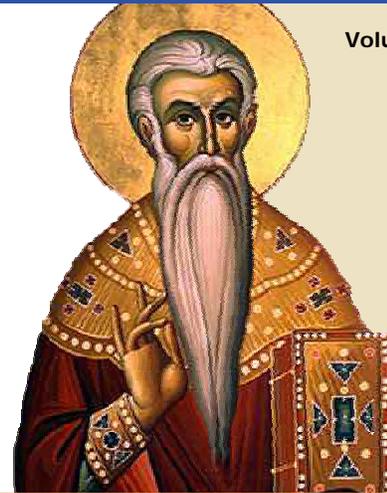


in Touch

Volume 15, Issue 1

January 2007



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

*A voice came from heaven and said,
"This is my Son, the Beloved, with
whom I am well pleased."*

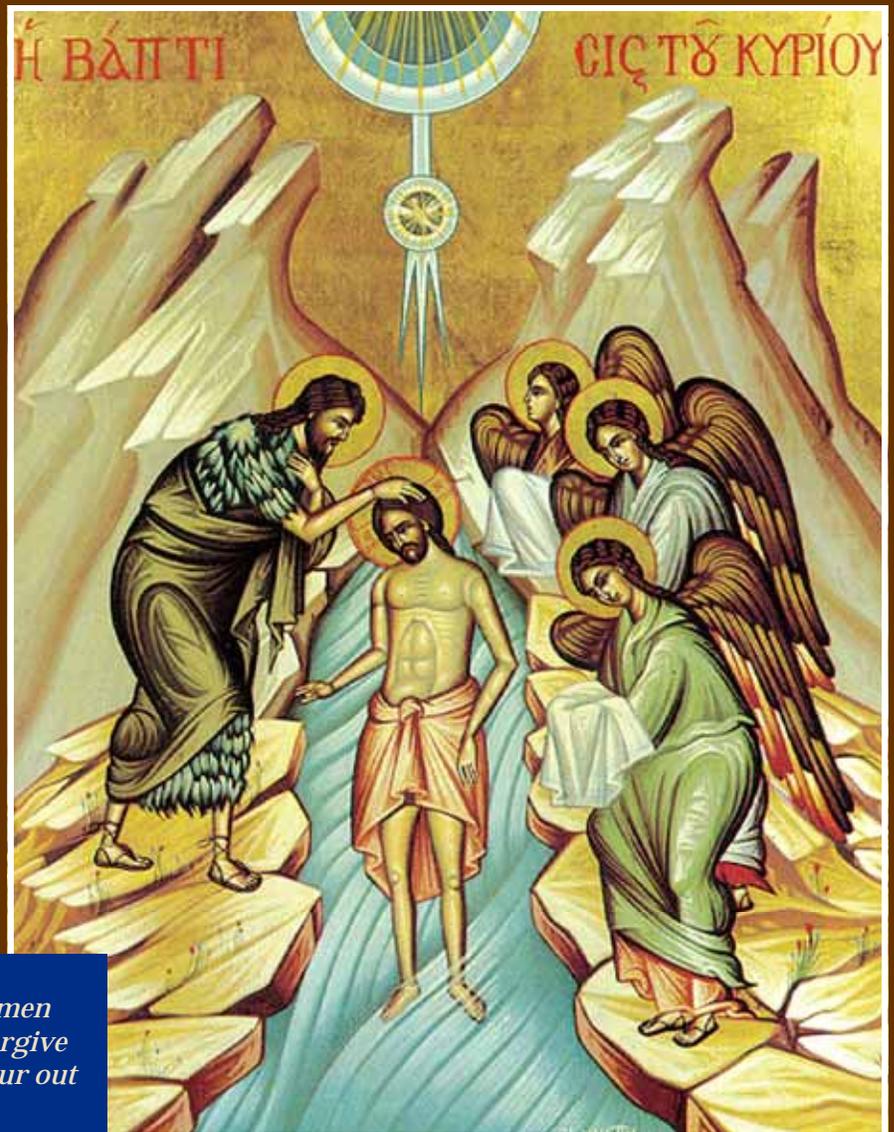
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*"Lord, You know that men
are flesh and blood; forgive
them their sins and pour out
Your blessing on all."*

St. Haralambos

20th ANNIVERSARY 2007

CELEBRATING OUR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Recording St. Haralambos Church History

The Church's 20th Anniversary Celebration is upon us. Let's travel through the years that have led us to where we are today. How do we honor the special people in our lives and remember or renew special relationships? We celebrate, of course!

We can celebrate by honoring and appreciating the history of St. Haralambos Church, renewing the present commitments of members and their relationships both to one another and the Church and look to the future by taking a big picture look at St. Haralambos.

One of the most important—yet difficult—tasks of the 20th Anniversary Celebration will be the actual writing of our Church history. By preserving our books, records, photos and other historic artifacts, we leave a thoughtful legacy to future generations.

We invite and welcome everyone to give of his or her time and effort to assist us in piecing together the history of St. Haralambos Church for our 20th Anniversary Celebration. Please contact Margaret Michailidis to indicate your participation in this year's activities.

Let us try to imagine what our children and grandchildren may want to know about our Church—facts, events and people we may otherwise take for granted today, but what people 20 years from now or a century from now will appreciate having been recorded and preserved.

This task can only be completed with the assistance of the entire Church community. The Church archives that we hope to develop may already be in the hands of numerous individuals and families of our parish.

The goal of the 20th Anniversary Committee is to take each individual piece of history and, to-

gether with contributions from others, tell a more comprehensive story of our parish. Please keep in mind that the archives are not merely about significant milestones, dates and events, but it becomes the record and the story of our Church made up of people including you and everyone in the parish.

The Committee is interested in historical items reflecting the history of St. Haralambos including:

- Bulletins and newsletters
- Newspaper clippings
- Directories, brochures and publications
- Memorials
- Photographs, videos and audio/visual media

The inclusion of a photograph collection is an excellent way to visually document our Church's history. In addition, interviews with church members are yet another way to capture special moments. If you have any materials noted above including photos for inclusion in our parish history, please contact Margaret Michailidis at 623-537-5777 or e-mail Michailidis_M@yahoo.com.

Remember, this a continuing resource, and the success of our Church archives will depend on the extent of involvement and contribution of us all, and not just now, but for years to come. The history, photographs and documents that the Committee is looking for will certainly be a magnificent way to honor and appreciate St. Haralambos Church during its 20th Anniversary Celebration.





The First Greek Orthodox Church in the West Valley

The date on our parish Articles of Incorporation reads November 1987; but, as I've learned from several of our parishioners who were among the very first to help establish the first Greek Orthodox Church in the west valley (the name of our patron saint had not yet been contemplated), planning and preparations had already been well under way for several months. The Assumption Church in Scottsdale and St. Katherine's in Chandler, both communities indebted to the Maniatis Family's Home Foundation (as is our own) for finding and helping finance the purchase of their current property, had already been established. Soon, however, the need to serve the growing population of Orthodox Christians in the west valley was becoming more apparent. With the blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Anthony of blessed memory, the wheels were set in motion, and the rest, as they say, is history.

It is a history, as many of you know, that has truly been blessed by God with a

host of remarkably dedicated individuals, stepping up to tackle whatever tasks were needed: baking, building, cleaning, calling, serving, typing, and praying! I don't mean, at all, to gloss over that history. In fact, as we can all read on the inside cover of this month's newsletter, it is a history that is not only worth remembering, but one that requires us, as this parish's second generation, to record and preserve for future generations.

My intent here, however, is to try and instill in our members today the primary motivating force behind the efforts of our parish's founding fathers and mothers: love and faith in Jesus Christ. A love, as St. Paul writes in several of his New Testament letters, that requires action. "For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on

it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." (1Cor. 3:9-11)

Our primary responsibility — as parishioners and clergy of St. Haralambos Church — is to continue to build on that foundation, to continue the good work started by those who came before us; with gratitude, with faith and with love.

Why should we work so hard for our Church? Only to balance its budget? Why do we create ministries in our parish? Because we have too much spare time? (If either of the preceding rhetorical questions prompted a "yes!" response, a good deal of parish fundamentals still needs to be taught.) There are, for many of us, a host of secondary reasons such as fellowship, a sense of accomplishment, and putting our God-given gifts and talents to good use. These are all valid and, in some cases, very meaningful

(Continued on page 9)

It is a history, as many of you know, that has truly been blessed by God with a host of remarkably dedicated individuals, stepping up to tackle whatever tasks were needed!



**St. Haralambos
Greek Orthodox
Church**

Rev. Michael Pallad

www.stharalambos.org

Sunday Worship

September - May
Matins: 8:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy: 10 a.m.

June - August
Matins: 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy: 9:30 a.m.

Office

623-486-8665
10320 N. 84th Ave., Peoria, AZ 85345
Office@StHaralambos.phxcoxmail.com
FrMichael@StHaralambos.phxcoxmail.com

Hours

Monday - Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Parish Council

Glen Albrant
Tracy Albrant
George Christie
Mary Dascalos
Greg Krochta
Dean Milonas

Mary Manos
Stella Pagos
George Retsinas
Peter Tremoulis
Mary Wymierski

PARISH NEWS

Theophany



On the 12th Day of Christmas in the Orthodox Tradition, we celebrate the feastday of Theophany or Epiphany, which commemorates not just the baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ, but the revelation of the Holy Trinity. A look at the icon of the feast, shown on the front cover, reminds

us of this by showing John the Baptist next to Jesus, the dove appearing over Jesus' head representing the Holy Spirit, and the words of God the Father declaring Jesus as His Beloved Son.

In the Orthodox tradition, the Church sanctifies holy water following the Divine

Liturgy on the eve of the feast as well as on the feastday itself, Jan. 6. See the calendar for service times, and be sure to bring a small container with you if you'd like to take some of the holy water with you.

Orthodox Observer

Does your family receive the *Orthodox Observer* at home? The *Observer*, published by the Archdiocese, is the official publication of news and events of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. It is the intent of the Archdiocese to deliver the *Observer* to the homes of every family in the Archdiocese free of charge.

If you have moved, or for some other reason you have not been getting your copy of the *Observer* sent to you, please call or send a note to our church office so we can, in turn, notify the *Observer* office and make sure all our families receive this publication.

Note: For those with internet access, past and current issues of the *Observer* can be found at: www.goarch.org/en/news/observer/.



Parish Financial News



The 2007 Parish Budget was unanimously approved at the Fall General Assembly last November which shows a projected year-end deficit of \$22,900.00. That figure assumes stewardship contributions totaling \$92,000.00, and a net profit of \$23,000.00 from our Greek Festival.

While budgetary numbers can always change by increasing or decreasing, the 2007 budget as it stands presents a formidable challenge to all of us. Therefore, in an effort to help ensure our parishioners are aware of our financial condition, which will hopefully encourage creative

ideas and suggestions to help improve it, future issues of *In Touch* will include monthly income and expense summaries, account balances and budgetary updates. As the new Parish Council meets this month and elects its officers, we hope to see this information included in the March 2007 issue.

In Touch On-Line

A welcome improvement to the Home Page on our parish website (www.stharalambos.org) now features a link to our monthly *In Touch* newsletter. The newsletter will continue to be mailed to parishioners' homes. However, to help avoid any potential or unanticipated mail delivery delays, the online PDF newsletter will now be available prior to the first of each month.



Prosfora: An Offering to God



Preparation and baking of Prosfora, the Holy Offering Bread of the ancient Orthodox Christian Tradition has been passed on from generation to generation.

To this day I can hear my mother explain to us, including my brothers and sisters, of this special tradition of presenting a "Gift to God." She told us that in Greece, the whole family would go to church early in the morning and present the priest with their offering.

Before preparing the Prosfora, mother always

began with the following prayer:

O Lord Jesus Christ, only begotten Son of The Eternal Father, who has said: Without me you can do nothing! O Lord, My God, with faith I accept your words. Help me, a sinner, to prepare the bread of offering, that the works of my hands may be acceptable at the Holy Table and may become through the works of Thy Holy Spirit, the communion of "Thy Most Pure Body for me and all Thy people." In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then she would gather all the ingredients together and proceed to make the bread. When all was completed, she would recite a short prayer of Thanksgiving. Prosfora Committee members and parishioners who are involved in this rewarding service, continue in the same manner by beginning with the special prayer, as do all who prepare and bake the Prosfora.

We would like to continue this meaningful and needed tradition in our church by offering a Prosfora Preparation and Baking workshop for any interested parishioners on Saturday March 3, 2007 at 10 a.m. in the church Social Hall.

For any questions or if you would like to attend, please call either Christina Harris at 623-875-7768 or Mary Harrington at 623-872-8809.

Photo Directory

As we begin 2007 and the 20th Anniversary Celebration of St. Haralambos Church, members of the 20th Anniversary Committee are excited to announce the development of a Parish Photo Directory. Participation in the directory is free. The Committee will begin scheduling portrait sessions this month and photos will be taken in early February here at the Church. We encourage everyone to participate in the directory and help bring a vibrant component to our 20th Anniversary Celebration.

It's a Family Thing
Be a part of our New Church Directory

WE NEED YOU HERE!

FELLOWSHIP
Hope
Sharing - Growing
Member Directory

FREE 8x10 Signature Portrait (\$20 Value) and FREE Church Directory
(for participating families)

- Immediate viewing of video proofs
- It takes less than an hour
- Specially priced portrait packages

Schedule your appointment today!
All major credit cards accepted.

ORGANIZATIONS

Philoptochos

A Blessed New Year to All!

Jan. 7 – Vasilopita Sunday

Help make the annual Vasilopita auction a success by helping bake or buying the traditional bread. All proceeds benefit St. Basil Academy.

Monthly Meeting Note

The next meeting will be Monday, Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. since the first Monday in January is the New Year's Day holiday. The guest speaker will be a representative from Home-instead. This meeting and presentation are both open to all parishioners.

New Members

Philoptochos appreciates all of its members and the hard and worthwhile

work done to benefit the numerous charities supported by the organization. However, the group is interested in having new members join to help with projects and fundraisers.

Please don't be shy about volunteering. Keep in mind you do not have to be the chair of project in order to provide assistance. Oftentimes, providing a fresh idea or new viewpoint can help the organization.

Philoptochos relies on everyone in our community for support. Please consider supporting us with a little of your time and talents. Annual dues are \$20.

Charlotte Servetas



Coffee Hour

Please Offer to Host or Sponsor the Sunday Coffee Hour

For a \$20 donation, the Social Hour Committee will be happy to prepare the coffee hour on your behalf. Please see Stella Pagos after Liturgy for details. Thank You, St. Anna's Philoptochos



Thank You to Our Coffee Hour Hosts/Sponsors

Dec. 3 George and Sharon Speros,
Ann Morley, Kim and Dorothy Ayan

Dec. 10 Mary Dascalos

Dec. 17 Anna Yacyshyn, Charlotte Servetas

Dec. 24 Ray and Mary Wysmierski,
Tom and Margaret Michailidis

Dec. 31 Mary Harrington

Jan. 7 Alice Hecht, Anna Yacyshyn

Jan. 14 Aphrodite Devolites

Jan. 21 Michael and Voula Dodd,
Steve and Sophia Mallos

Jan. 28 Russ and Pam Lemons

Note: Due to publication printing deadlines, any modifications or changes to coffee hour listing will be noted in next month's newsletter.

ORGANIZATIONS

Sunday School

The Students

This month we are featuring St. Haralambos' Youth Forum class. The Youth Forum class began in 2004 and features timely and relevant topics for youths.

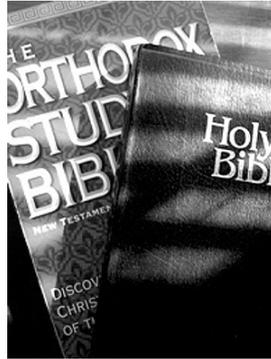
The 12 students currently enrolled are: John Fredericksen, Elijah Gross, Frankie Johnson, Alicia Krochta, Masha Lyogkaya, Stefanos Macrides, Anna Papamatheakis, Maria Papamatheakis, Tyke Solomon, Dimitrios Theoharatos, Niki Theoharatos and Stavros Theoharatos.

The Curriculum and Topics

Topics are presented each Sunday and are mostly selected by the students and teacher at the beginning of each year. All of the topics are taught from the Greek Orthodox point of view. Orthodox Dogma, Ideology, Traditions and Canons are integrated into each subject/topic with discussions and questions during and after each class.

Some of the topics being presented this year are:

- Orthodox Christianity is a fact-based religion
- Why We Know God Exists
- How Reliable is the Text of the Bible? How do we know it is real? The Dead Sea Scrolls
- Abortion
- Capital Punishment
- End of the World
- The Orthodox Cross—It truly is awesome and significant
- Organ Transplants, Body Donation, Blood Donation—Can we? Should we?
- Heaven, Hell, Eternal Life, Final Judgement
- Exorcisms—This will turn your head
- Swearing—"Oh my __ _!"



- Birth Control—Abstinence is always 100-percent effective
- God's Revelations
- Non-Believers—Cults & Mormonism
- Nuclear War, War, Do Orthodox have the Right to Defend Ourselves?
- Women's Role in the Church

Teacher Background

Mr. Mike Danielek teaches the Youth Forum class. His background includes 30 years as a schoolteacher, coach and administrator. He assisted his wife Chrissy in the 6th grade Sunday School class at Holy Trinity Cathedral for four years, and then taught 8th grade Sunday School at Holy Trinity for three years. In addition, while at Holy Trinity Mike directed the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival for the Archdiocese District Oratorical Festival. Mr. Danielek is retired from the Glendale Union High School District.



Youngsters Resume Greek Folk Dancing

Greek Folk Dancing for kids of all ages begins again Sunday, Jan. 14, 2007 at the Church Social Hall. The one-hour sessions begin at 5 p.m. for the younger dancers and at 6 p.m. for the bigger kids and young adults.

For more information including your group's age range, contact Olga Fredericksen at 623-979-0513.

ORGANIZATIONS

St. Christopher's Bookstore

The book introduced this month is:

**The Orthodox Church:
455 Questions and Answers,**

By Rev. Dr. Stanley S. Harakas, 354 pages, paperback, \$20.



Ever wonder who gets to go to heaven or where others go and what exactly is the nature, purpose and function of heaven?

Have you considered why we hold candles on Good Friday, since Christ hasn't been resurrected yet, or why the bride and groom do not exchange vows at their wedding?

Are you curious as to why the Orthodox Church baptizes infants instead of waiting until they're old enough to decide by themselves if they want to become Orthodox Christians?

Would you like to know the Church's position on such topics as abortion, the death penalty, contraceptives, hypnotism,

euthanasia, in-vetro fertilization, cremation and others?

This concise and comprehensive handbook on the Orthodox Faith is for you if you answered "yes" to any of the above questions. In fact, Fr. Harakas answers 455 questions most often asked about the Orthodox Faith and he uses very simple, straightforward language that everyone can understand.

The best feature of this book is the way it is indexed. You can quickly find the topic(s) you are looking for with the index that gives the number of the entry which directly addresses your topic in bold print and then other numbers in lighter print that are cross references and may add some additional information.

However, be warned. Your original intent might be to look up half dozen or several answers, but you most likely will end up reading all 455!

Younger Generation

Join the Younger Generation for an evening of social fun along with an appetizer mixer of food and refreshments at the home of Tom and Margaret Michailidis in Surprise on Saturday, Jan. 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to bring a sampling of

their favorite appetizer to share at this wonderful opportunity to meet other young members of our parish and contribute to enhancing and building lasting friendships.

For address, directions and to RSVP, please call Margaret at 623-537-5777 by Jan. 10.

Orthodox Marriage Encounter

For the first time in Arizona, the Orthodox Marriage Encounter will be held for married couples looking for ways to enrich their marriage. Father Jim and Presvytera Donna Pappas from St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Fresno, California, have been leading the marriage encounter for years at St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in Dunlap, California, and are excited about bringing the program to Phoenix this Spring. (www.orthodoxmarriageencounter.org)

"The Orthodox Marriage Encounter Weekend is a positive and personal experience for a couple, which offers them a technique of loving communication that they can use for the rest of their lives. It's an opportunity for couples to look deeply into their relationship with each other and with God. Also, it is a time to share their feelings, their hopes, fears, joys, and frustrations."

Interested? Contact Lindsay Vardalos at (623) 975-2205 or e-mail Lvardalos@msn.com.

Assisted Living, Hospitalization

The following parishioners may not be able to be with us physically, but are still loved members of our parish. Please remember them in prayer: Marianthy Bravos, Orin and Mary-Jean Davis, Alice Massahos and George Poulos.

Name Days

Many years/*Chronia Polla* to those named after the following saints:

St. Basil the Great (1st)
 Epiphany/Theophany (6th)
 St. John the Baptist (7th)
 St. Gregory of Nyssa (10th)
 St. Tatiani (12th)
 St. Anthony the Great (17th)
 St. Athanasios (18th)
 St. Mark of Ephesos (19th)
 St. Euthymios the Great (20th)
 St. Timothy (22nd)
 St. Xenia (24th)
 St. Gregory the Theologian (25th)
 St. Ephraim the Syrian (28th)

Basha's "Thanks a Million" Program

The "Thanks a Million" Basha's program raises money for churches and we have been a participant for several years. The store donates one percent of the total sales linked to our church members. Last year, the Thanks a Million program donated more than a quarter of a million dollars to Arizona schools, churches and nonprofits. We earned \$103.74 for purchases from our parishioners. It's easy to get started! To register, mention the Churches' Group ID number – 23212 at the time of your next visit. You need register only once to be eligible.

Birthdays



Martha Jannis (8th)
 Louise Karmeris (1st)
 Jim Christian (2nd)
 Nina Milonas (4th)
 Tyke Solomon (6th)
 Peter Stamas (11th)
 Sophia Mallos (14th)
 Elaine Giannias Winn (14th)
 George Pikoula (20th)
 Dimitri Theoharatos (22nd)
 John Obren (23rd)
 Mary Wysmierski (29th)
 Reni Milonas (31st)
 Frosene Yelton (31st)

If you don't see your name, or those of family members, and would like to be included on the monthly birthday listing, please send the information to the church office.

Pastors' Column

(Continued from page 3)

and fulfilling. But they must all point to the foundation St. Paul was talking about – the primary reason for our involvement in the work, activities and ministries of the Church: our love and faith in Jesus Christ. When we put that first, and are secure in our identity as Orthodox Christians, our eyes begin to open up to see that working in and for the Church is not a chore, although it oftentimes will require physical exhaustion and the patience of Job, but

the fulfillment of the desire in each of us to please our loving Lord and Savior. Building on the foundation of the past 20 years not only honors the memory of those who came before us, but will also help keep us on track as we begin planning for the next 20 years.

May the Year of our Lord 2007 bring all our parish families good health, happiness and the sincere desire to serve Him and each other with humility and love.

2007

HOUSE BLESSINGS

Start the New Year with a special family event, according to the traditions of the Holy Orthodox Church, asking God's blessings for your home and your family!



Please complete the form below to indicate your preferred date and schedule your house blessing. Mail the form to the church office, or bring it with you to church on Sunday. You will be contacted by our secretary to confirm your day

House Blessing Request Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR PREFERENCE

Zone 1: South of Peoria Ave. and West of 83rd Ave.

_____ Tuesday, January 9 _____ Sunday, January 21
_____ Monday, January 15

Zone 2: North of Peoria Ave. and West of 83rd Ave.

_____ Monday, January 8 _____ Saturday, January 13
_____ Sunday, January 14 _____ Thursday, January 25

Zone 3: South of Peoria Ave. and East of 83rd Ave.

_____ Thursday, January 11 _____ Monday, January 22
_____ Tuesday, January 16

Zone 4: North of Peoria Ave. and East of 83rd Ave.

_____ Sunday, January 7 _____ Thursday, January 18
_____ Wednesday, January 10 _____ Wednesday, January 24

JANUARY 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 8:00am Matins 9:00am Div. Liturgy St. Basil New Year's Day	2	3	4	5 6:00pm Vespers Liturgy Great Blessing of the Waters	6 8:00am Matins 9:00am Div. Liturgy Theophany Great Blessing of the Waters
7 8:45am Matins 10:00am Div. Liturgy Vasilopita Sunday	8 7:00pm Philoptochos	9 10:30am Bible Enrichment	10	11 7:00pm Choir	12	13
14 8:45am Matins 10:00am Div. Liturgy	15 7:00pm Parish Council	16 10:30am Bible Enrichment	17 8:00am Matins 9:00am Div. Liturgy St. Anthony the Great	18 7:00pm Choir	19	20 6:30pm Younger Generation Appetizer-Mixer (see page 8)
21 8:45am Matins 10:00am Div. Liturgy	22	23 10:30am Bible Enrichment	24	25 7:00pm Choir	26	27
28 8:45am Matins 10:00am Div. Liturgy	29	30 8:00am Matins 9:00am Div. Liturgy The Three Great Hierarchs 10:30am Bible Enrichment	31	7:00pm Choir		