SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church Newsletter

Volume 21 Issue 10 October 2021

September Council Highlights

- August's Operating Income was \$16,770.61, while Operating Expenses were \$15,038.88, resulting in a net operating income of \$1,731.73.
- ₱ 70th anniversary of the founding of the church will be celebrated on Sunday, November 14th.
- ♣ FOCA will host Tailgate Party on Sunday, October 31st.



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Sermon for the Second Sunday of Luke

Metropolitan Tikhon

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Your Eminences and Your Graces, My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Speaking plainly. The great Apostle Paul tells us that God has spoken to us in many and diverse ways (Heb 1:1): through dark sayings, in parables and riddles, in prophecy and law, and in teaching and words of wisdom. The words that have been spoken in Scripture are given over to us in mystery, which often requires that we, like the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:31), need a guide in order to understand properly what they reveal to us.

However, the words of our Lord that the Evangelist Luke presents for us today are not so. The Lord teaches us today directly, clearly, unambiguously to love one another without distinction. The love we have for those whom we hold near and dear is the same love we are to have for our enemies, for sinners, for exactly and

precisely those whom we do not hold near and dear.

In fact, our Lord reveals to us that we will be sons of the Most High (Lk 6:35). And here we should let this sink into our ears, our minds, and into our hearts: we will be sons, sharing and participating in some way with the Most High God, which constitutes something truly inexplicable, unexplainable, truly a mystery. We will be sons of the Most High —

when we love our enemies; when we do good;

when we lend;

when we give, expecting nothing in return, out of the great abundance of our riches;

when we are merciful to the sinners, the ungrateful, the selfish in exactly the same way that our Heavenly Father is.

When we do all these things, then our reward will be great in the Kingdom. We will be accounted sons of the Most High God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the God who summoned light out of darkness.

Having this light. These words of our Lord shine resplendently

off the pages of Luke's Gospel. Hearing them, we are illumined by them as any light illuminates the darkness. This light is not any light, however. It is the light that has shone forth from the first day of creation down to our present day. It is the light that darkness cannot overcome, because in this light we have life (Jn 1:4-5). And it is this light, the light that enlightens the whole of creation, that shines in our hearts and gives us the very knowledge of God in the face of Christ, as the Apostle Paul teaches us today (2 Cor 4:6). These words of Luke are words of life and light and knowledge, because they teach us the will of God for us.

Needless to say, hearing, knowing, coming to understand, and then doing the will of God is absolutely necessary for all Christians, whether clergy or lay. There is no distinction, no mitigation, no way around this fundamental truth. God's will is for all His faithful. Each of us are to have our lives enlightened by the knowledge of this will: bishops, priests, deacons, monastics, men and women.

(Continued on page 4)

Message from Our Rector

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today the Virgin stands in the midst of the Church, and with choirs of Saints she invisibly prays to God for us. Angels and Bishops venerate Her, Apostles and prophets rejoice together, since for our sake she prays to the Eternal God! —

Troparion of the Feast of the

Protection

Every year on October 1st, the Orthodox Church celebrates a special feast which is called "The Feast of the Protection of

the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary" or more

simply known as "The Protection;" in English and "Pokrov" in Russian. This beautiful feast is especially dear to those of Slavic backgrounds. To sum up the origins of this feast: on Sunday, October 1, during the All-Night Vigil, when the church was overflowing with those at prayer, the Fool-for-Christ Saint An- In the Prologue, a book compiled in the drew, whose feast came to be celebrat- twelfth century, a description of the ed the following day, at the fourth hour, establishment of the special Feast marklifted up his eyes towards the heavens ing this event states, "For when we and beheld our most Holy Lady Theoto- heard, we realized how wondrous and kos coming through the air, resplendent merciful was the vision... and it tranwith heavenly light and surrounded by spired that Your holy Protection should an assembly of the Saints. Saint John the not remain without festal celebration, O Baptist and the Holy Apostle John the Ever-Blessed One!" Therefore, in the Theologian accompanied by the Theoto- festal celebration of the Protection of kos who appeared in all her glory as the the Mother of God, the Orthodox Queen of Heaven. Kneeling down, the Church sings, "With the choirs of the Most Holy Virgin tearfully prayed for all Angels, O Sovereign Lady, with the ven-Christians. Then, coming near the bish- erable and glorious prophets, with the op's throne, she continued her prayer. First-Ranked Apostles and with the Hi-After completing her prayer, she took eromartyrs and Hierarchs, pray for us her veil and spread it over the people sinners, glorifying the Feast of your Propraying in church, protecting them from tection..."

praying for all the world?" Epiphanius answered, "I do see, holy in awe."

Mother of God implored her Divine Son to

accept the prayers of all the people who call on His Most Holy Name, and to + Bishop Daniel respond speedily to her intercession, "O Heavenly King, accept all those who pray to You and call on my name for help. Do not let them go away from my icon unheard."

enemies both visible and invisible. The On the Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Lady Theotokos was re- Most Holy Theotokos we implore the splendent with heavenly glory, and the continuing protection and assistance of protecting veil in her hands gleamed the Queen of Heaven, "Remember us in "more than the rays of the sun." Saint your prayers, O Lady Virgin Mother of Andrew gazed trembling at the miracu- God, that we do not perish by the inlous vision, and he asked his disciple, crease of our sins. Protect us from every the blessed Epiphanius standing beside evil and from grievous woes, for in you him, "Do you see, brother, do we hope, and venerating the Feast of the Holy Theotokos, your Protection, we magnify you."

> In these difficult and challenging times, let us recall the words we sing so often: "You always protect those who honor Father, and I am you," and let pray together that the Holy Theotokos may continue to watch over, protect, and intercede for our parish, Ever-Blessed our families, and all our loved ones.

> > With love in the Lord,

From the Fathers ...

"One should nourish the soul with the word of God: for the word of God, as St. Gregory the Theologían says, is angelic bread, by which are nourished souls who hunger for God. Most of all, one should occupy oneself with reading the New Testament and the Psalter, which one should do standing up. From this there occurs an enlightenment in the mind, which is in the mind, which is changed by a Divine change."

> -St. Seraphim of Sarov, Spiritual Instructions

Words from St. Isaac of Syria

Fr. Stephen Freeman

St. Isaac stretches love and mercy to it's farthest limits, occasionally beyond the bounds of canonical understanding. He remains a saint of the Church and his words are very important to hear.

Let yourself be persecuted, but do not persecute others.

Be crucified, but do not crucify others.

Be slandered, but do not slander others.

Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep: such is the sign of purity.

Suffer with the sick.

Be afflicted with sinners.

Exult with those who repent.

Be the friend of all, but in your spirit remain alone.

keep your body distant from all.

Rebuke no one, revile no one, not even those who live very wickedly.

Spread your cloak over those who fall into sin, each and every one, and shield them.

And if you cannot take the fault on yourself and accept punishment in their place, do not destroy their character.

What is a merciful heart? It is a heart on fire for the whole of creation, for humanity, for the birds, for the animals, for demons, and for all that exists. By the recollection of them the eyes of a merciful person pour forth tears in abundance. By the strong and vehement mercy that grips such a person's heart, and by such great compassion, the heart is humbled and one cannot bear to hear or to see any injury or slight sorrow in any in creation. For this reason, such a person offers up tearful prayer continually even for irrational beasts, for the enemies of the truth, and for those who harm her or him, that they be protected and receive mercy. And in like manner such a person prays for the

family of reptiles because of the great who feel they have sinned against love compassion that burns without measure in a heart that is in the likeness of God.

The person who is genuinely charitable not only gives charity out of his own possessions, but gladly tolerates injustice from others and forgives them. Whoever lays down his soul for his brother acts generously, rather than the person who demonstrates his generosity by his gifts.

God is not One who requites evil, but who sets evil right.

Paradise is the love of God, wherein is the enjoyment of all blessedness.

The person who lives in love reaps the fruit of life from God, and while yet in this world, even now breathes the air of the resurrection.

In love did God bring the world into exist-Be a partaker of the sufferings of all, but ence; in love is God going to bring it to that wondrous transformed state, and in love will the world be swallowed up in the great mystery of the One who has performed all these things; in love will the whole course of the governance of creation be finally comprised.

> Question: When is a person sure of having arrived at purity?

> Answer: When that person considers all human beings are good, and no created thing appears impure or defiled. Then a person is truly pure in heart.

Love is sweeter than life.

Sweeter still, sweeter than honey and the honeycomb is the awareness of God whence love is born.

Love is not loath to accept the hardest of deaths for those it loves.

Love is the child of knowledge.

Lord, fill my heart with eternal life.

As for me I say that those who are tormented in hell are tormented by the invasion of love. What is there more bitter and violent than the pains of love? Those

bear in themselves a damnation much heavier than the most dreaded punishments. The suffering with which sinning against love afflicts the heart is more keenly felt than any other torment. It is absurd to assume that the sinners in hell are deprived of God's love. Love is offered impartially. But by its very power it acts in two ways. It torments sinners, as happens here on earth when we are tormented by the presence of a friend to whom we have been unfaithful. And it gives joy to those who have been faithful.

That is what the torment of hell is in my opinion: remorse. But love inebriates the souls of the sons and daughters of heaven by its delectability.

If zeal had been appropriate for putting humanity right, why did God the Word clothe himself in the body, using gentleness and humility in order to bring the world back to his Father?

Sin is the fruit of free will. There was a time when sin did not exist, and there will be a time when it will not exist.

God's recompense to sinners is that, instead of a just recompense, God rewards them with resurrection.

O wonder! The Creator clothed in a human being enters the house of tax collectors and prostitutes. Thus the entire universe, through the beauty of the sight of him, was drawn by his love to the single confession of God, the Lord of all.

"Will God, if I ask, forgive me these things by which I am pained and by whose memory I am tormented, things by which, though I abhor them, I go on backsliding? Yet after they have taken place the pain they give me is even greater than that of a scorpion's sting. Though I abhor them, I am still in the middle of them, and when I repent of them with suffering I wretchedly return to them again."

This is how many God-fearing people

(Continued on page 5)

Sermon for the Second Sunday of Luke

(Continued from page 1)

We are to love not only those who love us, but those who hate us. We are to be merciful to those who spurn or reject our mercy. We are to be compassionate to those who fall into sin. We are to seek in all things and every way to do good. Out of our abundance, our riches, our possessions, we are to give, to lend, and to expect nothing in return.

Living by this light. As we know, this light that illumines us with the knowledge of the will of God shines throughout creation. The rays and beams of light fall upon rich and poor, weak and strong, the vulnerable and the powerful—God shows no distinction. As the righteous Judge, whom we will encounter on the last day, He shows no partiality. To each of us He will ask: "Did you do good? Did you show mercy, compassion, and love to your enemies, to the weak, to the ungrateful and the selfish?" He will say: "From the beginning of creation, when the earth was without form and void, I separated light from darkness so that you could live by this light. I

gave you the Law. I sent you My Son, who gave you knowledge of My will."

What will we say in response? "Lord, I covered my eyes. I cowered in the darkand death to light and life." May it never be so! May each of us gathered today in this sacred gathering hear this teaching, be illumined by it, and from this day, from should this hour, from this very minute, strive to love God above all else, each other as things throughout our life.

This gathering. Our Lord has summoned us today in this our sacred and solemn gathering to receive these words, and also to receive the very Body and Blood of the Exalted Word. We also gather to be with one another. We have been gathered together from this city, but also throughout this country. We would be remiss, my brothers and sisters, if we did not start Reprinted from the Orthodox Church in what has been taught to us this day. Along reflections/metropolitan-tikhon/sermonwith love for one other, we should offer for-the-second-sunday-of-luke

▼

spoke by patriarchs and prophets, and one another forgiveness. Along with forgiveness, we should offer one another the right hand of fellowship, in the knowledge that if we cannot do these things here and now, we are not fulfilling the will of God.

ness. I preferred the shades and shadows To my brother bishops, I offer this final word: This week as we gather in our meetings, as we consider and discuss, as we hear reports and see presentations, we never lose sight, we cannot lose sight — it is a matter as clear as light and darkness, as serious as ourselves, and seek to do God's will in all life and death — that the precious Church of God, in which are the lives of the faithful whom God has entrusted to us as bishops, is called to do nothing else but guide people to the knowledge of the will of God as revealed in the Scriptures, bringing them to the sacred and sanctifying illumination that leads to life, life that begins now and continues to the ages of ages.

right now leading our lives according to America web site, https://www.oca.org/

10th Anniversary Commemorative Coin

Nicholas Bock

Since producing this commemorative coin I have received many inquiries as to why a coin? Coming from a law enforcement background this type of coin is standard fare. Those in the military may remember having challenge coins as well.

The modern day challenge coin was originally developed by a military squadron of pilots that were stationed over seas during World War I. The commander of the unit had these coins made up in recognition of their unit and to promote camaraderie amongst other aviation units. These coins generally commemorate special

organizations or specific events. I carry a challenge coin, everyday, in remem-



brance of September 11, 2001. Through the years, coins have been produced to mark specific achievements and to show recognition and honor. The idea behind this production is to celebrate the fact that Orthodoxy is alive and well and has been for 70 years (Nov. 25, 1951) in Phoenix, Arizona. This is also a reminder of those who laid the foundation for this wonderful parish and parish community. Those that we have in our thoughts and prayers and those who we did not even know. A way to commemorate and honor their devotion to Christ.

These coins can be collectibles, gifts, or carried on your person. No matter how the coin is utilized it is a reminder that we, as Christians, are challenged in our every day lives and on our spiritual journey.

Coins can be purchased in the bookstore for \$7.

Bits

NICK RAMANY, SS Peter & Paul parishioner and former altar server, has graduated from basic training in the United States Marines in San Diego, CA. Nick says: "Thank you to all the parishioners for wonderful cards letters of support I received during basic training. Sure helped to keep me going!" He is now on active duty



Nick says he looks forward to worshipping with his Church family on his next home leave!





rishioners participated under the competent direction of Nicholas Bock. Thanks to all volunteers.







KITCHEN DEEP CLEANING This important

task was successfully completed Saturday September 25. Eighteen ра-

Words from St. Isaac of Syria

(Continued from page 3)

in Florida, training in

and piloting the C-130

maintenance

aviation

think, people who foster virtue and are pricked with the suffering of compunction, who mourn over their sin; They live between sin and repentance all the time. Let us not be in doubt, O fellow humanity, concerning the hope of our salvation, seeing that the One who bore sufferings for our sakes is very concerned about our salvation; God's mercifulness is far more extensive than we can conceive, God's grace is greater than what we ask for.

When we find love, we partake of heavenly bread and are made strong without labor and toil. The heavenly bread is Christ, who came down from heaven and gave life to the world. This is the nourishment of angels. The person who has found love eats and drinks Christ every day and every hour and is thereby made immortal. ...When we hear Jesus say, "Ye shall eat and drink at the table of my kingdom," what do we suppose we shall eat, if not love? Love, rather than food and drink, is sufficient to nourish a person. This is the wine "which maketh glad the heart." Blessed is the one who partakes of

this wine! Licentious people have drunk this wine and become chaste; sinners have drunk it and have forgotten the pathways of stumbling; drunkards have drunk this wine and become fasters; the rich have drunk it and desired poverty, the poor have drunk it and been enriched with hope; the sick have drunk it and become strong; the unlearned have taken it and become wise.

Repentance is given us as grace after grace, for repentance is a second regeneration by God. That of which we have received an earnest by baptism, we receive as a gift by means of repentance. Repentance is the door of mercy, opened to those who seek it. By this door we enter into the mercy of God, and apart from this entrance we shall not find mercy.

Blessed is God who uses corporeal objects continually to draw us close in a symbolic way to a knowledge of God's invisible nature. O name of Jesus, key to all gifts, open up for me the great door to your treasure-house, that I may enter and praise you with the praise that comes from the heart.

O my Hope, pour into my heart the inebriation that consists in the hope of you. O Jesus Christ, the resurrection and light of all worlds, place upon my soul's head the crown of knowledge of you; open before me all of a sudden the door of mercies, cause the rays of your grace to shine out in my heart.

O Christ, who are covered with light as though with a garment, who for my sake stood naked in front of Pilate, clothe me with that might which you caused to overshadow the saints, whereby they conquered this world of struggle. May your Divinity, Lord, take pleasure in me, and lead me above the world to be with you.

I give praise to your holy Nature, Lord, for you have made my nature a sanctuary for your hiddenness and a tabernacle for your holy mysteries, a place where you can dwell, and a holy temple for your Divinity.

Adapted from Bp. Hilarion Alfevey's The Spiritual World of Isaac the Syrian (Cistercian Studies 175), Kalamazoo: Cistercian Publications, 2000.

Reprinted from https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/ glory2godforallthings/2006/11/01/words-from-stisaac-of-syria/¥

Blessing of Students and Teachers



The traditional blessing of students and teachers on Sunday, September 26th marked the beginning of the Church School year. Students celebrated back being together again in class after a year and a half with an ice cream social and a variety of outdoor games and activities. Regular classes begin October 3rd.

May the Lord bless all who study and all who teach them in the ways of Faith.













Around SS Peter & Paul

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

October 2 Walter & Vera Moschowsky Brian Hix

- 3 Dusanka Marcetic
- 4 Christi Sourk
- 8 Emma Hecht
- 10 John Adams-Clement
- 11 Susan Weiss
- 13 Alexander Gala
- 15 Eugenia (Gina) Mudrenko Cassian Contes
- 17 Rosemarie Osolinsky
- 21 Svetlana & Arthur Fleenor
- 25 Olivia Weiss Brad Christensen
- 30 Anthony Chilbert

Many Years! Mnogaya Leta!

CONGRATULATIONS

and Many Years to the newly-illumined Steve Doerksen (Innocent), his wife, Jennifer, his sponsor, Nick Bock, and to his children (September 18th).



PRAYER LIST

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

+Metropolitan Herman
Sandra Hoff
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.

and Pieces

Although MBAS coordinates the nut roll bake is takes the help of so many volunteers to make these traditional treats. The current bake dates are October 2, 9, 16, and 23 as well as November 6 (if needed). We are looking for men, women, and teens who are willing to come to church on a Saturday and help roll out the dough, fill the rolls, oversee the proofing and baking. Lunches are provided and it is a great way get to know your church community. Please see Mat. Elizabeth Pfeiffer to sign-up.

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH We are in touch with the Social Worker at Whittier Elementary and hope to have detailed plans for this Christmas gift program within a few weeks. We will then be soliciting "adoptions" for those who wish to buy a gift, and cash donations toward the remaining presents.

COFFEE HOUR CLEANUP We still need individuals to volunteer for this important function. Signup sheets are on a front table in the hall. Please do your part.

BOOKSTORE So many new titles at the bookstore! Come take a look!

FELLOWSHIP OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS IN AMERICA (FOCA) meets on the first Sunday of each month following Coffee Hour.

Come join us on Saturday, October 23rd as we root on the Phoenix Rising soccer team. Bishop Daniel forwarded information to all so you can go on line and order tickets. The link is https://fevo.me/3hUqmCq. Hope to see you there!

Mark your calendars for the coffee hour Tailgate Party on Sunday, October 31st. Be sure to wear your favorite team shirt and join in the fun.

FOCA will host a piroghi workshop on November 12-13, 2021. Details forthcoming.

The FOCA has placed Nativity night lights (\$5) and cross votive holders with LED candle (\$5) at the bookstore for purchase.

throughout the Archdiocese and take part in a world premiere Virtual Choir video recording of the Christmas Kontakion, "The God Before All Ages," a new SATB choral arrangement by Fr. Michael Pallad, to be posted on media social on Christmas Eve! Registration open on Monday, October 11 at www.occfellowship.org, and includes links to four online rehearsals (optional), Guide tracks, musical score and tips on recording your video. Sponsored by Orthodox Christian Choral Fellowship (www.occfellowship.org), whose mission is to provide musical fellowship through choral singing—even during times of global pandemic. For more information, contact

TYAL We are inviting our TYAL (high schoolers and Twenty somethings) out for a hike on Peralta trail on November 6. 2021.. There will be a cookout and house blessing afterwards, at Nick Bock's house, right down the road from the trail head. Meet up at the Ferbrache's house the morning of. See Eli and Anne Ferbrache for more details or email eaferbrache@gmail.com.

info@occfellowship.org.

CONGRATULATIONS to Polina and Jamey Bennet on the birth of their son, Gregory James. May the Lord bless the newborn child Gregory and his parents and grant them many happy, healthy, blessed years!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR NUT ROLL BAKE NEW CHRISTMAS VIRTUAL CHOIR STARTS NANCY TARASEVICH is living in a group **SOON** Sing together with parishioners from home in Gilbert and can now receive visi-

tors once again from 10 am

to 5 pm. No need to call ahead and a mask is required for the entirety of your visit. Her address is 4245 E Weather Vane Rd.,

Gilbert, AZ 85296.

FROM THE CHURCH TREASURER The last quarter of the year is now upon us. Now is your chance to make sure your 2021 church pledges / donations /contributions are in and accounted for in this year. Please consider the church in your year-end financial planning, especially for tax purposes. Year-to-date donation statements will be available in early December.

CONSIDER MAKING CHARITABLE GIFTS

The best value often comes from donating appreciated assets (such as stocks/401k/ IRA), because donors can get a full deduction, while skipping capital-gains tax, on the asset's growth. SS Peter and Paul is eligible to receive these types of gifts or donations.

Are you concerned that the charitable deduction could shrink next year? If so, make a large donation to a "donor-advised" fund and thus qualify for a full write-off within the current year. Assets can then grow taxfree in the "donor-advised" fund until the donors specify tax-free recipients, such as your church, in later years. There's no deduction at that point.

SS Peter and Paul aspires to acquire surrounding property as it becomes available on the market for further expansion (parking) and growth purposes. In order to be able to take advantage of these availabilities when the time comes, the church will need to have the financial reserves available so to be able to act when the time comes. Please consider your church in your financial and estate planning.

October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Sunday,	lgate Party October 31, 202 avorite team je			I Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos Pskov-Protection Icon	5:00pm Vespers
3 9:00am Divine Liturgy CHURCH SCHOOL FOCA MEETING	4	5 Synaxis of the Hierarchs of Moscow	6 Holy Apostle Thomas St. Innocent of Moscow, Apostle to the Americas	7	8	9 Holy Apostle James (Jacob) Son of Alphaeus St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow
10 Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy CHURCH SCHOOL MBAS MEETING	11	6:00pm Council Meeting	13	14	15	16 5:00pm Vespers
9:00am Divine Liturgy CHURCH SCHOOL	18 Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke	Mark Your Calendar 70th Anniversary of the Founding of SS Peter & Paul Sunday, November 14, 2021				23 Memorial (Demetrius) Saturday Apostle James, Brother of the Lord 5:00pm Vespers
24 9:00am Divine Liturgy CHURCH SCHOOL	25	26 Greatmartyr Demetrius	27	28 Repose of Ven. Job of Pochaev	29	30 5:00pm Vespers
31 Hieromartyr John Kochurov 9:00am Divine Liturgy CHURCH SCHOOL TAILGATE PARTY HOSTED BY FOCA	P		3 Icome all of our g ne Cultural Cer			6
						5:00pm Vespers