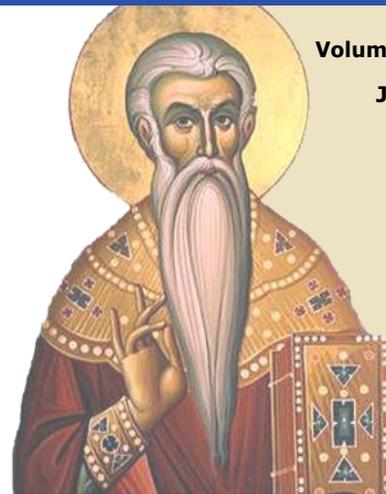


in Touch

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June-July 2020



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The Sunday of Pentecost

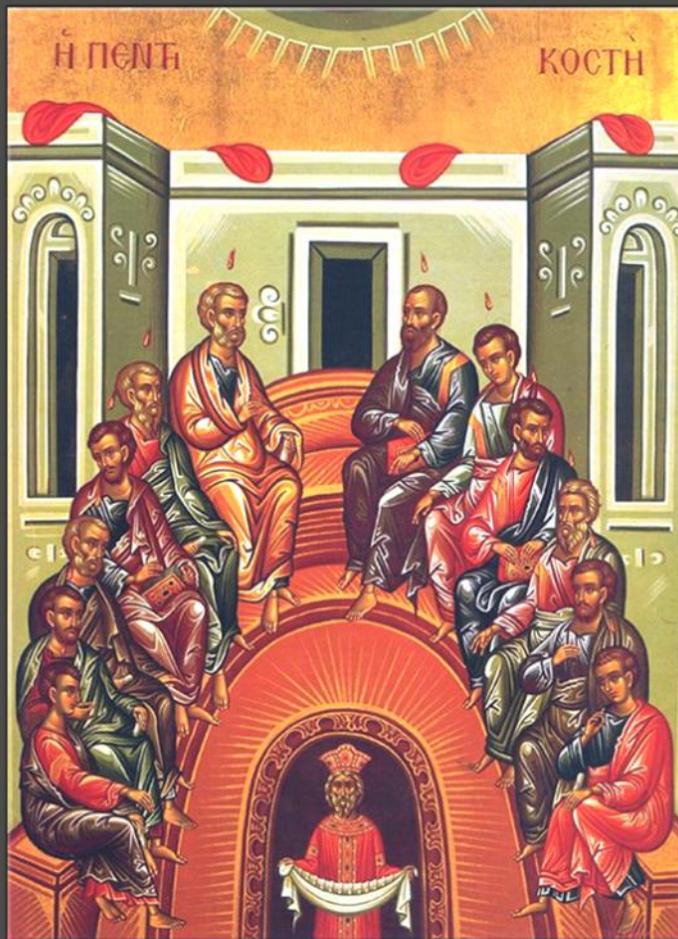
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June 7



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

Oratorical Festival

The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical festival provides Greek Orthodox teens, grades seven to twelve, the opportunity to write and talk about their faith. This was the 37th year of the festival which is held throughout the Archdiocese.

Several of our teens participated in the parish level St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival held on Mar. 8. They inspired our members with their heartfelt expressions of their faith and challenges. Usually the top speakers advance to the District level, and then two representatives of the junior and senior divisions go on to the Metropolis level, which has been held at St. Nicholas Ranch in California. From there, one junior and one senior goes on to the National level. Scholarships are awarded at the Metropolis and National levels, and participants at all levels are eligible to apply for Faith Endowment scholarships. Since 2016, St. Haralambos teens have gone onto the National level three times, and last year our own Naomi Solomon took first place, senior division, at the National festival.

Although a revised format was considered, the District, Metropolis, and Archdiocese levels were canceled due to concerns of the escalation of the coronavirus pandemic. Fortunately, our parish festival was held the last Sunday

Congratulations Graduates

Several Saint Haralambos parishioners recently took another step in their education, with graduations at many different levels.

Congratulations to the following Saint Haralambos High School Graduates: Joseph Durgam, Areti Karandreas, Nikolas Panousopoulos, Alex Papakalos, and Kyla Waters.

Our graduates represent many different high schools, with various future plans.

Joseph graduated from Kellis High School and heads to Northern Arizona University where he plans to major in Mechanical Engineering.

Areti graduated from Mountain Ridge High School and is headed to University of Arizona.

Nikolas (Niko) graduated from Youngker High school. His next step is Estrella Mountain Community College where he has earned a Cross Country Scholarship and will be running for them in competition.

Alex graduated from Mountain Ridge High School and will attend University of Arizona, majoring in business.

Kyla graduated from Peoria High School and is still finalizing her next steps.

Congratulations also to Gabriella Caratachea who earned her G.E.D last year.

before preventive measures were put in place. Our greatest appreciation goes to our participants, judges, parents, and Jeannette Hollander our parish festival chair.

Thank you Naomi, Niat, Nile, Yotham, Bethel and Adonna for all your hard work and your courage to voice your faith and aspirations. You give us hope for the future of our Church and the world.

Senior Division

Naomi Solomon,
Niat Solomon

Junior Division

Nile Solomon,
Yotham Moges,
Bethel Samuel

Elementary Participant

Adonna Moges



We also have a couple of higher education graduates among us.

Lydia Ghebrehiwot earned a B.S. in Dental Hygiene from Northern Arizona University. This is an intensive two year program that requires two years of science prerequisites Lydia accomplished this while also the wife and mother of four active children. Congratulations Lydia and the entire Solomon family!

Beylul Russom graduated from Trinity Washington University with a Masters of Strategic Arts, emphasis in Communications. Trinity Washington is a Catholic university in Washington D.C. where Beylul continues her career. Congratulations Beylul!

All of our graduates successfully completed their programs of study in difficult conditions, with all educational institutions and students making great adjustments with online platforms and other changes. Despite all the challenges, our graduates persevered and completed this portion of their educations. This is a historic year where even most graduations were virtual.

Graduates, regardless of whether you walked across the stage to receive your sheepskin, your Saint Haralambos family is very proud of all of you! You showed extra determination. God bless you and be with you as you go forward!



The Promise of Christ

“If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.” (John 14:15-18)

It is good to remind ourselves of a couple of things: 1) the continuous and unconditional love of Jesus Christ; and 2) His promise of sending the Holy Spirit into the world: the day of Pentecost.

This is the “Helper” that Jesus will give to His disciples, the Holy Spirit which is sent into the world on the day of Pentecost, which the Orthodox Christian Church celebrates on the 7th of this month.

It is the fulfillment of His promise to be with us forever, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, which abides with us forever, a continuous spiritual connection with God, given to us personally on the day of our baptism.

We may start to feel, during times of anxiety and fear of the unknown – much like the times we are in – just the opposite: that God has abandoned us, leaving us to unknown and unpredictable dark forces that wreak havoc on our world. The Gospel does not deny that demonic forces are continually at work in our world, but it also reminds us of Christ’s victory over the power of darkness.

And this is why it is good to remind ourselves of the quote above from Chapter 14 of Saint John’s Gospel. This is what faith is all about, and is especially needed in times of stress and fear of the unknown.

At this time, with the virus still spreading throughout the world, we are called by our government officials to remain vigilant with respect to personal hygiene, limiting personal contact by wearing masks and gloves in public and maintaining social distance of at least 6 feet.

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese is coordinating a unified approach to the eventual re-opening of our parishes, something that we are all looking forward to, but out of safety and concern, will not be rushed.

Above all, as Christians, let us remind ourselves of the promise of our Lord, Jesus Christ, that He has not left us alone, not for a minute. Let us turn to Him in prayer, asking for faith, patience and compassion. Let us not turn against one another out of anger or fear or differences of opinion. Let us be helpful to one another, remembering that we are all affected by this pandemic.

May the grace of the Holy Spirit guide and protect us, and give us the patience and compassion to regard one another as true brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Above all, as Christians, let us remind ourselves of the promise of our Lord, Jesus Christ, that He has not left us alone, not for a minute.



**St. Haralambos
Greek Orthodox
Church**
www.stharalambos.org
Rev. Michael Pallad

Sunday Worship
Matins: 8:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy: 10 a.m.

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

Parish Council

Philip Bell	Anna Kinniburgh
Angie Cholas	Ted Manos
Roy Christian	Ken Wrona
John Hrapchak	Valla Wrona

Parish Council News

Council members: President Anna Kinniburgh, Vice President Ken Wrona, Treasurer Phillip Bell, Secretary Valla Wrona, and members Roy Christian, Angie Cholas, John Hrapchak, and Ted Manos.

President Anna Kinniburgh and all the members of the parish council continue to pray that everyone is well and that God will protect us all. If you have needs, please contact the office. If you have urgent needs, please call Fr. Michael or email frmichael@stharalambosaz.com. We are here to help one another, so please don't hesitate to contact us.

Treasurer Phillip Bell submitted paperwork for the federal Payroll Protection Plan loan. It was granted and we received \$24,050, so the church office has returned to the regular weekday schedule and is now open Monday through Friday from 10 am to 3 pm.

The Parish Contingency Plan is getting underway and is working on ways to help protect parishioners once we return to in-person liturgies. For the foreseeable future, not all parishioners will be able to attend at the same time. Please stay tuned to the emails/texts/phone calls from the office regarding who will be able to attend when.

Parishioners have been pleased with the outreach efforts we employed through the help of Angie Cholas and other parishioners who made calls and sent cards on behalf of the church. Please know that we are here to help everyone get through this.

Melanie Singleton will be holding a weekly virtual Sunday school class. She will also be researching and possibly implementing a valley-wide secure, closed Facebook page to encompass all parishes.

Irene Nathanson created an extensive outreach plan that will include the entire parish. To quote from Irene's plan: Our present Outreach Ministry has been a small, mostly self-contained ministry of few who have focused on ways to hold

small group discussions to those who are not religiously affiliated. I am proposing we expand Outreach efforts to involve the entire parish and realize that outreach is a way to connect to the outside from within.

Effective outreach is not carried out by the priest alone or by a committee of three or four, but by every member of the parish. Healthy church growth means involvement and commitment to spread love, concern and kindness to those we know at our place of work, in our neighborhoods, and in our homes. Our church grows when we grow, and we become a living parish when we are actively involved in its future.

We hope that everyone will be on board with this effort in learning how to effectively reach out to others and look forward to Irene's plans.

The investigation into a solar system for the church is still being investigated. President Anna Kinniburgh has located a company that works with churches.

We have obtained two estimates thus far regarding a fence for the church property. The council is also investigating motion detector lights and possibly cameras. However, this issue is not being aggressively pursued as we need to determine parishioners' needs first as well as to determine the most cost-efficient course of action.

At the end of March, we have received 111 pledged stewards, which is 89% of the 2020 goal.

Through the Sunday bulletin, parishioners have been advised that the Spring General Assembly has been postponed to the fall.

The final net profit from the festival was \$43,798, which is \$8,000 more than last year. Discussion is underway as to whether we will be able to have a festival in 2021 and possible alternatives.

The next parish council meeting is scheduled for Jun. 11 at 7 pm.

Name Days

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

June

St. Dorotheos (5th)
St. Cyril (9th)
St. Methodios (14th)
St. Tychon (16th)
St. Jude (19th)
St. Julian (21st)
St. Sampson (27th)
Sts. Peter and Paul (29th)

June Feastdays: Holy Apostles

How quickly can you name the 10 Commandments? If you have a bible handy, you can quickly open to the Old Testament Book of Exodus, and you'll find them listed in Chapter 20. Or for the "book challenged" generation, it's an easy Google search as well.

How about the 12 Apostles? You can find those names listed in Chapter 10 of Saint Matthew's gospel. Read the names over a few times until you have them memorized, then you can feel more confident the next time a friend asks.

More than just memorizing lists of names, dates and places, becoming familiar with the contents of the bible, our Holy Scriptures, is a worthwhile pursuit for all Christians. For example, it does us good to remember that the 12 apostles chosen by our Lord, Jesus Christ, had no previous discipleship experience, no prior training in healing, teaching or preaching, and certainly no burning desire to follow a man who would soon be turning their world upside down.

And yet, as St. Matthew's Gospel records, "These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: 'Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons.'"

How would you respond to those marching orders? It is remarkable to see how each of them, in their own way, rose to the challenge, travelling with the Lord, listening to His words, watching him heal, walk on water, bring others back to life. Their lives would never be the same.

They each had doubts, weaknesses, and argued amongst each other. One betrayed the Lord, and another denied knowing Him. Following the crucifixion, it took quite a bit of convincing for them to believe in His resurrection.

Jesus also forewarned them, "If the

world hates you, know that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you." (John 15:18-20)

What kept them going? How did they stay together after the crucifixion? They were overjoyed to see Jesus resurrected, but needed even more inspiration, courage and strength for the work that lay ahead: the spreading of the gospel. They needed a miracle, divine intervention.

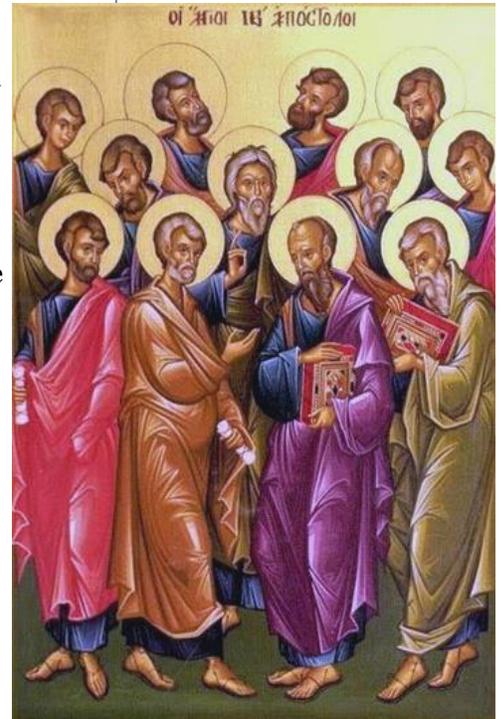
Just 10 days after the Lord's ascension to heaven, their miracle came: Pentecost, the descent and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit, appearing as tongues of fire hovering over their heads, gave each of the apostles just what they needed; a divine spark that ignited a new found enthusiasm to share the gospel.

They began speaking in various languages, moving into various towns and cities, debating, compelling, praying, working miracles, determined to share God's love and mercy wherever they went.

At times they were well-received, at other times they were rejected and imprisoned, each of them eventually suffering a martyr's death, except for St. John who died in exile. Theirs was no easy road to sainthood; yet, their hearts and minds were so convicted regarding their divine mission, not even the fear of punishment and death diminished their passion to share the Christian message.

Did Jesus choose well? Could He have chosen 12 more dedicated, perhaps more educated men? Rather than spending time thinking about the many "what if"

(Continued on page 7)



Sunday School

Sunday school had a great but short year, starting shortly after the beginning of the school year on Aug. 25, 2019 and was held last on Mar. 1. All the classes together made cards for Caring Friends on Thanksgiving weekend.

The Sunday School year came to an abrupt close with the arrival of Covid 19. Health and safety measures required Sunday School to end early. Fortunately, our parish oratorical festival was held Mar. 8 and was a joyful experience for both participants, their families, and parishioners as we heard the youth proclaim their faith in personal and contemporary ways.

This year brought a team approach to teaching Sunday school. There were three Sunday school classes. Preschool- Grade 2 was taught by Erini Braddock, Andriana Henson, and Melanie Singleton. Grades 3-6 were led by Presbyteria Kristin Pallad and Martha Stithem. Grades 7-12 were led by Jeannette Hollander and Jean Baxter. Jeannette Hollander also served as chair for the Oratorical Festival. Jean Baxter also served as Sunday School coordinator. The parish is indebted to these individuals for the hours they dedicated to our youth.

For the first time, the Sunday school enjoyed a musical experience with Alexandra Pallad visiting all levels of classes through the year, teaching music, and directing the Christmas program.



Snacks were provided to all age groups in their classrooms. Lydia Ghebrehiwot helped as Snack Lady, making sure classes had snacks after communion. Generous donations by parishioners amply covered this need. Many thanks to all who contributed.

The youth were involved in the church in various ways. Students read the epistle in the service this year. Boys served as acolytes. All ages danced for the festival in February.

Like everything else, future plans for Sunday School are undetermined. There are many opportunities for the use of technology if traditional instruction is not an alternative. Goarch.org has a wealth of resources for children and families.

Many thanks to all who helped and contributed to make Sunday School a beneficial and spiritually enriching experience.

June Birthdays



- Rebecca Bryson (4)
- Elly Koltiz (4)
- Alex Papamatheakis (4)
- Mrs. Amanda Nickolopoulos (5)
- George Theoharatos (6)
- Anna Milonas (7)
- Edna Nicely (7)
- Soliana Desta (15)
- Christopher King (15)
- Nile Solomon (15)
- Nola Marie Duhe (17)
- Stacie Georgen (17)
- Pam Lemons (17)
- Stavroula Dodd (18)
- Niat Solomon (18)
- Maria Conklin (19)
- Sheila Hrapchak (22)
- Duane Schepers (22)
- Niko Rosekrans (24)
- Nahiella Nickolopoulos (25)
- Peter Retsinas (25)
- Mrs. Andreanna Zafiropoulos (25)
- Ellie Duhe (27)
- Madelyn Pritchard (27)
- Connie Scouffas (27)
- Anna Kinniburgh (29)
- Mr. Bereket Russom (29)
- Anastasia Pagos (30)
- Nadia Schepers (30)

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.



Stewardship Committee

By Butch and Maria Lafayette, Co-chairs
Christ Has Risen!

As we enter the second half of 2020, our daily activities continue to be impacted by the Corona Virus. However, our spiritual lives continue to flourish within the bonds of our strong faith in Orthodoxy as evidenced by strong Stewardship activities, including all facets of giving: Time, Talents, and Treasures. Through virtual services, virtual meetings, and on-line donations we continue to be a strong parish!

Once again we have positive Stewardship results to report this month! Our current Stewardship pledges total \$104,000 with \$49,410 having been received which is 39.5% of the budgeted amount of \$125,000. Projections of year-end results, assuming donations continue at the current rate, would bring us in on

budget! However, a few challenges lie ahead of us. Typically, the rate of giving slows down a bit as the year progresses, and this year, we anticipate additional virus-related expenses associated with re-opening the church.

Our vision of being united in corporate worship continues to strengthen us in these uncertain times. We appreciate your commitment to Stewardship and want to positively acknowledge all Stewardship efforts, be they Time, Talents, or Treasures. As a gentle reminder, during these times where are unable to experience corporate worship, technology has provided us an avenue to continue giving via the "Light a Candle and Say a Prayer" link located on the St. Haralambos home page. Thank you for utilizing this on-line donation feature as well as using traditional methods of supporting Stewardship.

General Assembly

Due to the consequences of the coronavirus, the Spring General Assembly has been cancelled, and the next Assembly

will be held this Fall, the date and time to be determined.

June Feastdays: Holy Apostles

(Continued from page 5)

questions, why not look at some of the amazing results of the ones He did choose?

Christianity has only continued to grow and spread the world over because of the apostles' efforts. Churches were established, letters of encouragement and instruction written, families baptized, inspirational artworks, hymns, poetry, and awe-inspiring architecture all were created to help nourish thirsty souls.

Despite scandals, divisions, wars and foreign occupation, the gospel of Christ has not gone away, and we have the Lord's chosen 12 to thank, along with unknown

numbers of saints and martyrs in the centuries since.

This month, we celebrate both the feastday of Sts. Peter and Paul (June 29), followed the next day by the Meeting of the 12 Apostles on the 30th. The Church has kept their remembrance to help inspire us to continue to "fight the good fight," and, in our own ways, serve as apostles, teachers, witnesses and evangelists for the Christian gospel, needed just as much today as in the time of our Lord.

July Birthdays



Stelios Kondiles (3)
Ms Mary Levendi (4)
Andrew Macrides (5)
Alexandros Papamatheakis (6)
Cathy Kapetanakis (8)
Nicholas Pappas (8)
Mary McGinn (9)
Alexander King (11)
Lisa Theoharatos (11)
Patricia Martin (14)
Peter Michas (14)
Alaina Perreault (14)
Mr Christos Mavridis (17)
Anastasia Kondiles (18)
George Trakas (18)
Laine Kinney (20)
Linda Zakas (22)
Ioannis Papamatheakis (23)
Jeannette Hollander (25)
Desiree Milonas (27)
Terry Pritchard (28)
Ms Sharon Bolas (29)
Anastacia Kelly-Macrides (29)
Mrs. Athena Paoly (29)
Magda Gryparis (31)
Donna Manos (31)

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.

A Father's Day Prayer

By Marilyn E. Thornton

Our Father who art in Heaven, bless the fathers who are on earth; Those who work hard every day to light a path and show the way; Those who forget and don't perceive the devastation when they leave.

Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come; Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Help the earthly fathers know and praise your name in daily flow, making no difference between the holy realm and worldly scene.

Give us this Day our Daily Bread. And for the dads without a job, Strengthen their faith in Provider God. Feed them with the bread of love, the wine of justice, the meat of determination, the fruit of the spirit; That they will remember how Jesus gave himself for us demonstrating that there are many ways for a man to give.

And Forgive us our Trespasses as we Forgive Those who Trespass against Us. Teach our men the ways of peace, desiring that all violence shall cease, whether husband/wife, parents/children neighbor to neighbor, nation to nation; Neither tongue, hand, gun, knife. No shock and awe, no fiery towers . . . Help humanity learn how to forgive.

And Lead us not into Temptation but Deliver us from Evil. Guide all daddies to be wise. Give them strength of soul to seek the prize of a world without racism or greed, a world where no child is left in need, a world where cheaters cannot win. Where salvation reigns, there is no sin.

For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory, Forever and ever, Amen.

Name Days

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

July

- St. Kyriaki (7th)
- SS. Cyril and Methodios (7th)
- St. Euphemia (11th)
- St. Nikodemos of the Holy Mountain (14th)
- St. Macrina (Sister of St. Basil) (19th)
- St. Mary Magdalene (22nd)
- St. Paraskevi (26th)
- St. Panteleimon (The All-Merciful) (27th)
- St. Irene (Chrysovalantou) (28th)
- St. Joseph of Arimathea (31st)



JUNE 2020

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Pentecost	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 7:45am Matins 9:00am Divine Liturgy All Saints Day	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Father's Day	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	29 9:00am Divine Liturgy Sts. Peter and Paul	30 9:00am Divine Liturgy Synaxis of the 12 Apostles				

JULY 2020

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			1	2	3	4 Independence Day
5 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 7:45am Matins 9:00am Divine Liturgy	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	27	28	29	30	31	