

# Dormition of the Mother of God

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

600 South Willard Street  
PO Box 8122 | Burlington, VT 05402  
(802) 862-2155 | Fax (802) 881-0717  
[www.gocvt.org](http://www.gocvt.org)

Rev. Fr. Ephraim Ehres, Presbyter  
Mobile (217) 621-8364  
Home (802) 922-2260  
[FrEphraimEhres@mail.goarch.org](mailto:FrEphraimEhres@mail.goarch.org)

## Stewardship, Membership & Good Standing

*Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." (Matthew 16:24)*

### Our Mission Statement

The faithful community of the Dormition of the Theotokos is a Greek Orthodox Church whose purpose is to preach faithfully and worshipfully the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to the faithful Orthodox Christians and people of the metropolitan area of Burlington, VT, and the USA, through the regulations of the Holy Archdiocese of America, the faith, the traditions, the teachings of the Fathers, the witness of the saints, the Canons of the Church, and the liturgical worship of the Holy Orthodox Church in its mission, outreach, and charitable work and so bring the light of our Lord's resurrection and life to the area and peoples.

**Read more about members' religious, moral, and social duties on page 2 ...**

About Membership &  
Stewardship

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Every baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christian is a member of the body of Christ, a steward of the holy Church. The religious, moral, and social duties of members include the following:

- Adhering to and living according to the tenets of the Orthodox faith
- Faithfully attending the Divine Liturgy and other worship services
- Participating regularly in the holy sacraments
- Respecting all ecclesiastical authority and all governing bodies of the Church
- Being obedient in matters of the faith, practice, and ecclesiastical order
- Contributing toward the progress of the Church's sacred mission
- Being effective witnesses and examples of the Orthodox faith and traditions to all people

To be a steward and member in good standing, one cannot simply contribute a minimum financially, but must also actively participate in the aforementioned ways. Membership in the body of Christ is a commitment to taking up one's cross and following Christ. For any given community of Christians, it is only the dedication of its members that is the limit of its work. The Church is the Lord's and we are doing His work in it.

In the Old Testament there is a standard for material stewardship: tithing, that is, giving the first 10 percent of one's income, harvest, etc. to God. The good news is that Christians aren't expected to tithe; rather, we should give everything we own to God, as we read in Acts 2:42-47. In our stewardship appeals, we have requested that our stewards commit to offering the bare minimum per steward needed to cover our parish's current expenses; however, simply keeping the doors open cannot be our only goal. Our mission is dedicating our lives to Christ and His Church, so that we become a dynamic worshipping, living, Christ-centered Church—a parish known for its dedication and loyalty to Jesus Christ and His Gospel, a community that is a light among people so that they may glorify our Father in heaven.

# Parish Ministry Directory

## Clergy

**Rev. Fr. Ephraim Ehres, Presbyter**  
FrEphraimEhres@mail.goarch.org  
Mobile (217) 621-8260  
Home (802) 899-0629

**Rev. Protospresbyter Robert Athas,**  
Retired

## Parish Council Officers & Members

### President

John Tampas (864-6645)

### Vice President

Nicholas Pitt (434-2493)

### Secretary

Paul Henninge (660-8332)

### Treasurer

David Hunt (619-565-5293)

Eleni Churchill (660-0453)

Angelike Contis (899-2893)

George Hatgen (864-9839)  
(Honorary member)

Erie Jasinski (resigned)

Greg Lambesis (524-3840)

Jacqueline Maria (862-7372)

Sotos Papaseraphim (878-1163)

Nectar Rorris (863-4375)

## Education & Youth

### Sunday Church School Director

Presvytera Aimee Ehres  
aimee.ehres@gmail.com  
(217) 621-8260

Georgia Maheras, Sunday Church  
School Teacher

Theodora Contis, Greek Language

Tammy Valadakis, Greek Dance

## Philoptochos Officers & Members

### President

Presvytera Anthe Athas (865-4416)

### Vice President

Maria Michaelides (878-3933)

### Treasurer

Theodora Contis (899-2893)

### Secretary

Tammy Valadakis (583-3880)

Helen Costopoulos (864-5661)

Aleka Michaelides (862-3803)

Maria Papaseraphim (878-1163)

Constance Thomas (864-9512)

Voula Zontanos (878-5475)

## Mailings Volunteer

Pat Oleszkiewicz

## Music Ministry

### Choir Director

Presvytera Anthe Athas

### Cantor

Vasilios Contis

George Bennis

Alina Colondres

Theodora Contis

Zoe Griffing

Paul Henninge

Aleka Michaelides

Maria Michaelides

Mariana Moscin

Adriana Putregai

Constance Thomas

## Order of AHEPA

### President

Gregory Lambesis

## Altar Servers

Thomas Dede

Justin Griffing

Nicholas Rorris

## Bookstore

David & Dawnie Hunt

## PLEASE NOTE: CHANGE IN NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

The Parish Council has decided, as part of a new environmentally minded policy, that we will change our newsletter's format and distribution to reduce its time, cost, and environmental impact. Starting in January 2015, we will no longer send printed copies of the newsletter except to those who specifically request it. All others will receive an electronic copy only. If you would like a printed copy, please call the church to leave a message at (802) 862-2155 or e-mail Fr. Ephraim at fr.ephraim.ehres@mail.goarch.org

**Thank you and God bless you!**

**Fr. Ephraim Ehres, Proistamenos**

**Dr. John Tampas, President**



## Legacy & Sponsorship Opportunities

Our parish is growing and becoming more active—and we're realizing that we are in need of several substantial new and replacement items.

We thank Philoptochos for actively and generously looking to many of our church's needs, such as restoring and repairing iconography, providing new altar cloths for

Pascha, and for countless other material contributions and monetary donations over the years.

Yet we also have many opportunities for individuals and families to designate gifts in honor of loved ones, or even to give anonymously. Fr. Ephraim and the Parish Council have identified the following needs, among others:

- A new gilded Gospel (*Evangelion*) cover and book from Holy Cross Orthodox Press (has English/Greek with Sundays, major feast days and weekday readings) (\$1,000–\$3,000)
- Two gilded Epistle (*Apostolos*) covers & books, one English, one Greek (\$500–\$900 per book)
- New baptismal font, or sponsorship for refinishing our current font (\$3,000–\$8,000)
- Two matching icon stands (\$500–\$1,000 each)
- Two new censers, one with and one without bells (\$200–\$500 per censer)
- Twelve Great Feast icons set and/or Holy Week set (\$900–\$1,500 per set)
- Large feast day icons of major saints, for processions and veneration, e.g., St. Demetrios, St. George, St. Nectarios, the Evangelists, the Holy Apostles, Church Fathers and Mothers, Great Martyrs (\$50–\$100 per icon)

Please contact Fr. Ephraim to discuss ways you can make a lasting contribution to the beauty of worship in our church!

## Parish Council News

The Parish Council met on October 12, 2014.

The Treasurer's report was deferred to the upcoming parish General Assembly.

Angelike Contis provided a retreat report on the environment. As a result of her presentation, the Council agreed to create a Dormition Environment Committee whose actions would include buildings and landscaping, daily functions, special events, engagement and other responsibilities. Individuals interested in becoming members of this committee should contact the Parish Council.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee reported that the roof repairs and insulation of the parish house are nearly complete. A recommendation

that approximately \$2,000 be utilized for removal of dead trees and rubbish adjacent to the parish house and the Majestic car rental was approved.

It was announced that the parish's National Ministries allocation will remain at \$8,000.

It was agreed that printed parish newsletters will be sent only to those who request it. Otherwise the newsletter will be distributed online.

The Council discussed measures to contribute to the St. Nicholas Shrine, which is based at Ground Zero. Possibilities include requesting contributions to this project with a match from the parish's funds. The possibility of combining this with the St. Nicholas Day celebration was also considered.



## Philoptochos News & Announcements

*The Philoptochos Society is the official philanthropic organization of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.*

*Come and join us in doing the charity of our Orthodox Christian faith in this place.*

Philoptochos means “friend of the poor.”



All women of our parish are invited to become members.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who helped out with the Fall Bake Sale, baking, setting up, donating baked goods, selling and buying.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

**Sunday, December 8 – 2:00 pm**

Our December meeting and Christmas get-together is hosted by Theodora Contis at her home: 4 Arcadia Circle, Jericho, VT.

Call Presvytera Anthe (865-4416) if you could give a ride or need a ride.

**SPECIAL THANKS** to Ernest Malle for donating his considerable time, talent and material to refurbishing the frame on the Heretismoi Icon of the Theotokos that Philoptochos just had restored. Many years!

### SHOP AMAZON & A PORTION OF YOUR SALE WILL BE DONATED TO THE NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS

Philoptochos has partnered with Amazon through Smile.Amazon.com. Shopping through this site is exactly like shopping on regular Amazon, with the same products, prices and services as well as the same look and navigation of the website. The benefit of this program is it allows customers to select a charitable organization to which 0.5% of every purchase made will be donated.

- Access Amazon through Smile.Amazon.com. You will be prompted to select an organization, and the Amazon Smile Foundation will send their contribution to this selection.
- Please select National Philoptochos (or tax ID 13-6147442) as the charity you wish to support. It is extremely important that this specific name “National Philoptochos” be chosen in order to receive donations for Social Services.

Help share the blessings of the season with others by supporting of the season with others by supporting our partnership with Smile.Amazon.com. Please note that this program is in effect 365 days per year. (To access the original article in the Philoptochos newsletter, “Philanthropy Witness” follow the URL: [www.philoptochos.org/assets/files/newsletter/National%20Newsletter%2011.14.pdf](http://www.philoptochos.org/assets/files/newsletter/National%20Newsletter%2011.14.pdf) )

### GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISE — GOD IS WITH US

<sup>56</sup> “Blessed be the Lord, who has given rest to his people Israel according to all that he promised; not one word has failed of all his good promise, which he spoke through his servant Moses. <sup>57</sup> The Lord our God be with us, as he was with our ancestors; may he not leave us or abandon us, <sup>58</sup> but incline our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, his statutes, and his ordinances, which he commanded our ancestors. <sup>59</sup> Let these words of mine, with which I pleaded before the Lord, be near to the Lord our God day and night, and may he maintain the cause of his servant and the cause of his people Israel, as each day requires; <sup>60</sup> so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no other. <sup>61</sup> Therefore devote yourselves completely to the Lord our God, walking in his statutes and keeping his commandments, as at this day.” (1 Kings 8:56–61, NRSV)



METROPOLIS OF BOSTON

## DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

600 SOUTH WILLARD STREET • BURLINGTON, VERMONT 05401  
(OFF LEDGE ROAD AT THE RTE 7 ROTARY)

11/18/2014

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

Since the horrible and tragic events of the Godless terror attack on the two towers of the World Trade Centers in New York 9/11/2001 the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese has not only mourned the death of some 3000 souls but also mourned the loss of the iconic church of St. Nicholas.

As part of the restoration the World Trade Centers and the building of the new "Freedom Tower" or World Trade Center tower 1, the two memorials, but above all the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese has been allowed to rebuild the Church of St. Nicholas. See below for a link to the website with a video of the proposed building and Church. This will be the only religious building at the World Trade Center.

<http://www.stnicholaswtc.org/video/>

The Archdiocese has subsequently requested all of the parishes support to build the National Shrine of St. Nicholas. It is a building which will get faithful and otherwise religious people a chance to pray, reflect, and draw near the Lord our God.

It is for that reason the Parish Council of our own Dormition of the Mother of God Greek Orthodox Church has decided to make three annual fund raising events on the first Sunday after St. Nicholas day starting 12/07/14; next year 12/06/15; and 12/11/16. This upcoming Sunday 12/07/14 we will have a brunch for the raising of funds in support of the building of this National Shrine of St. Nicholas Church hosted by all those celebrating the feast of St. Nicholas. Please keep this in mind as we approach the feast day of St. Nicholas. If you have any questions please contact myself or our Vice-President Nick Pitt.

With love in Christ Jesus,

Fr. Ephraim Ehres



## DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

600 SOUTH WILLARD STREET · BURLINGTON, VERMONT 05401  
(OFF LEDGE ROAD AT THE RTE 7 ROTARY)

October 27, 2014

Dear Parishioners,

On Sunday, December 7th all Stewards in good standing are invited to cast their vote for up to six (6) of the following seven (7) candidates who will be filling six (6) vacancies on the parish council: Eleni Churchill, Angelike Contis, Predrag Graovac, Georgia Maharas, Jackie Maria, Nancy Trombley and Steven Yialiades. The candidates who are elected will be serving a term from January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016.

Voting will take place in the Community Center beginning after the Divine Liturgy and will close at 1:00 PM.

After the close of the Elections the Election Committee will meet to tabulate the votes and submit the results to the Metropolis for ratification.

If you are unable to attend and cast your vote in person, you may request an absentee ballot, which the committee will include with its tabulations.

To request an absentee ballot you may either write to the Election Committee at the following address:

Election Committee  
Dormition Greek Orthodox Church  
PO Box 8122  
Burlington, VT 05402-8122

or to expedite the process you may request your Absentee Ballot via email from Father Ephraim at FrEphraimEhrs@mail.goarch.org with the subject: ABSENTEE BALLOT.

Your completed absentee ballot must be returned no later than Friday, December 5th, in order for it to be counted by the Committee.

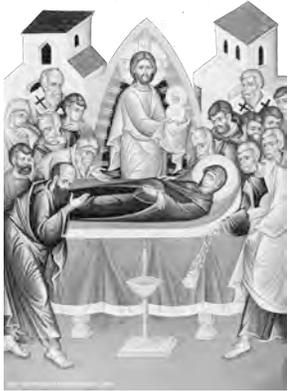
In His Service,

Rev. Fr. Ephraim Ehrs

Maria Papaseraphim

Sally Pitt

Voula Zontanos

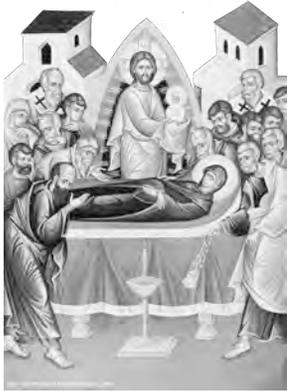


# December 2014

## Dormition of the Mother of God Greek Orthodox Church

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| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                             | Monday                                            | Tuesday | Wednesday                                                                                          | Thursday                                                                                          | Friday                                                          | Saturday                                                                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| + Nov. 30<br>9:00 am - Orthros<br>10:00 am - Liturgy<br><i>No Sunday School</i><br><b>Coffee hour: Presvytera Anthe, in memory of her parents</b>                                  | + 1                                               | + 2     | + 3<br>5:30 pm - Vespers<br>followed by Bible Study                                                | + 4<br><b>ST. BARBARA</b><br>9:00 am - Liturgy<br>2:00-5:00 pm -<br>Fr. Ephraim's office<br>hours | + 5<br>6:00 pm - Small<br>Paraklesis (Moleben)                  | + 6<br><b>ST. NICHOLAS</b><br>9:00 am - Liturgy<br>Choir rehearsal after<br>liturgy & coffee<br>12:00 pm -<br>Orthodoxy 101<br>5:00 pm - Vespers |
| + 7<br>9:00 am - Orthros<br>10:00 am - Liturgy<br>2:00 pm - Philoptochos<br>meeting and Christmas<br>get-together at the home<br>of Theodora Contis<br><b>Breakfast: All Nicks</b> | + 8                                               | + 9     | + 10<br>5:30 pm - Vespers<br>followed by Bible Study                                               | + 11<br>2:00-5:00 pm -<br>Fr. Ephraim's office<br>hours                                           | + 12<br>6:00 pm - Small<br>Paraklesis (Moleben)                 | + 13<br>11:00 am -<br>Orthodoxy 101<br>5:00 pm - Vespers                                                                                         |
| + 14<br>9:00 am - Orthros<br>10:00 am - Liturgy<br><i>Christmas pageant<br/>rehearsal &amp; youth<br/>service project</i><br><b>Coffee hour:</b>                                   | + 15                                              | + 16    | + 17<br>5:30 pm - Vespers<br>followed by Bible Study                                               | + 18<br>2:00-5:00 pm -<br>Fr. Ephraim's office<br>hours                                           | + 19<br>6:00 pm - Small<br>Paraklesis (Moleben)                 | + 20<br>11:00 am -<br>Orthodoxy 101<br>12:00-2:30 pm -<br>Family activity &<br>Christmas pageant<br>rehearsal<br>5:00 pm - Vespers               |
| + 21<br><b>ST. MATTHEW THE<br/>EVANGELIST</b><br>9:00 am - Orthros<br>10:00 am - Liturgy<br><i>Christmas Pageant<br/>Community Breakfast</i>                                       | + 22<br><b>ST. ANASTASIA</b><br>9:00 am - Liturgy | + 23    | + 24<br><b>FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY</b><br>9:00 am - Royal Hours<br>6:00 pm - Vesperal<br>Liturgy | 25<br><b>NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b><br>9:00 am - Orthros<br>10:00 am - Liturgy                      | 26<br><b>SYNAXIS OF THE<br/>THEOTOKOS</b><br>10:00 am - Liturgy | 27<br><b>PROTOMARTYR<br/>ST. STEPHEN</b><br>10:00 am - Liturgy<br>5:00 pm - Vespers                                                              |
| 28<br>9:00 am - Orthros<br>10:00 am - Liturgy<br><i>No Sunday School</i><br><b>Coffee hour:</b>                                                                                    | 29                                                | 30      | 31<br>6:00 pm - Great Vespers<br>(Circumcision of the Lord;<br>St. Basil)                          |                                                                                                   |                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                  |



# January 2015

## Dormition of the Mother of God Greek Orthodox Church

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| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Monday                                                                                                                         | Tuesday                                                                                                    | Wednesday                                                                                                  | Thursday                                                                                                      | Friday                                                                                              | Saturday                                                                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                            | 1<br><b>CIRCUMCISION OF THE LORD</b><br><b>ST. BASIL THE GREAT</b><br>9:00 am - Orthros<br>10:00 am - Liturgy | + 2<br>6:00 pm - Small<br>Paraklesis (Moleben)                                                      | 3<br>11:00 am -<br>Orthodoxy 101<br>5:00 pm - Vespers                                              |
| 4<br>9:00 am - Orthros<br>10:00 am - Liturgy<br><i>Tray for St. Basil's Academy</i><br><i>Sunday School resumes</i><br><i>Philoptochos meeting</i><br><b>Coffee hour: Vasilopita,</b><br><i>hosted by Philoptochos</i> | 5<br><b>FOREFEAST OF THEOPHANY</b><br>4:00 pm - Royal Hours<br>6:00 pm - Vesperal<br>Liturgy & Small Blessing<br>of the Waters | 6<br><b>HOLY THEOPHANY</b><br>9:00 am - Orthros<br>10:00 am - Liturgy &<br>Great Blessing of the<br>Waters | + 7<br><b>ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST</b><br>9:00 am - Liturgy<br>5:30 pm - Vespers<br>followed by Bible Study    | 8<br>2:00-5:00 pm -<br>Fr. Ephraim's office<br>hours                                                          | + 9<br>6:00 pm - Small<br>Paraklesis (Moleben)                                                      | 10<br>11:00 am -<br>Orthodoxy 101<br>5:00 pm - Vespers                                             |
| 11<br>9:00 am - Orthros<br>10:00 am - Liturgy<br><i>Blessing of Lake</i><br><i>Champlain, followed by</i><br><i>Soup luncheon &amp; Vasilopita,</i><br><i>hosted by Parish Council</i>                                 | 12<br>6:00 pm - Parish Council<br>meeting                                                                                      | 13                                                                                                         | + 14<br>5:30 pm - Vespers<br>followed by Bible Study                                                       | 15<br>2:00-5:00 pm -<br>Fr. Ephraim's office<br>hours                                                         | + 16<br>6:00 pm - Small<br>Paraklesis (Moleben)                                                     | 17<br><b>ST. ANTHONY</b><br>10:00 am - Liturgy<br>11:00 am -<br>Orthodoxy 101<br>5:00 pm - Vespers |
| 18<br>9:00 am - Orthros<br>10:00 am - Liturgy<br><br><b>Coffee hour:</b>                                                                                                                                               | 19                                                                                                                             | 20                                                                                                         | + 21<br>5:30 pm - Vespers<br>followed by Bible Study                                                       | 22<br>2:00-5:00 pm -<br>Fr. Ephraim's office<br>hours                                                         | + 23<br>6:00 pm - Small<br>Paraklesis (Moleben)                                                     | 24<br>9:30-11:30 -<br>Choir rehearsal<br>11:00 am -<br>Orthodoxy 101<br>5:00 pm - Vespers          |
| 25<br>9:00 am - Orthros<br>10:00 am - Liturgy<br><br><b>Coffee hour:</b>                                                                                                                                               | 26                                                                                                                             | 27                                                                                                         | + 28<br><b>ST. EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN</b><br>9:00 am - Liturgy<br>5:30 pm - Vespers<br>followed by Bible Study | 29<br>2:00-5:00 pm -<br>Fr. Ephraim's office<br>hours                                                         | + 30<br><b>THREE HOLY HIERARCHS</b><br>9:00 am - Liturgy<br>6:00 pm - Small<br>Paraklesis (Moleben) | 31<br>11:00 am -<br>Orthodoxy 101<br>5:00 pm - Vespers                                             |

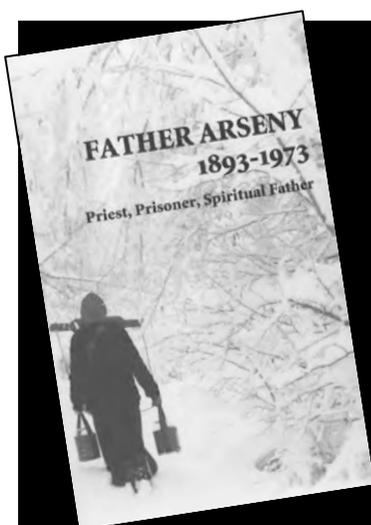


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Η Γέφυρα | The Bridge

November & December 2014



## Orthodoxy 101 Reading Group

*Saturday mornings – see calendar for times*

This winter, we will take deeper steps into the mind and heart of the Orthodox Faith by reading another spiritual classic: *Father Arseny, 1893-1973: Priest, Prisoner, Spiritual Father*. “Father Arseny, former scholar of church art, became Prisoner No. 18736 in the brutal ‘special sector’ of the Soviet prison camp system. This narrative, compiled from accounts of Father Arseny’s spiritual children and others whom he brought to God, gives stirring glimpses of his life in prison camp and after his release. It also tells the stories of people whose lives, often during times of almost unimaginable crisis, were touched and transfigured through their connection with Father Arseny” (from the publisher’s description). Join us Saturday mornings as we let Father Arseny teach us to “bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2).