wrote, "To harbor no envy, no anger, no resentment against an offender is still not the same as having love for that person. It is possible, without any

## Troparion - Tone 8

Champion of Orthodoxy, teacher of purity and of true worship, enlightener of the universe and adornment of hierarchs: all-wise father Maximus, your teachings have gleamed with light upon all things.

Intercede before Christ God to save our souls.

love, to avoid rendering evil for evil. But to render good for evil—that is the quality of perfect spiritual love." These words have special power because they come from a man who suffered so cruelly for no crime except defending the truth.

This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America. This and many other Chris-

## Around Ss. Peter & Paul

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 George Moriarity
- 3 John Tanner
- 5 Pat Starkey
- 6 Walter Booriakin
- 10 Hadya Shawky
- 16 Ted Demos
- Liliya Armstrong
- 17 Mark Littrell
- 19 John Hecht
- George & Nadya Moriarty
- 26 Theodora(Teddi) Brent Gardner
- 28 Samuel Melendrez
- 29 John & Carol Yavornitzky

### Congratulations and Many Years!

To Larry Gardner and Teddi Brent

who were recently joined in

Holy Matrimony.



**Many Years! Mongaya Leta!**

### PRAYER LIST

*"I was sick and you visited me."*  
Matt 25:36

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

Dan Perotto  
Nicholas Enoch  
Ann Garza  
Mary Maul  
Rose Koval

*If you know of anyone else in need of our prayers, please contact Father David.*

# Bits and Pieces

## THANK YOU

I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for the many cards and gifts I received during the Christmas Season. Your thoughtfulness added to the joy of the feast. Many thanks, also, to everyone who contributed in any way to our beautiful parish celebration of the Lord's Nativity. May the Lord continue to bless you and yours as we enter into the New Year. With love in Christ, *Fr David*

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Our annual parish meeting will be held on Sunday, January 27, 2013, after Coffee Hour. The agenda includes approval of our 2013 budget as well as the election of parish officers. Should you wish to be nominated, please see Fr David or the members of the Executive Board of the Parish Council.

## CONGRATULATIONS AND MANY YEARS!

To Larry Gardner and Teddi Brent who were recently joined in Holy Matrimony. Also to Michael and Carmen Ruth Alvey who were joined in marriage this past Sunday at St George Greek Orthodox Church in Prescott. May the Lord crown the newlyweds with glory and honor!

## NATIVITY CELEBRATION

Our parish celebration of the Lord's Nativity was truly beautiful. From the music, to the assistance of our Altar servers, to the flowers and decoration of the Church and hall, to the Holy Supper—everything we did gave glory to God as we celebrated the Birth of His Son. May the Lord Himself bless all those who made our celebration what it was. *Father David*

## HOLY SUPPER

More than one hundred parishioners, family/ friends attended Holy Supper. It was a beautiful evening that began with everyone attending Compline before Holy Supper. Thank you all for attending and contributing to this special evening. Thank you to those who donated food and those who helped to set-up and then clean-up after the meal.

## FROM THE TREASURER

Happy New Year everyone! Please be advised that new boxed contributions envelopes will be provided for use in 2013. A number of folks have indicated that they have left over envelopes from prior years that they don't know what to do with. We can recycle those old envelopes for generic use by others. You can help out by taking a black marker and blank out/overwrite the number and date at the top of each envelope along with the feast day on those special envelopes. Just drop off your old boxed envelopes in the church office. Thanks much for your assistance and help. *Dave*

## WELCOME

We 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. It's a chance to meet some of our members, other visitors, and enjoy some coffee and fellowship. It's also a great time to take a look at what our bookstore has to offer.

## RUSSIAN TEA

A Russian tea will be held on Sunday, January 13, 2013 following Divine Liturgy. Join us for a meal of meat, potato, cabbage and mushroom pies; stuffed crepes; authentic Russian pastries; sweets; desserts, and more. Adults are \$10 and kids are free.

## OCCM/PROJECT MEXICO INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Local Orthodox Christians who have participated in the missionary efforts of OCCM and/or have been involved with the important work of Project Mexico will gather in our parish hall to share their experiences on Saturday, January 26, at 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. The presentations, discussions, and sharing will provide us with many first-hand accounts of those who have served the Church and the world through their missionary and charitable efforts. Please mark your calendars and plan on participating in this gathering. For more information, please contact Antonia Adams-Clement.

## STEWARDSHIP/PLEDGES/BUDGET

You will be receiving your 2012 Statement of Contributions for your tax purposes. It is also time to start thinking about your pledge for 2013. Development of the 2013 budget is underway. Operating and utility expenses continue to increase, requiring more income from pledges and other sources. Please be generous when filling out your 2013 Pledge Form. You can pick up your pledge forms in the Church vestibule. Please complete and return by the Annual Meeting, January 27, 2013. If you have any questions please see or contact the Church office.

## CHURCH CALENDARS

Many thanks to John W. Blischak, Attorney at Law, for sponsoring our 2013 parish calendar. A box has been placed in the narthex for you to recycle your 2012 calendars.

## MBAS

Many thanks to the Myrrh Bearers Altar Society and all the hard work they put in preparing for the holidays, baking nut, poppy, and apricot rolls, the Christmas cookie bake sale and raffle, beautifying the church, and hosting Holy Supper. Thanks to everyone (both members and parishioners) who participated in the various MBAS activities during 2012; without you, we would not have been a success.



## THEOPHANY HOUSE BLESSINGS

The rich liturgical tradition of the Orthodox Church includes a variety of services and blessings. Each year, after the celebration of the Feast of Theophany and the Blessing of Water (January 6), it is customary for the priest to visit parishioners' homes, bringing with him the newly blessed Holy Water to sprinkle and thereby bless the home. Fr David will be available to bless homes throughout the month of January. To arrange to have your house blessed, please speak with Father David.

## BOOKSTORE

If you purchase an item while the store is unattended, please leave a note to as what was purchased. It makes taking inventory a little easier! Thanks everyone!

# January 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> Circumcision of Christ St. Basil the Great 9:00am Divine Liturgy	<b>2</b> Ven. Seraphim of Sarov	<b>3</b> Forefeast of Theophany	<b>4</b> Forefeast of Theophany	<b>5</b> Eve of Theophany <b>STRICT FAST</b> 6:00pm Great Compline and Litya
<b>6</b> Holy Theophany 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy <i>Great Blessing of Water</i> <b>Church School Christmas Program</b>	<b>7</b> Synaxis of St. John the Baptist	<b>8</b> 6:00pm Council Meeting	<b>9</b> <b>10</b> <b>SS Peter and Paul Annual Meeting</b> Sunday, January 27, 2013 Following Fellowship Hour		<b>11</b> Ven. Theodosius	<b>12</b> Milk-Giver Icon 5:00pm Great Vespers
<b>13</b> Sunday after Theophany 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Church School MBAS Meeting</b> <b>RUSSIAN TEA</b>	<b>14</b> Leavetaking Theophany 	<b>15</b> <b>16</b> <b>YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM</b> Sunday, January 6, 2013 Following Divine Liturgy Join the youth as they perform their Christmas Production.			<b>17</b> Ven. Godbearing Anthony the Great	<b>18</b> <b>19</b> 5:00pm Great Vespers
<b>20</b> Ven. Euthymius The Great 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Church School</b>	<b>21</b> Icon "Joy and Consolation" 	<b>22</b> <b>23</b> <b>24</b>	<b>RUSSIAN TEA</b> Sunday, January 13, 2013 Following Divine Liturgy Adults \$10.00      Children Free		<b>25</b> St. Gregory the Theologian	<b>26</b> 5:00pm Great Vespers
<b>27</b> New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia Translation of the Relics of St. John Chrysostom 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Church School</b>	<b>28</b> Venerable Ephraim & Isaac of Syria	<b>29</b> <b>30</b> Synaxis Three Hierarchs	<b>31</b>	<b>Theophany House Blessing</b> Father David will be available to bless homes throughout the month of January. To arrange to have your house blessed, please speak with Father David.		<b>1</b> Forefeast of the Meeting of Christ in the Temple 6:00pm Vespers
					<b>2</b> Meeting of Christ in the Temple 9:00am Divine Liturgy <i>Blessing of Candles</i> 5:00pm Great Vespers	