

# SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church Newsletter

Volume 21, Issue 6

June 2021

## May Council Highlights

- ✘ April's Operating Income was \$17,177.66 and Operating Expenses were \$12,909.65 resulting in a positive balance of \$4,268.01.
- ✘ Rental contract signed and new tenant has moved into house.
- ✘ At request of Archbishop BENJAMIN and with Bishop DANIEL's support, the Holy Synod blessed the ordination of Subdeacon Rodion Pfeiffer to the Holy Diaconate. Axios! Date for Ordination TBA.



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## A Man Who Gave Second Chances

### One of the Holy Apostles is Barnabas, the companion of St. Paul.

Barnabas was born in Cyprus into a Jewish family of the tribe of Levi. His birth name was Joseph. He was a friend and classmate of Saint Paul, then called Saul, and they both studied under Gamaliel, the prominent rabbi and teacher of the Jewish Law. Joseph saw



and heard Jesus Christ, and came to believe in Him as the Savior of the world. He would eventually be chosen as one of the original seventy apostles because of his great zeal for the Gospel.

We first read about Barnabas in Acts 4: 36. Those verses describe the sacrifice the early Christians made, selling their property and offering the proceeds to serve the needs of all. But only Joseph "who was surnamed by the apostles Barnabas" is specifically named, so he must have stood out. The name Barnabas means "son of

encouragement" and it seems appropriate from the other things we know about him.

In Acts 9 we read about Saint Paul, now converted from a murderous enemy of the faith to a believer. He comes to Jerusalem, hoping to join the disciples. But "they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple." Again, Barnabas is named

specifically, and is apparently the only one willing to give Paul a second chance. He convinces the others by telling them that "at Damascus he (Paul) had preached boldly in the name of the Lord" (9: 27).

Barnabas went to Antioch to observe the preaching to non-Jews in the community there. He was glad to see the grace of God working, and urged the people to "remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose" (11: 23). Then he brought Paul from Tarsus to Antioch, where they taught a "large company" together for

about a year. This is where we read that "in Antioch the disciples were for the first time called Christians."

Paul and Barnabas continued their missionary work, accompanied by Barnabas' relative John Mark. But when they got to Perga, John Mark left them to return to Jerusalem. Later, Paul suggested to Barnabas that they return to the cities where they had preached, to "see how they are" (15: 36). Barnabas, again giving someone a second chance, proposed that they take John Mark with them. But Paul refused because of the earlier desertion, and he and Barnabas parted ways. They were later reconciled, and it's likely that Barnabas' kind nature was the key to healing the split and giving their friendship a second chance.

In Romans 5: 10 we read Paul's words about reconciliation: "For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life." Paul must have been glad to have a partner like Barnabas who urged him toward reconciliation and second chances.✘

# Message from Our Rector

Beloved Brothers and Sisters,

We are about to come to the end of the joyous 40 days of our celebration of Holy Pascha. In a few short days (June 10), we will celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord. The Scripture readings of the day (Acts 1:1-12; Luke 24: 36-53) tell the story of the Lord ascending to heaven in the sight of His apostles and disciples. Saint Luke recalls the moment: "And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen" (Luke 24:50-53).

An important detail of Saint Luke's account of the Ascension is seen in the way in which the Apostles reacted to being present at this moment. Several years before, they had been called by the Lord to follow Him. They had accompanied the Lord throughout His ministry, had heard His preaching and teaching, and had observed Him perform great miracles. They were witnesses of His Resurrection and had walked with Him as He continued to instruct them. Now, forty days after the Resurrection, they are witnesses to the Lord as He ascends to heaven and takes His place at the Father's right hand. Having experienced this intense and astounding moment, "they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God."

The Apostles did not yet know what was to become of them, yet, even in

the face of uncertainty, they were filled with great joy. They knew they were supposed to wait for something to happen. They knew they needed to stay together to support one another. They knew that the Lord had promised them that He would send the Comforter. But even with that knowledge, they were unsure as to what it meant. Nonetheless, they remained together, united in their love for the Lord Jesus. They were bound together by their common experience and their love for one another. And, together, they praised and blessed God. Their lives were now lived in total trust. They were confident that, as He had promised, the Lord would not abandon them.

In a sense, our experience over the past months (more than a year) is very much like those days lived by the Apostles after the Lord's Ascension until the day of Pentecost. These have been times of uncertainty and sometimes confusion for all of us. Like the Apostles, we have remained together, we have supported one another, and have been comforted by knowing that the Lord has already sent the Holy Spirit upon His Church.

Let us praise and bless God for the mercies he has shown and continues to show us all. As we commemorate the Lord's Ascension, we entrust ourselves to the Lord, looking ahead, trusting in His plan for us as we await His return and the complete fulfillment of His saving mission.

With love in the Risen and Ascended Lord,

*+Bishop Daniel*

## ST. THOMAS SUNDAY

*The Second Sunday of Pascha is called Thomas Sunday. Thomas was not present when Jesus first showed Himself to His disciples after His Resurrection. The Church remembers the gathering of the disciples and celebrates Thomas' confession on the eighth day after the Feast of the Resurrection. Thomas' brief but firm affirmation of belief: MY LORD AND MY GOD, is the title often given to the Icon of St. Thomas. It portrays the greatest confession of anyone portrayed in the Gospels. Thomas, who has seen Christ in His earthly existence, now is transformed to see Christ through the eyes of faith. On this day we break the Artos, the blessed Pascha Bread.*



*Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

Acts 2:40-46

# The Ascension: The Meaning and the Fullness of Christ's Resurrection

Fr. Steven Kostoff

*"I ascend unto My Father, and your Father, and to my God, and Your God" (John 20:17).*

Today is the fortieth day after the glorious Resurrection of Christ—Ascension Thursday. The Risen Lord is also the Ascended Lord and, therefore, in the words of Father Georges Florovsky, "in the Ascension resides the meaning and the fullness of Christ's Resurrection." Though the visible presence of the Risen Lord ended forty days after His Resurrection, that did not mean that His actual presence was withdrawn. For Christ solemnly taught His disciples—and us through them—"Behold, I am with you always, to the close of the age" (Matthew 28:20). The risen, ascended and glorified Lord is the Head of His body, the Church. The Lord remains present in the Mysteries/Sacraments of the Church. This reinforces our need to participate in the sacramental life of the Church, especially the Eucharist, through which we receive the deified flesh and blood of the Son of God, "unto life everlasting."

Christ ascended to be seated at "the right hand of the Father" in glory, thus lifting up the humanity He assumed in the Incarnation into the very inner life of God. For all eternity, Christ is God and man. The deified humanity of the Lord is the sign of our future destiny "in Christ." For this reason, the Apostle Paul could write "your life is hidden with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:3). In his homily on the Ascension, Saint Gregory Palamas (+1359) draws out some of the implications of this further:

*"In the same way as He came down, without changing place but condescending to us, so He returns once*

*more, without moving as God, but enthroning on high our human nature which He had assumed. It was truly right that the first begotten human nature from the dead (Revelations 1:5) should be presented to God, as first fruits from the first crop offered for the whole race of men. On account of our sins He was led to death, and for us He rose and ascended, preparing our own resurrection and ascension for unending eternity. For all the heirs of everlasting life follow as far as possible the pattern of His saving work on earth. Those who live according to Christ imitate what He did in the flesh. Just as He died physically, so in time everyone dies, but we shall also rise again in the flesh as He did, glorified and immortal, not now but in due course, when we shall also ascend, as Paul says, for 'we shall be caught up,' he says, 'in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord' (1 Thessalonians 4:17)" [The Saving Work of Christ: Sermons by Saint Gregory Palamas, pp. 113-114].*

The words of the "two men ... in white robes," (clearly angels) who stood by the disciples as they gazed at Christ being "lifted up," and recorded by Saint Luke in Acts 1:11, point toward something very clear and essential for us to grasp as members of the Church that exists within the historical time of the world: "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." The disciples will remain in the world, and must fulfill their vocation as the chosen apostles who will proclaim the Word of God to the world of the crucified and risen Messiah, Jesus of Naza-

areth. They cannot spend their time gazing into heaven awaiting the return of the Lord. That hour has not been revealed: "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority" (Acts 1:7). The "work" of the Church is the task set before them, and they must do this until their very last breath. They will carry out this work once they receive the power of the Holy Spirit—the "promise of my Father"—as Christ said to them (Luke 24:49). Whatever our vocation may be, we too witness to Christ and the work of the Church as we await the fullness of God's Kingdom according to the times or seasons of the Father.

Reprinted from the Orthodox Church in America web site, <https://www.oca.org/reflections/fr.-steven-kostoff/the-ascension-the-meaning-and-the-fullness-of-christs-resurrection>✠

## FROM THE FATHERS...

*"...And so let us be glad and bear with patience everything the world throws at us, secure in the knowledge that it is then that we are most in the mind of God."*

St. Basil the Great - "Gateway to Paradise"

*"Do not be surprised that you fall every day; do not give up, but stand your ground courageously. And assuredly, the angel who guards you will honour your patience."*

St. John Climacus - "The Ladder of Divine Ascent" (Step 5)

# Youth Corner: St. Kevin, Wonderworker of Ireland

In 498, in the Irish province of Leinster, a baby boy was born to noble Christian parents. The baby was baptized Kevin, or Coemgen in the Irish language. The name means "he of blessed birth." This child was the first person in history to be called Kevin.

As a young boy Kevin had a bad temper and was not liked by the other children. In fact, they stayed away from him so they would not be hit by the stones he threw at them. He called other children terrible names.

But birds and animals loved Kevin and he loved them. The creatures trusted him, knowing that he would take care of them and never harm them. They came when he called them, and stayed near him for hours at a time.

It was a custom during the years of Kevin's childhood for parents to send their children to monasteries where they could learn reading, writing, and their Christian faith. So when Kevin was seven years old his parents sent him to Saint Petroe in Cornwall Monastery. But Kevin continued to have trouble getting along with others, and the monks had little success in getting the boy to be a better companion. Finally, one Great Lent, they decided that he should spend the forty-day period alone with God.

On the first day of Lent, as Kevin was kneeling and praying with his arms outstretched, a blackbird landed on his hand and began to build a nest. Kevin remained motionless and very quiet, not wanting to frighten the bird. He continued like this for the entire Lent, praying constantly. The blackbird fed him with nuts and berries. As Lent ended, the last baby bird in the nest flew away and Kevin returned to the monastery for Pascha. His prayers had shown him that he must be kind to people as well as animals.

Kevin was ordained to the priesthood and spent seven years as a hermit. One day a farmer named Dima, who lived near Kevin's

cave, followed one of his cows when it went out to pasture. He did this because this cow gave far more milk than any of his others, and he hoped to find out why. The farmer made an amazing discovery. He watched as the cow went to Kevin's cave, where the hermit monk was praying, and began gently licking his clothing and feet.

The farmer was so struck by what he saw, especially when he found out that his cow had been doing this every day, that he asked Kevin to teach him about Jesus Christ. Then Dima begged the monk to come to his home to teach all of his family about Christ and the Gospel, and show them how to pray. Soon, other families heard about Kevin's teaching and also wanted to learn about Christ.

Kevin planned to build a monastery where monks could teach everyone – the young, the old, the rich, the poor, Christians, and pagans. However, King O'Tool of Glendalough would not permit it. King O'Tool was a pagan and did not believe in Christ. The king had a pet goose of which he was very fond. The goose was old and weak.

When the king heard of Kevin's miracles, he asked him to make the goose young again. Kevin agreed, and requested a very specific payment: he wanted to be given the land in the Valley of Glendalough over which the goose liked to fly. He did restore the goose's energy and youth, and was given the large piece of land.

The farmers of the area were glad to help Kevin, and worked very hard over many hours and many days to help build the monastery in the Valley of Glendalough. Sometimes they could look up and see the goose flying overhead of Leinster. Date Died June 618 at the age of 120 years Place Buried unknown Kevin encouraged everyone to come and learn about Christ. He became the abbot of the monastery he'd built. Saint Kevin was a great worker

of miracles, and many of them involved the birds and animals he loved. He taught in the monastery until his peaceful death in 618, at the age of 120. We celebrate Saint Kevin's memory on June 3.

## UNSCRAMBLE IT

Unscramble the missing word in each sentence to reveal a statement about St. Kevin. Write the word on the line.

1. St. Kevin was born in the Province of \_\_\_\_\_. (telsiner)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is the name for Kevin in the Irish language. (moceneg)
3. When he was seven, his parents sent him to a \_\_\_\_\_ to learn the Christian Faith. (yeamrastno)
4. His \_\_\_\_\_ parents were noble \_\_\_\_\_. (saintrisCh)
5. St. Kevin was a great worker of \_\_\_\_\_. (simclear)
6. During Great Lent, a \_\_\_\_\_ fed him nuts and berries. (ridcalbkb)
7. Kevin spent seven years as a \_\_\_\_\_. (timerh)
8. We celebrate St. Kevin's memory on \_\_\_\_\_ 3. (neJu)
9. He is a wonder worker in the country of \_\_\_\_\_. (direnal)
10. At a monastery in the Valley of \_\_\_\_\_, Kevin became the abbot. (goalneldhug)
11. A \_\_\_\_\_ is someone that often worships multiple gods. (nagap)
12. If you are in charge of a men's monastery, you are an \_\_\_\_\_. (babto)
13. \_\_\_\_\_ asked Kevin to teach him about Jesus Christ. (madi)
14. Many of Kevin's miracles involved birds and \_\_\_\_\_. (minalsa)

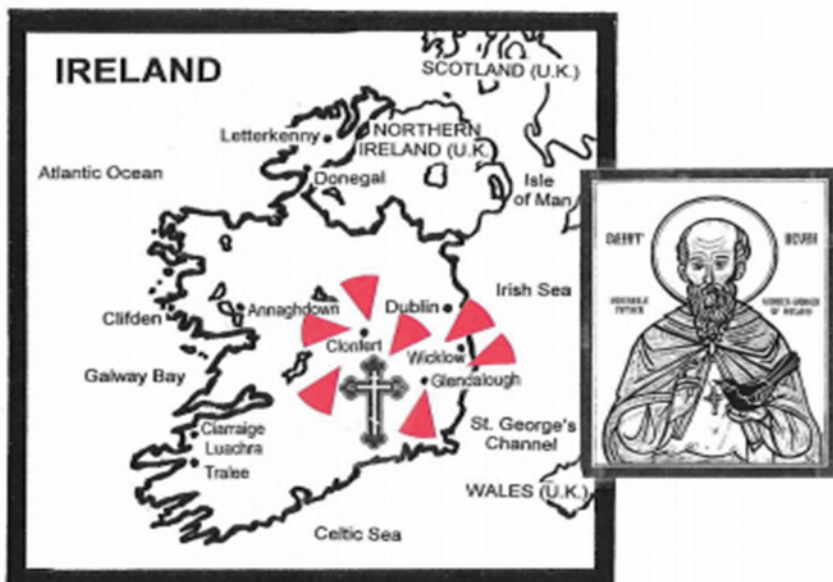
# Youth Corner: St. Kevin, Wonderworker of Ireland

## Family Discussion Questions

1. Saint Kevin prayed morning and night while he was alone with God. What things can we do when we have a good deal of time alone? Do you think having time alone can help us to pray?
2. Early in life Kevin was not kind to other children. What do you do if you meet a person who treats others badly? What do you think is the best thing to do?
3. Saint Kevin wanted to teach pagans - those who didn't know about Christ, or worshipped false gods - about Christ. What three things would you teach pagans about Christ?

Article and activities reprinted from the Orthodox Church in America's **Saints and the Animals that Served Them**, <http://dce.oca.org/assets/files/resources/Saints-Animals.pdf>

## IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. KEVIN



# GRID LOCK

*St. Kevin - Venerable Father, Wonder-worker of Ireland*

For this puzzle, fill in the blank spaces by finding the correct letters in the grid. To help get you started, the first letter is given. When you finish, you will reveal a fact about the life of St. Kevin.

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>A</u>	W	I	B	E	T	Y
<u>B</u>	M	H	D	K	A	N
<u>C</u>	S	O	F	V	.	R

H  
B2 A4 A1 B5 C1 A5 B2 A4

C3 A2 C6 C1 A5 C2 B6 A4

A2 B6 B2 A2 C1 A5 C2 C6 A6

A5 C2 A3 A4 B6 B5 B1 A4 B3

B4 A4 C4 A2 B6 C5

# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021!



**Natalya Gabrielle Delsante**

*Natalya graduated Summa Cum Laude from Perry High School. She will be attending Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, where she plans to major in Environmental Science, with a minor in Studio Art.*



**Olivia Weiss**

*Olivia graduated from American Leadership Academy-Gilbert North campus. She will be attending Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, where she plans to major in psychology. She aspires to be a family therapist or psychiatrist.*



**Katherine Paige Enoch**

*Katie graduated from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona. She will be working in development for St. Mary's Food Bank, one of the largest food banks in the US.*

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."  
Jeremiah 29:11*

## Around SS Peter & Paul

### JUNE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

June 1	Elena Kerr Irina O'Brien
3	Anne Elise Ferbrache Michael Shubin
10	Yelizaveta Gallagher
12	David & Sue Bieber
20	Larry Gardner
26	Betsy Begian
27	Rita Mudrenko Jaden Valencia

*Many Years!  
Mnogaya Leta!*

### MOTHER'S DAY



### PRAYER LIST

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

*+Metropolitan Herman  
Stephen Bock  
Jamie Arango  
Antonia Adams-Clement  
Rose Kurowski  
Tammy Horton  
Frank (Kirill) Bolton*

*May Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Physician of our souls and bodies, reach out his healing hand and bless these, His servants.*

If you know anyone else in need of our prayers, please contact Bishop Daniel.

# Bits and Pieces

## CONGRATULATIONS AND MANY YEARS!

We express our congratulations to Archpriest David Balmer who was recently granted the dignity of wearing the palitza by the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America. Father David was honored in this way in thanksgiving for his fidelity in serving Christ's Holy Orthodox Church. May the Lord grant Father David and Matushka Mary many continued years of service to the Flock of Christ! **MANY YEARS!**

**REMEMBERING WITH GRATITUDE-** This year marks the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of our parish and the 53<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the Consecration of Saints Peter and Paul Church, we remember all the Clergy and Faithful who founded our parish (1951), who built the "new" church and witnessed its consecration (1968), and who, through all these 70 years since the founding of our parish, have faithfully served Christ's Flock here in our parish community. We especially remember Archbishop JOHN (Shahovskoy), the Archbishop of San Francisco, who founded our parish and placed it under the spiritual guidance of Archimandrite Peter (Zaychenko). Archbishop John also consecrated the church during the pastorate of Archpriest John Karateev, rector of our parish from 1962 to 1972. And we give thanks to God for all the clergy and faithful parishioners, gone to their rest before us, who, through their faith, sacrifices, and dedication, have provided us with the gift that is ours as members of this God-protected flock. May the Lord grant them rest with the saints! May their memory be eternal!

**FEAST OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL** We will celebrate the Feast of our heavenly patrons, the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, with Vespers and the Divine Liturgy on June 28 & 29. Our traditional luncheon to celebrate the feast and to observe Independence Day will take place after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, July 4th.

**THE FOCA** will be meeting this Sunday, June 6 after liturgy. The monthly birthday cake returns this month! We want to wish everyone born in June a Happy Birthday and May God grant you many years.

**MBAS** will have our meeting on June 13. We will have a light coffee hour on Sts. Peter & Paul day with a larger celebration on the following Sunday, July 4. MBAS will be teaming with FOCA to host a luncheon.

Last year, a number of bowls, casserole dishes, plastic containers, and more were orphaned by the shutdown after the Lenten Vespers dinner. For more than a year, these items have been patiently waiting to be picked up. If you think one of your dishes may still be in the church hall, please see Heather Pfeiffer or one of the MBAS ladies about rescuing it, or it will be dispositioned by the MBAS.

**SAINTS PETER AND PAUL FAST**, the Church's annual Fast in preparation for the Feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, begins each year on the Monday following the Sunday after Pentecost. This year it begins on Monday, June 28 and concludes after the Divine Liturgy on Tuesday, June 29th.

**SUMMER IS HERE!** Summer temperatures are here. As in your own homes, ***please do not prop open doors to the outside*** as this practice just vents the cool air out and the hot air in. Also, be sure to keep the doors to each room closed within the hall.



Junia interacts with her prayer table.

**VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE NEWS** On Saturday May 22 all of the A/C filters in the Community Center (more than 20) were replaced by Nick Bock, David Homyak, Carlos Taliaferro, and Alex Dolotov. Thanks to them all.

## Volunteers Needed

✦ Signup sheets for coffee hour cleanup are located in the church hall. Please sign up for a Sunday every month or two.

✦ A deep cleaning of the church hall will be held on Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup> starting at 8am. Please advise David Bieber or Nick Bock if you can help. Those who can work on ladders are especially needed.

## Future Outreach Programs

✦ Back-to-School supplies. For the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, we will provide school supplies to neighborhood students (mostly minority and economically disadvantaged children). We no longer have a contact at the Palms on Monte Vista apartments, so we are working directly with the local elementary school (Whittier). We will be adopting one grade level (3<sup>RD</sup> grade). There will be about 50 students needing supplies (nearly double the amount of prior years), so we will need to ask our parishioners to be typically generous. Please let David Bieber know the amount you can pledge (0davidbieber0@gmail.com).

✦ **Nativity Gifts**—we will again provide Christmas gifts to neighborhood children. For this event, we will again work with Whittier Elementary, and plan to adopt the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class. We will be getting the children's preferences for what they'd like, but won't be provided names due to school policy. We will again be asking for parishioners to adopt one or more children, or make a generous cash donation. Stay tuned.

# June 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Mark your calendars . . .  <b>SS Peter and Paul Luncheon</b>            Sunday, July 4, 2021 following            Divine Liturgy            Contact: Heather Pfeiffer</p>		1	2 Leavetaking Midfeast	3	4	5  5:00pm Vespers
6 Blind Man 9:00am Divine Liturgy  <b>FOCA Meeting</b>	7	8  6:00 Parish Council Meeting	9 Leavetaking Pascha Forefeast Ascension  6:00pm Vespers	10 <b>ASCENSION OF OUR LORD</b>  9:00am Divine Liturgy	11 Holy Apostles Bartholomew and Barnabas	12  5:00pm Vespers
13 Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>MBAS Meeting</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WELCOME</b></p> <p>We welcome all visitors to SS Peter &amp; 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.</p>				18 Leavetaking Ascension	19 Holy Apostle Jude, Brother of the Lord  5:00pm Vespers
20 <b>PENTECOST</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy <i>Kneeling Prayers</i>  <i>Happy Father's Day</i>	21 Holy Spirit	22 3rd Day Holy Trinity	23 Vladimir Icon	24 Nativity of St. John the Baptist	25	26 Leavetaking Pentecost  5:00pm Vespers
<b>F A S T - F R E E W E E K</b>						
27 All Saints 9:00am Divine Liturgy	28 <b>SS Peter &amp; Paul Fast</b>  6:00pm Vespers	29 Holy Apostles Peter & Paul 9:00am Divine Liturgy  	30	1	2	3  5:00pm Vespers
4 All Saints of America All Saints of Russia 9:00am Divine Liturgy  <b>SS Peter and Paul Luncheon</b>	5 Ven Athanasius of Athos Relics of Ven Sergius of Radonezh	6	7	8 Kazan, Sitka-Kazan Icons and others	9	10 Ven. Anthony of the Kiev Caves  5:00pm Vespers