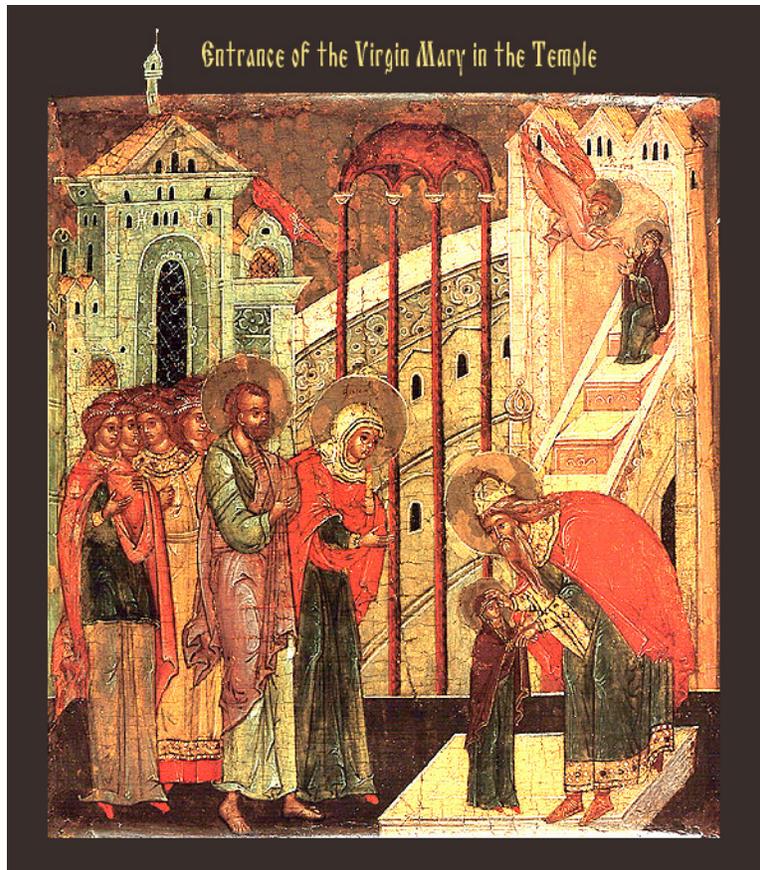


# THE MESSENGER

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church  
NOVEMBER 2014



## Presentation of the Theotokos into the Temple

### MARK THE DATES

November 1: Clocks fall back one hour tonight before bed!

November 2: NO CHURCH SCHOOL

November 8: Russian Confessions, 9:00 AM; Slavonic Liturgy, 10:00 AM

St. Paul Cooking Club, 2:00 PM (Piroghi Workshop)

Choir Rehearsal after Vespers

November 15: NATIVITY FAST BEGINS

Feeding the Homeless, 10:30 AM

November 18: Parish Council Meeting, 6:00 PM

November 21: PRESENTATION OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE

November 24-28: Father John out of town

November 27: Thanksgiving Day

Send email addresses and corrections to: [fatherjohn@lasvegasorthodox.com](mailto:fatherjohn@lasvegasorthodox.com)

# November 2014

St. Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church • Las Vegas, Nevada

<p><b>30</b>                  DIVINE LITURGY, 9:00 AM                  HOURS: HOOD                  EPISTLE: DEMKO                  POST-COMM: PARKER                  CHURCH SCHOOL</p>	<p><b>GREETERS</b>                  NOVEMBER 2: OSBURN/MURPHY                  NOVEMBER 9: CAMPBELL/WHEELER                  NOVEMBER 16: MCAULEY/JOHNSON                  NOVEMBER 23: MASON/CONDUCTOR                  NOVEMBER 30: CAMPBELL/OSBURN</p>					<p><b>1</b>                  BAPTISM, 10:00 AM                    GREAT VESPERS, 5:00 PM                  CONFESSIONS                  CLOCKS BACK TONIGHT</p>
<p><b>2</b>                  DIVINE LITURGY, 9:00 AM                  HOURS: YOUTH                  EPISTLE: YOUTH                  POST-COMM: YOUTH                  NO CHURCH SCHOOL                  HAILU WEDDING, 3:00 PM</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b>                  DAILY VESPERS, 6:30 PM                  ADULT FAITH FORUM</p>	<p><b>6</b>                  ERITREAN SERVICE, 8:00 AM                  COFFEE CHAT, 10:00 AM</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b>                  RUSSIAN CONFESSIONS, 9:00 AM                  SLAVONIC LITURGY                  10:00 AM                  PIROGHI WORKSHOP 2PM                  GREAT VESPERS, 5:00 PM                  CONFESSIONS                  CHOIR REHEARSAL</p>
<p><b>9</b>                  DIVINE LITURGY, 9:00 AM                  HOURS: STRANSKY                  EPISTLE: HOOD                  POST-COMM: BROOKS                  CHURCH SCHOOL                  SAIERMANN WEDDING,                  3:00 PM</p>	<p><b>10</b>                  PAN-ORTHO DOX CLERGY RETREAT, DUNLAP, CA                  (FATHER JOHN OUT OF TOWN)</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b>                  ERITREAN SERVICE, 8:00 AM                  COFFEE CHAT, 10:00 AM</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b>                  NATIVITY FAST BEGINS                  FEEDING THE HOMELESS                  10:30 AM                  GREAT VESPERS, 5:00 PM                  CONFESSIONS</p>
<p><b>16</b>                  DIVINE LITURGY, 9:00 AM                  HOURS: DEMKO                  EPISTLE: STRANSKY                  POST-COMM: WHEELER                  CHURCH SCHOOL</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b>                  PARISH COUNCIL, 6:00 PM</p>	<p><b>19</b>                  DAILY VESPERS, 6:30 PM                  ADULT FAITH FORUM</p>	<p><b>20</b>                  ERITREAN SERVICE, 8:00 AM                  COFFEE CHAT, 10:00 AM                    GREAT VESPERS                  WITH LITTIYA, 6:30 PM</p>	<p><b>21</b>                  DIVINE LITURGY, 8:00 AM                  ENTRANCE OF                  THE THEOTOKOS</p>	<p><b>22</b>                  BAPTISM, 10:00 AM                    GREAT VESPERS, 5:00 PM                  CONFESSIONS                  CHOIR REHEARSAL</p>
<p><b>23</b>                  DIVINE LITURGY, 9:00 AM                  HOURS: BROOKS                  EPISTLE: SAS                  POST-COMM: STRANSKY                  CHURCH SCHOOL</p>	<p><b>24</b>                  _____                  FATHER JOHN OUT OF TOWN FOR THANKSGIVING, NOVEMBER 24-28                  _____</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b>                  THANKSGIVING DAY                  ERITREAN SERVICE, 8:00 AM</p>	<p><b>28</b>                  _____</p>	<p><b>29</b>                  GREAT VESPERS, 5:00 PM                  CONFESSIONS</p>



# The Messenger

St. Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

P.O. Box 12635 • 5400 Annie Oakley Drive

Las Vegas, Nevada 89112-0635

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NOVEMBER 2014

## “Not CAN we, but HOW can we...”

*The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. (2 Cor 9:6-8)*

There are three common misconceptions about church life and budgeting:

- Our budget drives our programs.
- People will give if they understand what the Church needs.
- The best way to budget is on an annual basis.

### ***Our budget drives our programs***

One way of looking at the budget process, whether it be a modest family budget, a small parish budget or the budget of the Church, is to simply project

income for the coming year and say, “What can we do with that money?” Certainly, no one can stay solvent for long by spending more than is coming in. That’s true whether the amount is \$25,000, \$250,000, or \$2.5 million!

The problem with this approach is that it doesn’t take into account what needs to be done. There are two basic approaches to meeting needs that can be followed: first, we can decide that we have maximized our income (there is no more income anywhere to find), so we bite the bullet and slash staff and programs, even though all might be vital to performing our mission. Or second, we decide that the programs and staff already working are important and probably even inadequate, so we invest time and effort into developing new streams of revenue, different from those that we might consider tapped out in order to expand and deepen our work.

If a family knows that college expenses are coming up and there is no money for it, the choice must be made: either

expand income to meet the needs or forego college. If college is important, a second job might be taken, or loans applied for, with a payment plan that fits into the budget. If a parish knows that it is moving from a part-time pastor with a secular job to a full-time pastor devoting every effort to the growth of the parish, it challenges the parishioners to give generously so that the needs of the parish might be met. If the Church needs to develop programs, hire staff and be ready to meet the responsibilities of an autocephalous Church, we must devote efforts and current resources towards generating the necessary future resources to do that work.

### ***People will give if they understand what the Church needs***

Another approach to giving is the attitude that “if they only understand what we are doing and why we are doing it, they will give.” This approach is based on the assumption that people give in response to information, not inspiration.

# St. Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

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CHOIR DIRECTOR  
Matushka Elizabeth Dresko

## PARISH COUNCIL

Virginia Hood, Vice-President

Karen Short, Treasurer

Catherine Wilkalis, Secretary

James Brophy  
Alan Buttell  
Kevin McAuley  
Litsa Osburn  
Joseph Wheeler

## SUB-COMMITTEES

Building & Grounds  
Kevin McAuley

Eritrean & Ethiopian Outreach  
Genet Bokre

Russian Outreach  
Natalia Minkoff

Church School/Youth  
Amy McAuley  
Christina Sas

Fellowship Committee

The problem with this approach is that it ignores the basic principle of Christian giving. That principle is that we give from our blessings to the Church and others **because God gave first**. His gifts to us are unconditional and to reflect Him, we must be unconditional givers also. When we try to get people to give simply by explaining how the budget meets the needs of the Church, we do not inspire anyone. We run into serious problems when others do not agree with the priorities that we have established for the Church. We can spend time and effort trying to convince others of the budgeting priorities. But if they remain unconvinced, the budget suffers.

This approach might work for special projects (building programs, etc.), but it can cripple annual budgeting and normal day-to-day needs. When the Church inspires people, great things happen (i.e., the church-wide initiatives), but when we simply try to sell people the budget (i.e., another raise in the assessments to meet our “needs”), it fails.

### ***The best way to budget is on an annual basis***

It was not so long ago that it was not uncommon for parishes and smaller organizations to “fly by the seat of their pants” without budgets. What came in was spent as needs (electric bills, wine, a new lawn mower) arose. So to speak about annual budgets is a step forward and at least shows some effort at planning.

But the problem with annual budgets is that they tend to be shortsighted, great for immediate needs but lacking in vision and

effort at growth and the future needs of a vibrant community. Every dynamic growing entity, whether church or some other type of organization, has one thing in common: a short-, medium- and long-range vision. If our vision is to subsist and survive, then annual budgets are more than adequate for that vision.

### ***Not “Can We?” but “HOW Can We?”***

To put energy and focus into our budgeting processes, we must begin with a vision of where we want to be and then not ask, “Can we?” but look at it positively and ask, “How can we get there?” We must begin with long-term budgeting — dream big and clarify goals and objectives. Through prayer, brainstorming and effort ask, “What does God want us to accomplish?”

Then we must prioritize objectives. Despite our best efforts, resources are not infinite. We must, as church leadership, then ask, “If we can accomplish only one of our goals in the next three years, what would it be?” Once we answer that question, we must begin to plan short-term to meet long-term goals. Very little that we do in the Church is for only one year, so why do we plan that way?

Part of visionary planning would be to explore what can be done with more. Instead of just discussing and passing a budget that shows with “a” we can do “b”, we can show future goals by demonstrating that with “c” we can do “d”, and with “y” we can do “z.”

The core of administrative work in the Church is *ministry*.

Lots of good things get done when adequate funding is provided. By not using the budgeting process properly and failing to inspire our faithful, we are indeed "sowing sparingly." Why should we be surprised when we "reap sparingly"? Trying to fit spending into income is backwards and antithetical to the Gospel. Church budgeting should be visionary; trying to expand income into the spending needed to accomplish the Mission of Christ in the world.

God, through His apostle, has told us that when we give cheerfully, He provides everything necessary so that we can give abundantly. A visionary budgeting process is our faithful response to His promise.

*I believe we at St. Paul's have been trying to live by these words. I offer them as we prepare to offer our own individual pledges to the work of our parish next year. Please pray before deciding on your pledge!*

*Father John*

### **AXIOS!**

The Holy Synod of Bishops elected Father Daniel (Brum) as Bishop of Santa Rosa, Auxiliary Bishop for our diocese. He is currently Rector of Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Phoenix, AZ. His consecration will take place January 23, 2015 at Holy Trinity Cathedral in San Francisco. May God bless and keep him in this new ministry in our diocese! Please pray for him!

### **FEASTDAYS**

During November, we celebrate the following feastdays. Please join us!

*St. Michael the Archangel*

November 8

SLAVONIC LITURGY, 10 AM (SAT)

*Presentation of the Theotokos*

November 21

VESPERS/LITIYA, 6:30 PM (THUR)

DIVINE LITURGY, 8:00 AM (FRI)

### **FATHER AWAY**

Father John will be away for a pan\_Orthodox clergy retreat, November 10-12 and with family for Thanksgiving, November 24-28. Services will not be affected. If you have an emergency during those times, please contact Ginny Hood (702-526-4428), and we will coordinate a local response.

### **SCHEDULE CHANGE**

Due to the planned absences of most of our church school teachers, there will be **no church school classes** on Sunday, November 2.

### **CHOIR REHEARSAL**

Choir rehearsals will be held following Vespers on both November 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. All choir members are asked to make every effort to be present.

### **ST. PAUL'S COOKING CLUB**

The Cooking Club will meet on Saturday, November 8, at 2:00 PM. Matushka Liz will lead the workshop on the **art of making piroghi**. Anyone interested in learning this skill is welcome!

### **SLAVONIC SERVICE**

Father Alexander will be here for the regular monthly services on **November 8 (St. Michael's Day)**. Russian Confessions will be heard Saturday at 9:00 AM, followed by the Slavonic Liturgy at 10:00 AM.

### **FEEDING THE HOMELESS**

Our next Feeding the Homeless project date is **Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>**. We gather at 10:30 AM to prepare bag lunches then go down to distribute them to the needy. Join us! If you can donate any of the items needed for the lunches (or funds to provide such), it would be appreciated.

### **NATIVITY FAST**

The Nativity Fast in preparation for the Incarnation of our Lord begins on November 15, and continues through the celebration of the Divine Liturgy of the Feast on December 25.

During the Fast, everyone who is communing regularly should make the effort to reflect on their spiritual lives and come to the Sacrament of Confession before Christmas. Father hears confessions after Vespers on Saturday evenings and by appointment. **He does not mind making appointments (and there is no waiting in line!).**

### **PLEDGE FORMS DUE**

It is time to make a pledge for 2015. Pledge Forms have been distributed and all are asked to prayerfully and soberly make a pledge of time, talent and treasure to support the work of our parish next year. a scripturally based financial pledge is a proportionate (percentage) pledge, tithing (10% of your income) if possible. Forms are due back to Fr. John or Karen Short no later than December 1<sup>st</sup>. All pledges and personal information are confidential and never shared.

### **CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK**

It is time to start planning and baking for the Christmas Cookie

Walk. Volunteers are needed to bake and to organize and staff the cookie walk.

The cookie walk will be held on Saturday, December 6, St. Nicholas Day, from 10-1 following the liturgy. To volunteer or for more information, please contact Tanya Riley at 775-513-9457 or email her at tanyariley7403@yahoo.com. We want to build on the success from last year's first cookie walk. Please help!

### PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Our annual meeting will take place on Sunday, December 14. If you are interested in serving on the parish council (there will be openings), please see Fr. John, Litsa Osburn, or Ginny Hood. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month and you must be willing to not only meet, but act as a spiritual leader in the parish as well as willing to assume duties assigned by the council.

To serve on the parish council, you must meet the following qualifications (the same qualifications to be a voting member of the parish):

1) Have been a parish member for at least the past 12 months;

2) Have regularly, but at least once in the past year, been to the Sacraments of Confession and Communion in our parish;

3) Have a signed pledge form on file with the office.

*In addition, please note that our By-Laws prohibit two people from the same household serving on the council simultaneously (i.e., if your spouse is on the council, you are ineligible).*

### DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

Father John and Cathy Wilkalis

represented our parish at the annual Diocesan Assembly October 8-9 in Phoenix. The major decision of the assembly was to table for one year the proposed move of our diocesan assessment system to a totally proportional calculation.

In addition to normal business and reports, we heard an update about the revision of the Statute of the OCA, and plans for the upcoming All-American Council to be held in Atlanta in July. We also had a chance to meet with our own Desert Deanery clergy and laity.

### CHURCH SCHOOL

Classes have resumed with great excitement. Christina Sas, a teacher and coordinator, will be relocating in December, and a replacement will be needed. We also need **substitute teachers**, so if you can volunteer for either position, please see Christina or Amy McAuley.

*Qualifications to teach: you must be an active, communing Orthodox Christian at least 18 years of age, setting a good example for our children. You must have been a member of the parish for at least 12 months. You must undergo a criminal background check if one has not been done before. You must be willing to be regularly present each Sunday for classes.*

### ADULT FAITH FORUM

The Adult Faith Forum continues with discussion/bible study about the Orthodox teachings on contemporary issues. We are focusing right now on the Sermon on the Mount. Once again, we will have Wednesday evening Daily Vespers at 6:30 PM, followed by class.

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

We have established a goal of **\$60,000** to fund needed projects to maintain and repair our aging infrastructure. We ask everyone to consider a special donation to this fund, above and beyond your normal contributions for the support of the parish.

### CHARITY

Our normal collections of food for Friends of the Desert continue. *Special needs at this time: jelly, jam, peanut butter, canned fruit, canned tuna/chicken.* Thank you!

### ORTHODOX VENDORS

We have established a list of businesses that our parish uses or are owned and operated by Orthodox Christians (some parishioners). We provide this information for you to consider if you need services.

Amco Plumbing  
Howard Powell  
(702) 839-1286

CB Air Conditioning  
Cedomir Blagojevic  
(702) 493-0295

Dolphin Court Salon & Day Spa  
7581 W. Lake Mead Blvd.  
(702) 946-6000

Nina Grozav, Realtor  
bnv7777@gmail.com  
(702) 521-0208  
*speaks Russian and Romanian*

Kyklos Café (Greek food)  
Galleria Mall  
Sophocles Frangakis  
(702) 450-1515

XpressPro (auto repair)  
3190 E. Sunset Rd.  
Bruce & Svetlana Balasky  
(702) 815-0444

## PRAYER FOR OUR PARISH

We ask everyone to remember our parish in daily prayer: *Lord, God and Savior of all, we thank You for the blessing of St. Paul parish in our lives. May Your word become alive in each and every one of us who strive to follow You. Please bless and multiply all the gifts — time, talent and treasure — which are given in thanks to benefit our mission and glorify Your name. Bless and multiply the givers and help us all to make present Your Kingdom. For You are the Giver of all that is good, O Christ our God, and to You we give glory, together with Your Father who is without beginning and Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

## SACRAMENTS/SPECIAL SERVICES

Please follow these guidelines.

• **Baptisms.** A personal meeting scheduled with Fr. John will be necessary to schedule any baptism requested.

• **Matrimony.** A date and time for weddings must be requested at least six months (preferably twelve) in advance. There will be premarital sessions for both bride and groom to attend.

• **Memorials (Panikhida).** Requests for a memorial must be made at least one week in advance. If possible, the service should be served on Saturday. Other requests will be met as pastorally possible.

## PARISH COUNCIL SYNOPSIS OCTOBER 21, 2014 MEETING

*Rector's Report:*

Reported that Fr. David Brum of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish,

Phoenix, AZ was elected today as auxiliary bishop for the Diocese of the West. He will have the title of Bishop of Santa Rosa. He will remain at Sts. Peter and Paul parish for a while as its pastor until a new parish priest is appointed. Of interest to St. Paul's parish is that he served as priest here in 1998.

Diocesan Assembly was held in Phoenix, AZ October 8-9 attended by Fr. John and Catherine Wilkalis for our parish. Items of note:

1) Diocesan council tabled the financial proposal for proportional giving for a year due to objections by some parishes over a possible increase in assessments to the Diocese. OCA assessments are separate and currently at \$90 per head.

2) Fr. John received a gramota from the Holy Synod of Bishops for his 35th anniversary as priest. Fr. John reported 3 more adult catechumens are to be enrolled in our parish, bringing the total to 11 people; 8 adults and 3 children .

Fr. John informed the Council he will be away just a few days for Thanksgiving but will return for weekend services.

Reminded council to remember James Brophy in prayer as he continues to recover from surgery.

*Vice President:* No report

*Treasurer's Report:* Karen Short reported on our financials.

Capital Fund: \$1,569.33

Rainy Day: \$8,505.85

Icon Fund: \$7,050.20

Income for September was \$12,570.00, with expenses of \$17,662.23 for a **deficit of**

**\$5,092.23.**

## YTD 2014 (Jan-Sep)

**2014 Inc** \$ 182,929.84

**2014 Exp** \$ 163,334.58

**Inc over Exp** \$ 19,595.26

Karen reports all parish finances including accounts payable are totally current and this is the first year that this has ever been so. The Rainy Day Fund has grown but she considers it not large enough to invest yet. January and February 2014 received some good donations; the parish should go financially current into 2015. 85% of our money is now coming from pledges - she believes that this comes from parishioners exercising more consistent, responsible stewardship.

## *Buildings and Grounds:*

Kevin reports he has not had time to oversee various repairs and projects at church due to a heavy work schedule. Palm trees at back of property have all been removed. No complaints from neighbors about continuing water leaks. The wall is intact; no repairs needed.

Tumbleweeds and brush on property need clearing. Kevin and Fr. John will plan a day after Thanksgiving to get this done. The assistance of two individuals who need community service projects may be considered.

A donation of a hot water heater for the sacristy has been donated by Emanuel Sas. Church office door is fixed with a new handle. A leak in Ginny Hood's church school classroom needs to be fixed.

Current landscaper contract is up as of October 31st. He is aware we are open for bids. We

can opt to pay month to month – winter rates are \$220/month. Parish Council will consider bids from other contractors; Private Greens came well recommended. Alan Buttell will contact Russ Griffin for a bid.

*Charity:* Next feeding of the homeless will be on Saturday, November 15th at 10:30 AM. The September 6th homeless feeding distributed approximately 150 bag lunches, 180 hygiene packs and 123 pairs of new socks. Starting with a balance of \$291.35, \$69.48 was spent on food supplies, leaving a current balance of \$221.87.

*Church School/Youth:* Emanuel and Christina Sas are moving to Minnesota. This will impact the Church School. They and Fr. John are working on a transitional plan. More church school volunteers are needed. There will be no classes November 2 due to extensive absences of teachers on Nevada Day holiday weekend. A Saint Nicholas day celebration for all classes together may be planned for the last Sunday in November.

*Eritrean/Ethiopian:* no report.

*Fellowship:* Octoberfest is scheduled for Saturday the 25th. Committee members worked hard to organize it. Food and beer is purchased; musical entertainment by Dave Poe and band is set; 77 tickets have sold so far – an increase of 27 from last year.

Cookie Walk planned for Saturday, December 6th after liturgy. Tanya Riley is organizing. Bakers are needed. Advertisizing includes

a banner for the church fence, flyers for neighbors and school across the street.

*Outreach/Website:* no report.

*Russian:* No report

*Stewardship:* Annual pledge forms will be distributed this Sunday, October 26. Completed pledge forms will be due by December 1.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

*Bell Tower:* Current permit is \$272 expiring in January. It will be renewed in December, which will give us six months to do the work. We are \$1420 short of what we need to do to finish the project. Total cost of project is about \$3000.

*Annual Benefit Dinner:* The Annual Benefit Dinner for St. Paul's parish is scheduled for February 8, 2015. Pam Campbell will be asking for higher end silent auction items and will be selling tickets and table purchases.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

*Calendar:* After discussion by the Council, it was decided to order a supply of 2015 Church Calendars for the parish. Alan Buttell graciously offered to sponsor the calendars once again. 150 will be ordered, at \$4.00 each.

*Annual Meeting:* After discussion by the Council, it was decided to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on December 14 instead of December 7. This will allow more time to develop a budget, project more realistic year-end financial reports and hold a budget meeting. Documents will be available

to the parish after the November parish council meeting. Three council positions and one auditor position will be open. Litsa Osburn and Ginny Hood will help Fr. John with the nominations committee.

*All- American Council:* Scheduled for July 20–25 in Atlanta, GA. The lay delegate attending will be nominated and elected at the Annual Parish Meeting in December.

*Next Meeting:* Tuesday, November 18, 2014, 6:00 PM.

## **PARISH DIPTYCHS**

*This list of parish departed is to remind us all of those whom we love and miss and to spur us to remember them in our daily prayers. They will be remembered in the proskomedia before each liturgy.*

### **MONTH OF NOVEMBER**

Jacquelyn George  
November 6, 2002

LemLem Tekle  
November 8, 2003

Mary Simkovich  
November 9, 2011

Konstantin Zaiats  
November 15, 1999

Jon Gregory  
November 17, 1998

Krsto Rosich  
November 19, 1993

Daniel Filimon  
November 20, 1999

Theresa Wilkinson  
November 21, 2002

Scott Irving Dotson  
November 25, 1991