

**September Notes:** ... Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> is *Joshua Teter's* name day (Righteous Joshua, Son of Navi) ... Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup> is sister *Phoebe's* (St Phoebe, Deaconess at Cenchrae) ... **Orthodoxy 101** continues on Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 ... *Ruslana (Nadezhda) Apreleva* celebrates her birthday on Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup> ... **Great Vespers with Litya** is at 6:30 PM on Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> ... Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM is **Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of the Most-Holy Theotokos** ... and **Great Vespers & Confession that evening at 5:30** ... the 8<sup>th</sup> is also *Mary Cox's* name day ... Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> is *Robyn Myers's* name day (St Anna, Holy & Righteous Ancestor of God) ... and there will be **church school** after the Divine Liturgy ... **Orthodoxy 101** continues that evening at 6:30 ... **Great Vespers with Litya** is at 6:30 PM on Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup> ... Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 AM is **Divine Liturgy for the Exaltation of the Cross** ... on Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> there will be **Parish Council** after the Divine Liturgy ... Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> is *Ruslana Apreleva's* name day (Nadezhda/Hope), *Wafaa Saleeb's* name day (Vera/Faith/Iman), and the anniversary of *Father Alexander's* ordination to the Holy Priesthood ... **Orthodoxy 101** continues on Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 ... *Tom and Mary Cox's* anniversary is Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> ... ... Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> is *Rick & Shirley (Nina) Sandbothe's* anniversary ... **Orthodoxy 101** continues on Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 ... and there will be a **choir practice** at 6:30 PM on Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup>!

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*O King of all Thou art He Who is and Who abidest unto all ages, accept the prayers of sinners who ask for salvation; grant abundance to Thine earth, O Lover of mankind; and bestow temperate weather; assist Thy people as they battle against the enemy as once Thou didst for David when they entered into Thy dwellings and defiled that Holy place, O Savior. Grant us victories, O Christ God, through the prayers of the Theotokos for Thou art the victory and the boast of the Orthodox.*



# SEPTEMBER 2018

## Happy New Year!

Make Yours Acceptable to the Lord!

It seems odd saying “Happy New Year” in September, but that’s when the Church marks her annual beginning. September 1st is, for the Church, the first day of a New Year. A pious tradition of the Church holds that Jesus of Nazareth began preaching the good news of His mission on September 1st. When our Lord entered the Synagogue, He was given the book of the Prophet Isaiah to read, and He opened it and found the place where it is written:

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing” (Luke 4:18-21).*

Tradition also holds that it was during the month of September that the Hebrews entered the Promised Land. And, the custom of beginning a new year with autumn was common in Biblical and Mediterranean lands because the summer harvest was completed, the crops were stored, and it was a time when people began preparing for a new agricultural cycle. It was an appropriate time for a new beginning. This is evident in the services for the New Year as the Church beseeches God for fair weather, seasonable rains, and an abundance of the fruits of the earth.

As we begin this new year it should be noted that the Church Calendar is loaded with important events -- especially the 12 Great Feasts, the Four Fasts, and PASCHA. Also, each day of the Church Year is set aside to honor saints; many of whom died on that particular date. Similar to our personal calendars where we mark the earthly birthdays of family and friends, the Church remembers the Saints on their “heavenly birthday” -- the day they passed from this life to Paradise.

Liturgically, the Church Year begins and ends with the Mother of God. The first Great Feast of the Year, September 8th, honors her birth; the last Great Feast of the Year, August 15th, remembers her falling asleep. Between these two Great Feasts the Church marks 10 other major Feasts and PASCHA, the Feast of Feasts. Here’s a list of those Feasts, including their dates for the coming year:

Birth of the Theotokos, September 8th • Elevation of the Holy Cross, September 14th • Entry of the Theotokos in the Temple, November 21st • Nativity of Christ (Christmas), December 25th • Baptism of Christ (Theophany), January 6th • Meeting of Christ in the Temple, February 2nd • Annunciation of the Theotokos, March 25th • Entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday), April 21 • Ascension of our Lord, June 6 • Pentecost Sunday, June 16 • Transfiguration of our Lord, August 6th • Falling Asleep of the Theotokos (Dormition), August 15th.

Why not start the New Year off right? Mark your personal calendar with the Feasts, Fasts, and Saints days of the Church. Make a resolution to participate in the liturgical cycle of the Church. Unlike mundane New Year's resolutions, marking your calendar, keeping the Feasts and Fasts, and embarking for a new life within the annual life of the Church is a wonderful way to sanctify time. Let's all join together in making this an "acceptable year of the Lord!"

Happy New Year!

-- Fr. Joseph Huneycutt, St Joseph Orthodox Church, Houston, Texas

## Charity of the Month



Holy Protection of the Holy Virgin Monastery was established with the blessing of His Grace, Bishop Tikhon in October of 1993. The changing demographics of the US led the sisters to feel that the Rocky Mountain region would not only be an area conducive to the life of prayer, but would also be fertile ground in which to plant a monastic community. The sisterhood, having no funds of their own, first rented a small house in the prairie town of Calhan, located east of Colorado Springs, until they could raise enough material resources for a down payment on a piece of land. The search for a suitable site led the sisters to the mountains west of Pikes Peak where 10.3 acres with a 3000 square

foot house was found for a price of \$150,000 which was purchased in 1995. In 1999, an additional 3.5 acres of forest land was added to the monastery. A small guest wing was added to the existing structures in 2002. The attached garage was remodeled to be a small chapel which has served well, but now efforts are underway to build a free-standing church.

The Monastic Community is presently very small, however there is ample room in the buildings to house more sisters. The somewhat rugged life and remote location is better suited to younger, rather than older, women seeking the monastic life. The sisters strive to support themselves through mounting icon prints, making prayer ropes, speaking at retreats and conferences, as well as writing and publishing. The Monastery newsletter, "The Veil" is published three times a year.

## Modern-Day Job Refuses To Curse God Even After Three Hours Of Spotty Internet



## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

*(unaudited)*

	July Actual	July Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
<b>Income</b>	8,725.48	4,845.00	41,014.68	30,915.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	4,595.55	4,155.35	32,654.90	29,947.81
<b>Cash Flow</b>	4,129.93	689.65	8,359.78	967.19
<b>Building Fund</b> <i>(Net of Rent Reserves):</i>	21,697.51			