

**SS. PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
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**Bulletin of January 7, 2007**

**SUNDAY/JAN. 7th**  
**Sunday After the Theophany (Tone 5)**  
**Synaxis of St. John the Baptist**  
9:10a.m. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours  
9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy; Coffee Hour  
Book-for-the-Month of Spiritual  
Reading from Parish Library

**TUESDAY/JAN. 9th**  
**Postfeast of the Theophany**  
7:00p.m. Vespers

**WEDNESDAY/JAN. 10th**  
**Postfeast of the Theophany**  
**St. Theophan the Recluse (+1894)**  
9:10a.m. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours  
9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

**SATURDAY/JAN. 13th**  
**Postfeast of the Theophany**  
9:30a.m. Akathist; Confession  
5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

**SUNDAY/JAN. 14th (Tone 6)**  
**31<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 6)**  
**Leave-Taking of the Theophany**  
**St. Nina, Equal-to-the-Apostles,**  
**Enlightener of Georgia**  
9:10a.m. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours  
9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy; Coffee Hour  
Church School (Young Class)  
Teen Discussion

**Fast Days:** Wednesday, Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>

**The Blessing of Homes**

Is taking place in this month of January. If your dwelling has not been scheduled to be blessed, please contact Father James to arrange for a visitation. The January monthly calendar on how to prepare for a home blessing.



**Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**

**Contemplate the Lord Jesus as Light:**

- 1) As a Light to my life, as a Light to mankind, as a Light to every creature;
- 2) As a Light, especially in the darkness of fear and suffering;
- 3) As a Light in the hour of death, and after death, a Light to eternity.

**Contemplate the Lord Jesus as Healer:**

- 1) As a Healer of bodily infirmities;
- 2) As an Exorcist of evil spirits from the insane;
- 3) As a Healer of the human spirit and mind, by the light of His divine teachings;
- 4) As my own Healer of all pains and evils.

**Contemplate the Lord Jesus as Teacher:**

- 1) As a Teacher Who teaches how a man should think in order to be saved;
- 2) As a Teacher Who teaches how a man should talk in order to be saved;
- 3) As a Teacher Who teaches how a man should act in order to be saved.

**Contemplate the Lord Jesus as the Salt of the earth:**

- 1) As the Salt which gives flavor to this life in general;
- 2) As the Salt which preserves mankind from decay - which would otherwise be totally decayed from one end of its history to the other;
- 3) As the Salt of my own life.

### **Parish Council Meeting**

Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>, Thursday at 7:00p.m.

### **Annual Parish Meeting – Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>**

At 12:00p.m. If necessary – due to weather – the meeting will be held on the following Sunday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:00p.m. All reports to be presented should be submitted to the rector no later than Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **Great Lent is Early in 2007**

In planning winter vacations and other events, be mindful that the Great and Holy Lent begins on Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>. For all advanced planning, consult the Schedule of Services for the Year 2007 on the parish website.

### **Icon Print Box on Vestibule Stand**

For the month of January only, a box may be found on the vestibule stand for icon prints from your calendars, Christmas cards and other sources. Icon prints should not be disposed of as general printed materials.

### **Namesday Greetings**

St. John the Baptist/Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>: John Chabra  
St. Tatiana/Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>: Tatiana Onuschak,  
Tatiana Hansen; Many Blessed Years!

### **Choir Director Position Open**

Our parish is presently engaged in a search for a choir director. Any suggestions of persons or other ideas about the choir may be addressed to either Fr. James or Deacon Paul.

### **A Welcome and Invitation**

If you are regularly visiting our parish, you ought to consider becoming part of our parish family by registering as a parishioner with Fr. James. It is important for Orthodox Christians to be “rooted” and to have a spiritual father.

### **New Parish Council Members Sought**

The Parish Council nominating committee – Fr. James, Robert Smith and Maureen Lokos – are searching for parishioners who may wish to serve on the parish council. Parishioners in good standing are eligible. Please speak up.

### **Winter Dance Party – Sun., Jan. 21st**

Join us for Fun & Good Fellowship! All Young People are invited, ages 18 and up. Time 2-4:30 at parish hall. DEJU VU D.J. Refreshments are free of charge. A great opportunity to meet each other and new friends. For information please speak with Maria Torrisi 732-545-5642/Peter Parsells 908-872-5657.

### **Memory Eternal!**

Newly-departed parishioner, Anna Wasitowski of Manville (+30 December 2006).

### **The Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!**

Nicholas Chabra (40<sup>th</sup> day – Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>)

Anna Wasitowski (40<sup>th</sup> day – Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>)

Jan. 07, 1959 Ufim Nesteruk

Jan. 07, 1963 Mary Borushko

Jan. 07, 1967 Helen Kynsh

Jan. 08, 1963 Mathilda Blanchard

Jan. 08, 1967 Katherine Karpinski

Jan. 08, 1978 Eustafey Gumenuk

Jan. 09, 1995 Michael Hobora

Jan. 10, 1983 Helen Zvonchenko

Jan. 11, 1979 William Koles

Jan. 12, 1965 Alex Emilianov

Jan. 12, 1976 Julia Dzyban

Jan. 12, 1982 Xenia Kalevich

Jan. 13, 1953 Katherine Shwetz

Jan. 13, 1966 Peter Krenitsky



### **Offerings for the week of January 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Olive Oil** - in memory of Emilia; for the health of Laurentiu and Liliana; in memory of Joan; in memory of Michael; in memory of Ion and Ileana.

**Wine** - in memory of Archimandrite Vasile (Vasilaca); in memory of Michael Kuzmiak; for the health and salvation of Vera, John, Alexander and Nicholas.

**Flowers** - for the health of Justine & Anna.

### **Offering Envelopes for Jan. & Feb. 2007**

Have been mailed out. If you are not receiving envelopes in the mail, please speak with Fr. James or Robert Smith.

### **Winter Weather Cancellations of Events**

Check the website or call the rectory.

## LAND OF THE SALT – FREE GOD

With fads, eating trends, and all manner of diets, we Americans have proven that, for physical benefit, we can have discipline when it comes to our menus. But unfortunately, we've created a sort of "Health Club" that the Church Fathers would find contrary to the Faith. It has even affected our understanding of Scripture.

*You are the salt of the earth...(Matthew 5:13)*

Salt is receiving a bad name these days. In our attempt to live longer, clinging to this earth as if it were our final destination, we have thrown the salt out with the well water. Given this modern day existentialist view of salt – how are we to understand the words of our Lord concerning this common seasoning?

Important since prehistoric times as a seasoning agent, salt preserves food and was commonly used in the religious rites of the Greeks, Romans, Hebrews and Christians. It was an important medium of exchange in commerce across the Mediterranean, Aegean and Adriatic seas. Salt cakes served as money in ancient Ethiopia and Tibet. The English word "salary" was derived from *salarium*, the Latin term referring to the flat allotment issued to soldiers serving in the Roman army. The most familiar use of salt is as a seasoning. Salt is an essential constituent in the diet of humans and other warm-blooded animals. Salt is widely used as a preservative for meats.

Salt both preserves and gives season to food. What does it mean to be "the salt of the earth?" It means preservation. Priests of Christ's Holy Church are to preserve themselves and the flock from decay. Like cured ham or the salt that preserves our vegetables and other foods, pastors must preserve the flock by word and deed. Heresies, like germs, dissolve beneath the saltiness of the preservation of faith. Preserving the faithful means keeping in what is good – and keeping out what is bad (e.g. forgiveness is good; Gossip is bad). It sounds simple, but you know it ain't. Our Lord's commission comes with a warning:

*If salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?  
It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out  
And trodden under foot by men. (Matthew 5:13)*

As far as preserving the Faith is concerned, bishops, priests, and teachers of the Faith are to teach only that which the Church teaches. When we stray from the Tradition of the Church toward either our own opinion or the liberal tendencies of the Protestant sects, our salt has lost its taste. Our Holy Faith becomes bankrupt by our loss of savor. The gates of Hell shall not prevail against Christ's Holy Church, yet how many have lost faith due to the blandness of their lukewarm faith, religion, pastor or church?

Furthermore we are *all* called to season the world by our word and example – our *godly* word and example. What a shame if our salt is too spicy! What a pity if our witness is too bland! We must



O God our Savior,  
Who, having come to  
Jericho to the  
Prophet Elisha,  
healed the harmful  
water with salt:  
As the same Lord  
bless this salt and  
change it into a  
sacrifice of gladness.  
For You are our God,  
and to You we as-  
cribe glory: to the  
Father, and to the  
Son, and to the Holy  
Spirit, now and ever  
and unto ages of  
ages. Amen.

Prayer over Salt

keep our eyes on the prize, all the while living a life that is pleasing – not to men – but to God. The Apostle Paul encourages us, saying:

*Conduct yourselves wisely towards outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer everyone. (Colossians 4:5-6)*

Salt is necessary for us to speak with the grace of Christ – preserving that which is good and true, keeping out that which is unholy. This is not the God which our secular sin-saturated world seeks. The media is constantly bombarding us with a *low salt version* of God. This god requires nothing of followers and is not offended by any lack of morality. This god preserves nothing – not the faith, nor the faithful. This god is not the God of Revelation. Rather, this salt-free god is the god of human secularism. There is no Hell; Heaven is for everyone. All you have to do to be glorified by the salt-free god is to live and die. This is the god that the Culture of Death serves.

The salt-free god, who stands for nothing holy and heavenly, encourages you to live life as if there were no tomorrow. When, however, tomorrow arrives and you are in pain, this god will painlessly help you end it all. Thus, having served this god fully all your days, spending your time in a stupor full of all the comforts of modern life, you pass quietly into the salt-free heaven (which is nonjudgmental) full of even more joys than you saturated yourself with while on earth. (It can even be seen in some churches where *the culture* – Greek, Russian, Arab, etc. – is *preserved* while the Orthodox Faith is sacrificed).

The seduction of the false god is everywhere, as it has been since the Fall of Adam and Eve. Yet, this is not the God whom we serve. Rather, at the end of Vespers and Matins services, Orthodox Christians sing: *Preserve, O God, the Holy Orthodox Faith and all Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages!*

We are singing about *salt*. We are singing to the Almighty God and King who gives salt and light and all good things to preserve the hearts and minds of His most precious creation: you, me, all mankind. Preserve, preserve, preserve! God, how we need *salt* in America! Though it stings our wounds, it heals our infirmities. Though it restricts our hedonism, it preserves our godliness. It sweetens our speech and limits our gossip. It gladdens the heart of man and is pleasing to God. Without it we become lifeless, faithless, godless.



Americans are so concerned about physical diets. What about spiritual Nutrients?

*And so not fear those who kill the body, but cannot kill the soul, rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell (Matthew 10:28).*

No, it is not the salt-free god that we should fear. Rather, with fear of God and with faith and love let us draw near to the God of *salt*. Let us cling to Him Who preserves us as His own. Let us live our lives as the *salt of the earth* – to the Glory of God – for our salvation and the sake of all mankind.

- From "One Flew Over the Onion Dome" by Fr. Joseph David Huneycutt  
Regina Orthodox Press 2006