

SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church Newsletter

Volume 22 Issue 1

January 2022

December Council Highlights

- ✘ November's Operating Income was \$18,043.10 and Operating Expenses were \$16,465.08 resulting in a net operating income of \$1,578.02 for November.
- ✘ Annual Church Meeting will be held Sunday, February 13, 2022, following Divine Liturgy.
- ✘ Proceeds from Nativity Card will be used to support youth attending All Saints Camp.



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Gift Distribution at Whittier Elementary a Success!

The Nativity Outreach Program was another big success for Saints Peter & Paul Parish. On December 13, we delivered Christmas Gifts and \$60 gift cards from Ranch Market to Whittier



Elementary. The gifts went to the 45 neediest students in the school, as determined by the school's social worker.

Once again our parishioners



have shown their generosity, and then some. Eight parishioner families and three friends of the Parish adopted 22 of the children. They purchased and wrapped gifts for those students. Sue and David Bieber purchased and wrapped gifts for the remaining 23 students. In addition, each student's family received a \$60 grocery gift card per child. Forty four parishioner families made cash donations totaling \$4520. With the estimated value for the gifts purchased by parishioners, the Parish spent over \$5,500 on this important event!

Message From Our Rector

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Blessings in the New Year!

Saint James reminds us that “every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights” (James 1:17 – we also hear these words at the end of every Liturgy in the “Prayer before the Ambo”). The past twelve months have had their challenges and difficulties, as well as their blessings rewards. But we have received everything as a blessing from God and as an opportunity to grow in faith, hope, and love. As we now enter the Year of Our Lord 2022, we all look forward to a year at Saints Peter and Paul Church that already promises to be filled with heavenly blessings for us all. As we enter this New Year, may the Lord, who teaches us “to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom” (Psalm 90: 42), bless you all with peace, prosperity, good health, and all that is necessary for salvation!

The Feast of the Nativity and the Feast of the Theophany, which we just celebrated, help us to remember that Christ took on our human flesh in the womb of the Most Pure Theotokos, was born as one



of us in the cave of Bethlehem, and that He revealed Himself to us on the bank of the River Jordan. These feasts remind us that God came to unite Himself to us and that “GOD IS WITH US,” remaining ever present in our lives as He continues to work within us through the action of the Holy Spirit. We, in our turn, become His presence in the midst of the world as we seek to sanctify the world through our own lives of holiness, service, and sacrifice.

May this New Year provide us with bountiful opportunities to bless the world with the presence of Christ. Let us pray for one another as each one of us seeks the “blessings from above” and as we all strive to make 2022 another year in which we reach out to the world in the Name of Christ.

With love in the Lord Who reveals Himself,

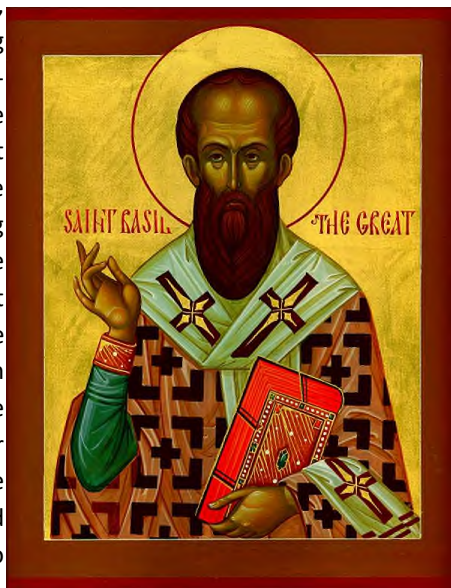
+Bishop Daniel



St. Basil the Great Polemicist

Fr. Lawrence Farley

It is easy looking back at St. Basil and his patristic compatriots from such a distance to forget that they too lived in times of struggle and uncertainty. As we look back at the fourth century we can view it as the beginning of Byzantium, the start of a long stretch of glorious Christian ascendancy, and we somehow assume that they knew at the time that they were riding what was destined to be a long wave. It was not true actually. In the fourth century paganism was alive and well in the public life, and a number of Christians at that time thought their new-found ascendancy was too good to last. The hostility



of the pagan emperor Julian seemed for a while to prove to fourth century Christians that their time of ascendancy was about to blow over. Much of the well-heeled and well-connected upper crust was still profoundly committed to the old ways, and paganism was still good and strong,

As was heresy. The struggle against Arianism was far from over, and even after the Council of Nicea in 325 Arian teaching was still a threat. And then there was the heresy of Macedonianism—a kind of “Arianism: the Sequel”, which though giving lip-service to the divinity of the Son denied the divinity of the Spirit. St. Basil lived in a tumultuous time, a time when the truth was under siege and needed defending.

He was up to the task. Both in his ecclesiastical politicking and his literary productions, he contended for the truth, fighting

on two fronts against both pagans and heretics. We see the traces of this struggle in the anaphora ascribed to him, served every Sunday of Great Lent. Now that the smoke of battle has long since cleared away, we can miss how polemical and even provocative some of his phrases were. But in his

day, Basil was fighting for the truth even as he praised God in the Eucharistic consecration.

Take for example the opening thanksgiving of his anaphora: “O existing one, Master, Lord God, Father almighty and worthy of adoration! It is truly meet and right and befitting the magnificence of Your holiness to praise

You, to sing to You, and bless You, to worship You to give thanks to You, to glorify You”—and wait for it—“the only truly existing God”. According to this prayer, the Christian deity was “the only truly existing God”—all the pagan deities were nonexistent, idols, vanities, demons. No devout pagan at the time somehow overhearing the prayer could miss the liturgical slap.

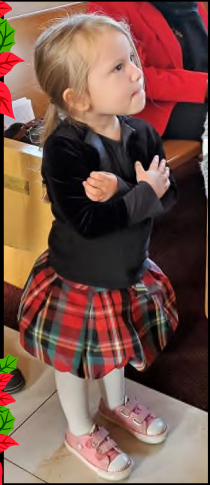
And to take another example: as one of His saving acts Christ “gave us commandments of salvation, releasing us from the delusions of idolatry”. For St. Basil the venerable pagan worship of the old gods was not piety, as they claimed, but mere idolatry. Or again, from the end of the anaphora: “Prevent schisms among the churches; pacify the ragings of the pagans; quickly destroy the uprisings of heresies by the power of Your Holy Spirit”. People got the point, as they would

today if we paraphrased and prayed, “pacify the ragings of the secularists, quickly destroy the rebellion of the theological liberals by the power of Your Holy Spirit”. I am of course not suggesting we emend the prayer, only that we recognize its original polemical power.

For some people today all polemics are unfortunate, and are equated with quarrelsomeness or even with just plain spiteful bad manners. Christians should not denounce anyone or anything. They should be—well, nice. They should accentuate the positive and not put anybody down. Be elegant, tolerant, ecumenical, and never be negative. The problem with such a warm and happy approach is that no Christian famous in church history was ever like that. No famous Christian was ever reluctant to denounce error and trumpet the truth. At the very beginning, St. Paul denounced his adversaries, both Jews and heretics, in powerful and biting terms. As did St. Athanasius, and (as we have seen) St. Basil the Great. Even our beloved St. Herman of Alaska suggested to his Lutheran friend Ferdinand von Wrangell that “those who have left the true Orthodox Church are not on the right path”. (Von Wrangell wrote in his diary that “this discussion displeased me”.) The fact is that spirited defense of the Faith and the consequent identification and rejection of error is in our ecclesial DNA. Some might call this polemics. St. Jude called it “contending for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). St. Basil the Great agreed with St. Jude. Maybe that was why he was great.

Reprinted from the Orthodox Church in America web site, <https://www.oca.org/reflections/fr.-lawrence-farley/st-basil-the-great-polemicist>

December in Pictures at SS Peter and Paul



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 tattered 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 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, <http://dce.oca.org>.

Bits . . .

INVOLVING THE YOUTH IN STEWARDSHIP As you may have noticed, SS Peter and Paul youth are becoming increasingly involved in our church. The middle school class has taken on the responsibility of changing the clothes under the icons; our older girls are helping to serve the zaprivka, Altar Boys serve in the Holy Altar assisting the clergy in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and other holy services, and youth are welcome to join the choir. Youth of all ages also help with serving and clean-up for church dinners. Whatever their age, there is a way for our youth to serve their church!



Babies are a blessing from God

Please join us for a potluck coffee hour and baby shower for Fr. Deacon Rodion and Matushka Elizabeth Pfeiffer at St. Peter and Paul's Orthodox Church on January 23rd, 2022 following Divine Liturgy. They are registered at Target, Amazon, and Buy, Buy Baby.

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Theophany



Around Saints Peter & Paul

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- January 1 George Moriarty
Kaylee Ramany
- 3 John Tanner
- 4 Alexander Dolenko
- 5 Pat Starkey
Deacon John Weiss
- 6 Walter Booriakin
- 8 John & Lauren Hecht
David Sourk
Bill Weiss
- 12 Victor Zarembo
- 16 Liliya Armstrong
- 16 Antonia Adams-Clement
- 19 John Hecht
George & Nadya Moriarty
Alexander Shubin
- 21 Monya Bock
Fr. Mihai Arion
- 24 Kim Arauz
- 26 Teddi Gardner
- 28 Joe Matthews
Samuel Melendrez
- 29 John & Carol Yavornitzky

FLASHBACK



PRAYER LIST

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

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

- +Metropolitan Herman
- Sandra Hoff
- Sue Bieber
- Maria O’Malley
- Stephen Bock
- Jamie Arango
- Antonia Adams-Clement
- Rose Kurowski
- Tammy Horton
- Frank (Kirill) Bolton

If you know of anyone else in need of our prayers, please contact BISHOP DANIEL.

... and Pieces

FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY Great Compline, Wednesday January 5, 6:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy and GREAT BLESSING OF WATER, Thursday, January 6, 9:00 a.m.

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. Clergy will be available to bless homes throughout the month of January. To arrange to have your house blessed, please speak with Bishop DANIEL, Father David or Father Mihai.

THANK YOU to all of you for your love, support, cards, gifts, and kind words during the Holiday Season. Your words and sentiments and your many expressions of love and support are deeply appreciated. God bless you for your thoughtful kindness!
+Bishop Daniel and the Fathers

THANK YOU to everyone who made our 2021 celebration of the Nativity of Christ another joy-filled, beautiful, inspiring, and spiritually-rewarding celebration. We are truly blessed! The Divine Services, Holy Supper, music, flowers, decorations, food, etc., were all wonderfully arranged and yet another sign of our parish community's love of God and of neighbor. Blessings to everyone!

NEW GOLD ALTAR COVERS There is a little extra sparkle in the church thanks to our new gold altar covers. The Myrrh Bearers Altar Society is excited to share these newly purchased covers with our family at SS Peter and Paul. Keep your eyes peeled as new purple and white covers should also be appearing later this year. We are excited about the opportunity to procure these altar covers based on the wonderful donations and support received from our community.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING The annual parish meeting will be held on Sunday, February 13th, following the Divine Liturgy.

2022 CHURCH CALENDARS We are grateful to Nick Enoch and John Blischak for their generosity in continuing to provide our parish with the beautiful church calendars! Thank you!

MBAS HOLIDAY THANK YOU'S We would like to thank everyone in the church community who has supported the MBAS fundraisers in 2021. We had a wonderful response to the Nut Roll Bake,

Holiday Bake Sale, and Holiday Raffle. We appreciate all of the donations of time and materials, as well as the support of purchasing the baked goods or raffle tickets. Through your support MBAS is able to purchase new altar covers and support the church in many ways.

CHURCH DECORATING I would like to thank the crew that assisted with decorating the sanctuary for Christmas. It was a small crew but having flowers delivered the day before made the process go even quicker. The poinsettia's were very beautiful with a deep red color that really made the new gold covers pop against the decorations. I would like to thank Vladyka, Fr. David, Peter, Bill, Susan, Alex, Ann & son Elijah.

Yours in Christ, Nicholas Bock

MINI NUT ROLLS STILL AVAILABLE If you enjoyed the nut rolls over the holidays, but still crave a little bit more, please speak to one of the MBAS ladies. We have approximately 20 mini (or half size) nut rolls still available for sale. These rolls will keep the holiday festivities going a bit longer. Remember, they come frozen so you can keep them for a quick treat later in the year.

MBAS MEMBERSHIP Ladies, if you are looking for a way to become more involved in your church community, come check out the MBAS meeting on Jan. 9th. Joining the MBAS is a great way to get to know your church community, learn about traditions of the church, and get involved with coffee hours, church feast days/celebrations, decorating the church, and caring for the altar covers. Meetings are on the 2nd Sunday of each month during coffee hour and after Sunday School. Please speak to a member of MBAS for more information or ask one of the clergy members to point one of us out.




STEWARDSHIP/PLEDGES/BUDGET You will be receiving your 2021 Statement of Contributions shortly for your tax purposes. It's also time to start thinking about your pledge for 2022. Please be generous when filling out your 2022 Pledge Form and return it by the Annual Meeting, February 6, 2022. If you have any questions, please see David Homyak.

BOXES OF CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES to use in 2022 are available. Please see Dave Homyak in the church office.

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: **PAN ORTHODOX YOUTH MIX AND**
: **MINGLE**
: On Saturday February 5, 2022,
: from 6:00 pm—9:00 pm, St.
: George Antiochian Church is host-
: ing a Mix & Mingle Pan Orthodox
: event for teens 12-17 in their Lega-
: cy Ballroom area. Local Orthodox
: youth are invited to play games,
: have a nice dinner, and most im-
: portantly get to know other Or-
: thodox youth in the Phoenix area.
: This a great way for our youth to
: meet new people and strengthen
: our Orthodox community!
:

January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>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.</p>						<p>1 Circumcision of Christ St. Basil the Great 9:00am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>NO VESPERS</p>
<p>2 Sun. Before Theophany Repose of St. Seraphim of Sarov 9:00am Divine Liturgy Panikhida for Fr. Rodion Pfeiffer FOCA Meeting</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Synaxis of the 70 Apostles</p>	<p>5 Eve of Theophany 6:00pm Great Compline</p>	<p>6 Holy Theophany 9:00am Divine Liturgy Great Blessing of Water</p>	<p>7 Synaxis of St. John the Baptist</p>	<p>8 Sat. after Theophany 5:00pm Great Vespers</p>
<p>9 Sun. after Theophany 9:00am Divine Liturgy CHURCH SCHOOL MBAS Meeting</p>	<p>10 Ven. Gregory of Nyssa</p>	<p>11 Ven. Theodosius the Great 6:00pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>ANNUAL PARISH MEETING The annual parish meeting will be held on Sunday, February 13th, following the Divine Liturgy.</p>		<p>14 Leavetaking of Theophany</p>	<p>15 5:00pm Great Vespers</p>
<p>16 9:00am Divine Liturgy CHURCH SCHOOL</p>	<p>17 Ven. God-bearing Anthony the Great</p>	<p>PAN ORTHODOX YOUTH MIX & MINGLE 6:00 PM—9:00 PM Saturday, February 5, 2022 St. George Antiochian Church For teens 12-17</p>		<p>20 Ven. Euthymius The Great</p>	<p>21 Icon 'Joy and Consolation'</p>	<p>22 Apostle Timothy of the 70 5:00pm Great Vespers</p>
<p>23 Hieromartyr Clement 9:00am Divine Liturgy CHURCH SCHOOL</p>	<p>24 New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia Blessed Xenia of St. Petersburg</p>	<p>25 St. Gregory the Theologian New Hieromartyr Vladimir, Metropolitan of Kiev</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 Translation of the Relics of St. John Chrysostom</p>	<p>28 Venerable Ephraim the Syrian St. Isaac of Syria</p>	<p>29 5:00pm Great Vespers</p>
<p>30 Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs 9:00am Divine Liturgy CHURCH SCHOOL FOCA New Year's Party</p>	<p>31 Wonderworkers Cyrus & John</p>	<p>1 Forefeast of the Meeting 6:00 Vespers</p>	<p>2 Meeting of the LORD in the Temple 9:00am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>3 Righteous Simeon Theophany House Blessing To arrange to have your house blessed, please speak with Bishop Daniel, Fr. David, or Fr. Mihai.</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 6:00 PM-9:00 PM PAN ORTHODOX YOUTH MIX & MINGLE ST. GEORGE 5:00pm Great</p>