

The Spirit of St. George

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
4530 E. Gold Dust Ave., Phoenix, Arizona 85028-4221

Volume X Number 9 Monthly except July & August

November 2003

~ A Message from Fr. Chris...

*If you would not be forgotten, As soon as you are dead and rotten,
Either write things worth reading, Or do things worth writing. - Benjamin Franklin*

People who really believe in something are men and women of action. Throughout the history of our world we've seen the certainty of this statement. Madmen like Stalin and Bin-Laden have orchestrated the senseless and violent deaths of so many innocents. Regardless, if we share their beliefs, one can scarcely deny the fact that there is something that they stand for, morbid as it may be. Other individuals like Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. share equally passionate conviction, but chose action through non-violence as the method of propagating their beliefs. What one can hardly overlook in any of these lives is that their convictions led to serious action.

Everyone believes in something. There is not a soul out there that does not hold some sort of belief. And these beliefs are not simply locked up inside our minds, but rather, lead us to action. Say for example that I am in my office and I want to sit behind my desk. I believe that the chair is solid and will hold my weight once I sit upon it. Because I believe that, I'm able to sit comfortably and –to date— haven't fallen through the chair! I also believe that exercise and a wholesome diet will lead to a long and healthy life. Because of this belief I run, lift weights and watch what I eat.

As you most probably figured, my challenge to Orthodox Christians who claim faith in Jesus Christ as Lord God and savior, is to transform this conviction into a life of action. The way one acts, reveals the veracity of one's beliefs. No one would believe that Osama Bin-Laden seeks change through peaceful means because his actions simply prove otherwise. Likewise, we cannot say we are Christians if we do not act like Christians. Words are like empty

jars if we do not fill them with deeds. And saying, "Jesus is in my heart" will not suffice, either. My question then is, "Where is your heart?" The answer? Your heart is in your feet and in your legs. You can't tell me you love God and then chase after sin. The two just don't compute. I know what you believe and love by where you're standing. If you love God and believe in Him, then you seek to accomplish His will. Remember Christ's words: "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Any prodigal who returns to the Father's house shall be greatly welcomed. He will be clothed with the original splendor of sonship and shall be restored to the heavenly table. It then follows that he who seeks a mature and full knowledge of what that means and what those benefits imply. But knowledge is not acquired for the sake of knowledge, but instead to be transformed into action. To plagiarize Scripture, "knowledge" without works is dead! (cf. Jam.2:24)

Action is the next step on our journey. To act as an Orthodox Christian puts the meat on the bones of belief. It is, if you will, the true test of what it is one actually does believe. It is the value given to the words we speak and the legacy we leave behind. Our actions determine whether or not we have maintained the salvation given us in Christ, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive good or evil, according to what he has done in the body." (2 Cor.5:10) May the Lord strengthen us all to present our lives as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God!

Surrounded by a Cloud

By Deacon Raphael

St. James the Persian November 27th

He was born to a wealthy, noble Christian Family in Persia. His wife was Christian too, and they raised their children in a life of prayer, scripture, and love for God.

James was an industrious and trustworthy man. He earned the love and respect of his king, becoming his confidant and best friend. The king, however, was a pagan and apparent foe of the Christian faith, so James kept his faith a secret from his king and friend.

This might not have been such a bad thing, except that the lure of fame, flattery and riches were temptations too much for him. Alas, in time his royal friendship became more important than his Christian faith. This was no small rejection of his faith: he offered sacrifices to idols with his king.

When his mother and wife eventually realized how things were, they wrote him a letter. They stated that since he preferred the temporary lusts of the world to the eternal glory of Christ, they wanted nothing more to do with him.

It must have been some letter! It affected him deeply. He came to his senses and realized the horror of being cut off from his family and God. He wept and prayed bitterly. Loudly too... you see, he received this letter while accompanying the king on a military campaign. Soldiers heard his prayers and crying. They reported their discovery to the king. The king's son and successor demanded that James deny his Christian faith or suffer the consequences.

Such consequences! He was slowly tortured by dismemberment of every joint of his arms and legs. Then he was beheaded. Much to his credit he held onto his faith. During his suffering he thanked the Lord in prayer that he was redeemed of the terrible sins he had committed and was counted worthy to be a martyr.

We remember James the Persian on November 27th, which is on Thanksgiving Day this year. This year, let us not simply be thankful for the riches and blessings of living in America, but rejoice for the eternal riches of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us also be thankful for people, like James/ mother and wife, who encourage and admonish us to put our Savior first.

Bishop JOSEPH's Visitations

November, 2003

2	St. Raphael Mission, Palm Springs, CA	Patronal Feast Day
7 - 9	San Damiano Retreat Center, Oakland, CA	Northern California Women's Retreat
15 - 16	St. Ignatius Mission, Mesa, AZ	Episcopal Visit
29 - 30	St. John the Evangelist Church, Orinda, CA	Episcopal Visit

Congratulations to the Newly Elected Ladies Auxiliary Officers

The Ladies Auxiliary President is: Alyssa Jones, V-President: Jennifer Saigh, Lillian Macoule is the Secretary, Evelyn Kosobud will remain as the Treasurer and Yvonne Tibshraeny will stay in the capacity of our Sunshine Committee.

Please remember that if you are a member of our St. George Church family, Ladies, you are already a member of the Auxiliary. Everyone is invited to attend the monthly meetings. The Ladies always have some wonderful and fun projects going throughout the year. Next meeting will be Thursday, November 6th at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. Refreshments will be served.

Congratulations and God bless the Ladies and their ministry here at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church.

2nd Annual St. Andrew Award Luncheon

On Sunday October 19, 2003 a lovely luncheon was given to honor the senior member/members of our Church family that have dedicated their time and talents to serving their church community. It was a very memorable occasion, especially for Albert and Delores Haddy, who were this year's recipients of the Abe Assad Service Award. These beautiful people have served for many years at the church's first location on Indian School Road, and that dedication has continued on here at our present site, faithfully and with much love.

We the parish of St. George Church thank them for their dedication, love and service. May God grant them many years.

We would be remiss if we didn't thank the committee for doing such a wonderful job with the luncheon, it was GREAT! Thank you one and all for the delicious food and all your efforts to serve up a terrific day to be remembered.





Church Records

Baptisms

James Edward Khoury ~ October 12, 2003

Parents: Eddie & Sandy Khoury

Annual Fall Orthodox Women's Retreat The One Thing Needful ~ November 7th -8th !

St. Haralambos Church, Peoria AZ

Speaker: Rev. Fr. John Finley

Antiochian Archdiocese Department of Missions
and Evangelism

\$20 covers the cost of the speaker, materials and food.

Retreat Schedule

Fri: 5:30 pm Registration 6:00 pm Vespers
7:00 pm Fr. John speaks

Sat: 8:00 am Matins followed by Divine Liturgy
For the Holy Archangels

10:00 am Brunch, talks by Fr. John,
Group Discussions

5:00 pm Conclusion with Great Vespers

RSVP to Bonnie Karraz 480 951-6932
(St. George church Representative) or
Peggy Robinson 480 834-7020

Parish Council Nominees Are Needed!

Are you interested in running for the Parish Council or would like to submit the name of a parish member in good standing with the Orthodox Church? There will be four openings to fill at the end of this year.

Contact one of the nominating committee members:

John Karadsheh, Marion Saba, Issa Sweilem, Aziz Haddad or Fr. Christopher.

Stewardship Notice

As most of you know, Eddie and I have been blessed with the birth of our first child, James. Due to the demands of this wonderful addition, I have asked my Stewardship partner, Bob Foster, to "take the helm" of the St. George Church Stewardship effort effective immediately. I will continue to be an active member of the team. Bob has shared that within the next three weeks he hopes to gather six to eight parish leaders to discuss the future direction of our stewardship program. Currently, we remain over \$30,000 behind this year's budget. This cannot continue in the future.

I know that Bob intends to examine other stewardship programs both inside and outside the Orthodox faith in order to find answers to our current Stewardship shortfalls.

Bob and I look forward to working even more closely with our parish council as we finalize this year's program and plan for the New Year. Sandy Khoury

Official Notice of Annual Parish Meeting January 25, 2004

Pursuant to the St. George Church Constitution, Article 8 Section 3, the Annual Parish Meeting will be held January 25, 2004 following Liturgy in the Fellowship Hall. We encourage everyone to attend this very important meeting so we can all be informed on what is happening with our church.

According to The St. George Church By-laws, in order to participate and vote at this meeting, the following requirements must be met:

- ✦ *Signed Declaration of membership (Pledge Card) indicating that you desire to be a voting member of St. George Church*
- ✦ *Commit to support the Church financially by signing a pledge card*
- ✦ *Be current with your financial pledge on file and your Archdiocese Dues no later than January 11, 2004 for the year ending December 31, 2003*

It is important that each Parishioner know his or her voting status before the meeting. Please be reminded of the following:

On Sunday, January 4th & 11th the parish Council Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer along with a Stewardship Committee member will have a table set up in the Fellowship Hall where you can check on your pledge status as it is noted on the record books. There is much opportunity for growth and involvement here at St. George Antiochian Orthodox church and with everyone's participation we have a chance to be the best we can be.

A reminder that all organization reports must be turned in by December 31st to be included into the Annual Meeting Booklet!

Collection for the Seminary Fund sent to our Archdiocese, was \$1,013.00

Stewardship Financial Update ~ Sept 30, 2003

	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Env/Pledge Receipts	\$17,924	\$18,083	\$116,033	\$144,667
Loose Plate/Candles	\$1,712	\$2,167	\$18,733	\$17,333
Archdiocese Dues Income	\$250	\$917	\$8,478	\$7,333
Other Income Revenue	\$5,202	\$9,083	\$56,668	\$72,667
Total Revenues	\$25,088	\$30,250	\$199,912	\$242,000
Total Expenses	\$30,641	\$29,063	\$207,419	\$232,501
Net Income Ending Aug 31, 2003	\$<5,553>	\$1,187	\$<7,507>	\$9,499

Metropolitan's Message on Self-Rule Final Status

MOST REVEREND
METROPOLITAN PHILIP
PRIMATE
RIGHT REVEREND BISHOP ANTOUN
AUXILIARY
RIGHT REVEREND BISHOP JOSEPH
AUXILIARY
RIGHT REVEREND BISHOP BASIL
AUXILIARY
RIGHT REVEREND BISHOP DEMETRI
AUXILIARY



Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese

OF NORTH AMERICA

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ENGLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY 07631-3798
201 871-1355 FAX: 201 871-7954

LOS ANGELES CHANCERY
454 S. LORRAINE BLVD.
LOS ANGELES, CA. 90020-4730

TOLEDO CHANCERY
2556 PEMBERTON DRIVE
TOLEDO, OH. 43606-2903

WICHITA CHANCERY
1599 N. WOODLAWN
WICHITA, KS. 67208-2429

October 20, 2003

Beloved Hierarchs, Clergy, Trustees, and All Faithful of this God-Protected Archdiocese:

On Saturday October 18th, 2003, by the grace of God, we returned safely from our historic trip to Damascus to attend the meeting of the Holy Synod of Antioch. On Thursday, October 9th, 2003, after two days of intense discussion, the Holy Synod of Antioch voted unanimously to grant self-rule to the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. [The full text of the Resolution](#) of the Holy Synod is attached for your review.

I wish to express my gratitude to His Beatitude Patriarch Ignatius IV and the members of the Holy Synod of Antioch for their unanimous expression of support for this Archdiocese.

I am extremely pleased and grateful to God on several fronts for the outcome of this meeting. First, that the Holy Synod of Antioch, in granting self-rule to this Archdiocese, has unanimously affirmed the need for us to move forward and to make important decisions in the life of this Archdiocese which will allow it to stand as a beacon of hope for now and for the future. Second, that the unanimity of this decision has demonstrated not only the unity of the Church of Antioch, but our ability to make decisions, guided by the Holy Spirit, which protect the best interests of the Church. Third, that our own internal deliberations and decision making, fully involving all of the clergy and laity of this Archdiocese in an orderly process which insures that the voice of the people is heard, has borne the fruit of these decisions. Finally, that our travels were blessed by God with safety, productivity, and fellowship.

I wish to express my sincerest thanks to Very Rev. Joseph Antypas, Dr. George Farha, and Mr. Fawaz El Khoury who accompanied me on this historic journey, and who were a constant source of support. I also wish to thank all of those individuals who worked so diligently in the background to help to achieve this result.

I ask that you pray for us, as we always pray for all of you and the outstanding work that you do on behalf of this Archdiocese. Together, by the Grace of God, we will continue to spread the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the North American continent.

Your Father in Christ,

Metropolitan PHILIP
Primate
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

Metropolitan's Message on Self-Rule Final Status

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 20, 2003 – Englewood, New Jersey

HOLY SYNOD OF ANTIOCH GRANTS SELF-RULE TO THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

On Thursday, October 9th, 2003, the Holy Synod of Antioch voted unanimously to grant self-rule to the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. The full text of the authorized English translation of the Synodal Resolution is included below.

Resolution of the Holy Synod Regarding the Status of the Antiochian Archdiocese in North America

1. Self Rule and Jurisdiction

The Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America is and shall remain self-ruled within its present jurisdiction (The United States of America and Canada) and shall constitute one unified ecclesiastical Antiochian entity.

2. Governance

The Archdiocese is governed by the Holy Scripture, the Sacred Tradition, the Holy Canons, the Constitution of the Church of Antioch and this Synodical resolution and by its Constitution and Bylaws.

3. Recognition of Auxiliary Bishops as Diocesan Bishops and Local Synod

Upon adoption of this resolution, the Auxiliary Bishops of the Archdiocese shall become Diocesan Bishops and bear their given titles. The Diocesan Bishops will constitute under the Metropolitan the Local Synod of the Archdiocese which will be its governing authority. The Local Synod shall determine the number of dioceses and their boundaries.

4. Procedure of election of Diocesan Bishops

A- The General Assembly of the Archdiocese will nominate three candidates for a Diocesan Bishop. When Diocesan Assemblies shall be constituted the nominations shall then be made, by the said assemblies.

B- The Patriarch of Antioch shall delegate two or three Metropolitans to participate on behalf of the Holy Synod together with the Local Synod in the election of the Diocesan Bishops. The Metropolitan shall preside over the electoral assembly.

C- The consecration and enthronement of the Bishops shall be accomplished in North America by the Metropolitan, the Patriarchal Delegate and the members of the Local Synod.

D- In case of insufficient number of qualified nominees from the Archdiocesan clergy, the Archdiocese shall nominate from the list of nominations kept in the Patriarchal records.

5. Procedure of election of the Metropolitan Primate

The Metropolitan Primate shall be nominated according to the Constitution of the Church of Antioch and the Constitution and Bylaws of the Archdiocese. The three nominees for the office of Metropolitan Primate shall be submitted to the Holy Synod of Antioch to elect one of them. The Metropolitan shall be a member of the Holy Synod of the Patriarchate as well as of the Local Synod of the Archdiocese.

6. Right of appeal and Synaxis

In all matters of hierarchical discipline, Bishops of the Local Synod have the right to appeal to the Patriarch of Antioch and the Holy Synod. The Archdiocesan Bishops, after consultation with the Metropolitan, shall attend the gatherings or synaxis of the Antiochian Bishops which may be called from time to time by the Patriarch of Antioch.

7. Decisions of the Holy Synod of Antioch

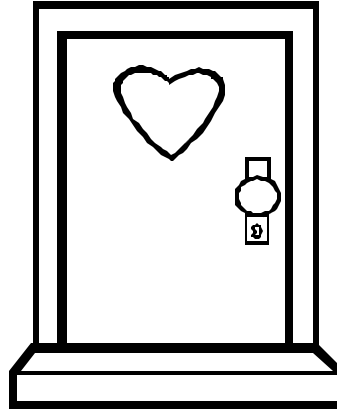
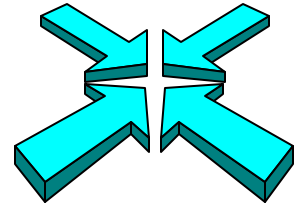
The decisions of the Holy Synod of Antioch shall be binding on the Archdiocese on matters of doctrine, liturgy, sacraments, relations with autocephalous Orthodox Churches and ecumenical policy with regard to other Christian and non-Christian bodies.

8. Amendment and translation

The Patriarchate of Antioch and the Archdiocese shall each amend its constitution in accordance with the above. The Archdiocese shall submit its amended constitution to the Holy Synod of Antioch for approval. The Arabic text of this resolution and its English translation shall have equal force and validity.



YOUTH CONNECTION



Love in the Home

If I live in a house of spotless beauty with everything in its place, but have not love, I am a housekeeper--not a homemaker.

I have time for waxing, polishing, and decorative achievements, but have not love, my children learn cleanliness--not godliness.

Love leaves the dust in search of a child's laugh. Love smiles at the tiny fingerprints on a newly cleaned window.

Love wipes away the tears before it wipes up the spilled milk. Love picks up the child before it picks up the toys.

Love is present through the trials. Love reprimands, reproves, and is responsive. Love crawls with the baby, walks with the toddler, runs with the child, then stands aside to let the youth walk into adulthood.

Love is the key that opens salvation's message to a child's heart.

Before I became a mother I took glory in my house of perfection. Now I glory in God's perfection of my child. As a mother, there is much I must teach my child, but the greatest of all is love.

- Author Unknown



LIVE FROM THE CLASSROOM!

Kindergarten – Annunciation

We are enjoying everyone in our class, as we begin another year of learning about God's Love and how that fits into Orthodox Worship, traditions and life.

Each child has a workbook and we cover one lesson each Sunday. The lessons relate to the kindergarten child's experience, usually through a story. Sometimes there is an art/craft activity, and we pray at the beginning and ending of each lesson.

Often we have added supplemental materials that we do in class or send home so you may do them with your child. We ask that you go over your child's papers with them, so they may have the opportunity to show you what they have learned.

For your child's safety, we hope that you or an older sibling or cousin will be at our door at 12:00 to pick-up your child.

Thank you for sharing your child with us.

Niki Abraham and Marybeth Saliba

WHAT'S GOIN' ON?

- **FALL FESTIVAL!** Sunday, November 9th
- **SOYO Turkey Raffle-** Sunday, November 23rd
- **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM-** Sunday, December 7th
Rehearsals - Every 2nd & 4th Sunday of the Month
- **SOYO Winter Retreat @ Camp St. Nick's-** December 12th -14th
- **CHRISTMAS CAROLING!** - Sunday, December 21st

Pathways- every Tuesday night @ 6: 30pm

Teen Bible Study- Every Wednesday night
6: 30pm

November 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1</i> 10am Div. Lit. Feast of St. Raphael of Brooklyn ~ HAFLI
<i>2</i> 8:50 Matins 10am Divine Liturgy SSch 11:30am	<i>3</i> Parish Council Mtg 7pm	<i>4</i> PATHWAYS/ Bible Study 6:30pm	<i>5</i> Teen Bible Study 6:30pm	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> Annual Women's Retreat @ St. Haralambos Church Orthodox Womens R...	<i>8</i> Great Vespers 5 p.m.
<i>9</i> 8:50 Matins 10am Divine Liturgy SSch 11:30am	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> PATHWAYS/ Bible Study 6:30pm	<i>12</i> Teen Bible Study 6:30pm	<i>13</i> 9am Divine Liturgy St. John Chrysostom	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> Nativity Fast Begins Great Vespers 5 p.m.
<i>16</i> 8:50 Matins 10am Divine Liturgy SSch 11:30am	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> PATHWAYS/ Bible Study 6:30pm	<i>19</i> Teen Bible Study 6:30pm	<i>20</i> 6:30pm Div. Lit. Feast of Presentation of Theotokos into the Temple	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> Great Vespers 5 p.m. SOYO Meeting
<i>23</i> 8:50 Matins 10am Div Liturgy SSch 11:30am SOYO Turkey Raffle	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> PATHWAYS/ Bible Study 6:30pm	<i>26</i> No Teen Bible Study	<i>27</i> Happy Thanksgiving	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> No Vespers
<i>30</i> 8:50 Matins 10am Divine Liturgy SSch 11:30am						

November 2003

Sunday November 2

Epistle Reader	Galatians 1:11-19	George Maloley
Greeters		Ray & Rose Marie Toronto
Ushers	Amanda Haddad, Heather Labbe, Ruby Rideout, Michael Ziton, Hani Sayegh, Ray Toronto	
Altar Servers	Mathew Saliba, Chris Doumani, Michael Aboud-Rihani, Philip Bolanos, Rick Khoury, Andre Nelson,	Gus Sahawneh
Hall Lock-up		Marion Saba
Coffee Hour		Available
Stewardship Table		Jim Bagues & Becky Abrahams

Sunday November 9

Epistle Reader	Galatians 2:16-20	James Saliba, Jr.
Greeters		Philip & Connie Abdoulah
Ushers	Eva Quomsieh, Samira Sayegh, Christine Sayegh, Richard Saba, Hani Farah, Azizi Haddad	
Altar Servers	Danny Sayegh, Alex Saliba, Nick Kalinichenko, Basil Dahlan, Ramy Khoury, Issa Sayegh, Butros Sayegh, Joseph Hasou	Joyce Bagues
Hall Lock-up		Robert & Buthaina Salem
Coffee Hour		Anna Bronnenkant & Stephanie Haddy
Stewardship Table		

Sunday November 16

Epistle Reader	I Corinthians 4:9-16	Ken Haddad, Salwa Nassar
Greeters		Anna & Tess Bronnenkant
Ushers	Molly Abrahams, Jane Romley, Sarah Foster, David Durgam, Majed Sayegh, Adam Labbe	
Altar Servers	Andy Leahu, Musa Sayegh, Odeh Sayegh, Brandon Fuja, James Sayegh, Abanoob Sayegh, Jared Blackwell	John Karadsheh
Hall Lock-up		Khalil & Jennifer Saigh
Coffee Hour		Bob & Sarah Foster
Stewardship Table		

Sunday November 23

Epistle Reader	Eph. 2:4-10	Marion Saba
Greeters		Adel & Enaam Hweimel
Ushers	Kathy Sayegh, Natascha Karadsheh, Mary Karadsheh, Bob Foster, Jamal Sayegh, Michael Rideout	
Altar Servers	Brian Johnson, Ronnie Sayegh, Joseph Sayegh, Alexander Thomas, Anthony Sahawneh, Jiries Karadsheh, Freddie Dahdal	Sandy Hasbany
Hall Lock-up		Available
Coffee Hour		Aziz & Samar Haddad
Stewardship Table		

Sunday November 30

Epistle Reader	I Corinthians	Bruce Florence
Greeters		Joe Abraham & Louis Hasbany
Ushers	Carrie Sayegh, Liz Kalinichenko, Maram Quomsieh, Philip Abdoulah, Nick Kalinichenko, Eddie Khoury	
Altar Servers	Smathew Saliba, Chris Doumani, Michael Aboud-Rihani, Philip Bolanos, Rick Khoury, Andre Nelson,	Gus Sahawneh
Hall Lock-up		John Doumani
Coffee Hour		Available
Stewardship Table		Jim Bagues & Tony Karraz



A Very Healthy and Happy
Thanksgiving To Everyone

Please remember Food For the Hungry Canned Food Drive
until December 28th. We will be collecting canned foods
for our local Food Bank.

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Monday – Friday

The Rev. Fr. Christopher Salamy
(602) 765-6069

Church Services

Sat. Great Vespers	5:00 p.m.
Sun. Matins	8:50 a.m.
Sun. Divine Liturgy	10:00 a.m.
Sunday School	11:00 a.m.
Evening Feast Days	6:30 p.m.

Confessions are heard the following times, or
by making an appointment with Fr. Christopher:
Sunday 9:00-9:25 a.m.

Parishioners are encouraged to submit articles for consideration.

Divine Liturgy Thurs. Nov. 21st 6:30 pm



Feast of the Presentation of Theotokos
into the temple.

Please note the deadline for submitting an article is now the 10th of each month for the next month's issue.