

**SS. PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
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**January 28, 2007**

**SUNDAY/JAN. 28th (Tone 8)**  
**Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee;**  
**New-Martyrs and Confessors of Russia**

9:10a.m. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours  
9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy; Coffee Hour;  
"Souper Bowl of Caring" Offering  
Church School (Young)  
Question & Answer Period

**MONDAY/JAN. 29th**

6:30p.m. Memorial for Nicholas Chabra and  
John Macinko  
7:00p.m. Vespers

**TUESDAY/JAN. 30th**

**Synaxis of the Three Holy Hierarchs**  
9:30a.m. Akathist to the Holy Hierarchs

**THURSDAY/FEB. 1st**

**Pre Feast of the Meeting of our Lord**  
7:00p.m. Vigil & Blessing of candles

**FRIDAY/FEB. 2nd (Fast Free)**

**Feast of the Meeting of Our Lord**  
**(one of "the 12 Great Feasts" of the year)**  
9:10a.m. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours  
9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy & blessing of candles

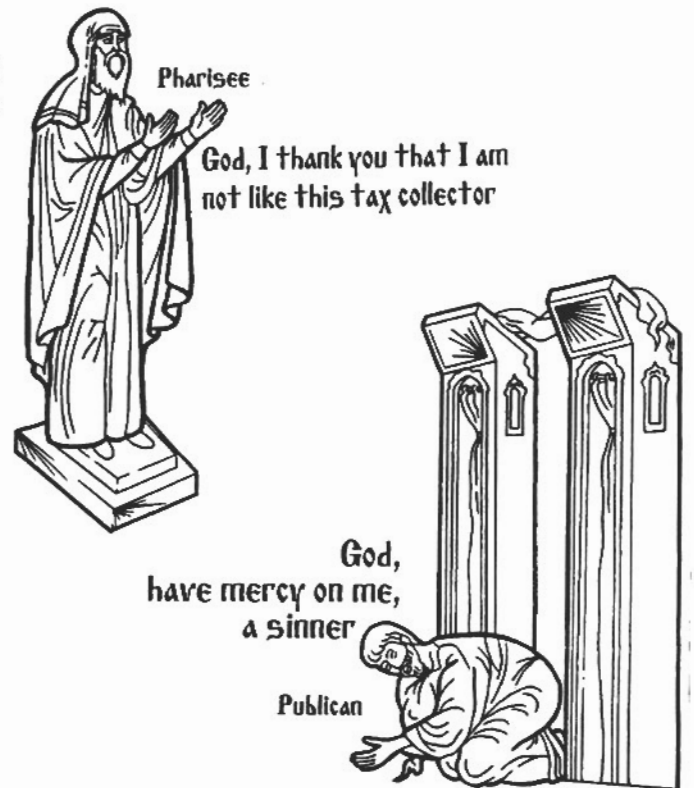
**SATURDAY/FEB. 3rd**

**St. Nicholas of Japan**  
9:30a.m. Akathist to St. Nicholas; Confessions  
5:30p.m. Vespers & Compline; Confessions

**SUNDAY/FEB. 4th (Tone 1)**

**Sunday of the Prodigal Son**  
9:10a.m. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours  
9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy; Coffee Hour;  
"Souper Bowl of Caring" Offering  
Book-for-the-Month from the  
Parish Library

**Fast Free Week:** There is no fasting this  
Wednesday (Jan. 31) and Friday (Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>).



**Matins Hymn from the Lenten Triodion**

Open to me the doors of repentance, O Live-Giver, for my spirit rises early to pray towards Thy holy temple.

Bearing the temple of my body all defiled. But in Thy compassion, purify me by the loving kindness of Thy mercy.

Lead me on the paths of salvation, O Mother of God, for I have profaned my soul with shameful sins and have wasted my life in laziness.

But by your intercessions, deliver me from all impurity.

Have mercy on me O God according to Thy great mercy and according to the multitude of Thy compassions, blot out my transgressions.

When I think of the many evils I have done, wretch that I am, I tremble at the fearful Day of Judgment.

But trusting in Thy loving kindness, like David I cry to Thee: Have mercy on me, O God! Have mercy on me, O God! Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy!

## ***THE MEETING OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE – FEAST OF FEBRUARY 2<sup>ND</sup>***

Forty days after His birth in the flesh, Christ was Presented at the Temple in accordance with legal Convention. And because there in the Temple He Was received by persons moved by the Spirit, and Especially because Symeon took him into his arms, This feast is also called a Meeting.



The Church appointed this great feast of the Lord and the Mother of God to be celebrated on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, because it is the 40<sup>th</sup> day after the 25<sup>th</sup> of December, when the Nativity of Christ in the flesh is celebrated. In this way the year is divided by the turning points in the divine economy and blesses them. At the same time it makes it possible for man to be initiated into the great mystery of the Incarnation of the Son and Word of God.

The event of the presentation of Christ in the Temple on the 40 day after His birth is described only in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 2:22-39.

The Meeting of Christ shows that Christ is the Life and Light of men and that man should aim to attain this personal light and personal life. The Church sings, by way of exhortation, “Illuminate my soul and the light of my senses, that I may see Thee in purity; and I will proclaim that Thou art God.”

In order for anyone to proclaim God, he must see Him clearly. But in order to see God one must previously be illuminated, shine in soul and bodily senses. Then the Feast of the Meeting of Christ also becomes a feast of every believer.

The Feast is celebrated to the “leave-taking,” on February 9<sup>th</sup>. During this festal period the tropar and kontakion of the feast is sung/said with the daily rule of prayer and at meals. The tropar before the meal and the kontakion after the meal. They replace the usual meal prayers.

### Tropar Tone 1

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace!  
From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God,  
Enlightening those who sat in darkness!  
Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder;  
You accepted in your arms the Redeemer of our souls,  
Who grants us the Resurrection!

### Kontakion Tone 1

By Thy Nativity, Thou didst sanctify the Virgin’s womb!  
And didst bless Symeon’s hands, O Christ God.  
Now Thou hast come and saved us through love,  
Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians,  
O only Lover of Man!

### **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>.

### **Namesday Greetings**

St. Nicholas/Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>: Nicholas Torrisi; Many Blessed Years!

### **The Time of the Lenten Triodion**

Begins today on the Sunday and Pharisee. The “Lenten Triodion” is the liturgical book used by the church for some 10 week – 3 Pre-Lenten and 7 Lenten. The book comes to a close with the day of the Great and Holy Saturday. The next day – Pascha – opens the “Flowery Triodion” (also called the Pentecostarion). This liturgical book is used – as the name indicates – for a period of 50 days.

The themes of the Lenten Triodion are those of our repentance and the saving Passion, Death and Burial of Jesus Christ.

# **HELP US BECOME SOUPER BOWL CHAMPIONS!**

## **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**

On Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 4, 2007, team up with our parish’s youth to help the needy in our community and around the world. Help our team in the “Souper Bowl of Caring” by bringing one dollar and a canned good with you to Liturgy. Please support this effort and help our parish become Souper Bowl Champions!

P.O. Box 630225  
Baltimore, MD 21263-0225  
Toll-Free: (877) 803-4622  
Fax: (410) 243-9824  
Internet: [www.iocc.org](http://www.iocc.org)



**International Orthodox Christian Charities**

**TWO SUNDAYS: JAN. 28<sup>TH</sup> & FEB. 4<sup>TH</sup>**

- \* a can of food (or more) for the local food pantry
- \* a \$1.00 (or more) for our local pregnancy aid center
- \* a basket for them is in the church vestibule

### **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. 28, 1995 Olga Small  
Jan. 29, 1974 Paul Monko  
Jan. 24, 1960 John Macinko  
Jan. 31, 1952 Jacob Michaelski  
Feb. 02, 1940 Michael Petro  
Feb. 02, 1949 Theodora Mahalick  
Feb. 02, 1984 Natalie Kuntzevich  
Feb. 02, 1986 Sonia Esposito  
Feb. 02, 1994 Kalliopi Alexis  
Feb. 03, 1929 Jonah Lasin

### **Easter Candy Sale**

Is presently under way. Each household is receiving an order form. Extra order forms will be found on the vestibule stand. Pascha and Western Easter are the same date this year, April 8<sup>th</sup>. For more information please see Sandy Filippini.

### **The Blessing of Homes**

Is taking place presently thru Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to have your home blessed, please make arrangements with Fr. James.

### **Offerings for the week of January 28<sup>th</sup>**

Olive Oil – in memory of Emilia; in memory of Joan; for the health and in thanksgiving by Laurentiu and Liliana; in memory of Michael.

Wine - for the health of Claudia and Abigail; for the health and salvation of Mariana, Gabriella, Simona, Maria, David, Stefan and Herman.

Flowers – in memory of Alexander Karel.

### **Time to Think of How One will Fast and Clean out the Refrigerator**

Meat-Fare Sunday is Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>. This is the last day we partake of meat products until Pascha, April 8<sup>th</sup>. Cheese-Fare Sunday is Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>. This is the last day we partake of dairy products until Pascha, April 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Diocesan Youth Retreat – Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>**

This retreat is for grades 7 thru 12, will be held at St. Joseph’s Seminary near Rocky Hill. See posted flyer and cut-off date. For half of the fee, see Fr. James.

**CONCERNING MEMBERSHIP IN AA (ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS)  
AND ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS\***

- by Bishop Kallistos (Ware)

Can an Orthodox Christian, while still remaining fully loyal to the Church, at the same time turn for help to AA? Should we not put rather our trust in the Sacraments of Confession, Anointing with Oil and Holy Communion, and in the counsel and prayers of our spiritual father? Why seek help elsewhere? Does this signify a lack of faith?



Membership in AA in no way contradicts or undermines membership in the Church. Quite simply, the two are not in competition; for AA makes no claim to be a church or a religion. The Twelve Steps will never replace the Gospels as the call of Christ. The meetings of the AA are not in any sense a substitute for participation in the sacramental worship of the Church.

Membership in AA will not make us less Orthodox, or less Catholics, or less whatever else we are. What AA can do – what, indeed it has actually done for innumerable believing Christians – is to enable them to live out their faith and to experience the power of the Sacraments in a way that they had not otherwise found possible. For again and again this has been the experience of the many thousands, if not millions, who have turned to AA: it works. Its distinctive blend of spirituality and practicality has proved remarkably successful in the contemporary world. But the rules of AA, while simple, are certainly not easy.

***DON'T BE IN DENIAL, GO TO THE MEETINGS\****

by Fr. Meletios Webber

One of the forms of denial I have come across on a number of occasions is that Orthodox Christians with a drinking problem try to avoid going to AA on the grounds that AA is not Orthodox. I would encourage such people to go to the meetings anyway. They will find that they are able to take their Orthodoxy with them (to the extent that they need to), just as others take their own religious traditions with them. Indeed, the richer the diversity in an AA group, the more the group is likely to be able to help other newcomers. Remember, AA is not a church, and AA is not a religion. The focus of every single meeting is sobriety, and that is what you need to go to find. If there is anything in the meeting which you really find offensive from an Orthodox standpoint, discuss it with your parish priest. If you are still resisting AA because it is not Orthodox, you need to consider whether this is not perhaps an excuse.

\* Taken from the book, *Steps of Transformation* by Fr. Meletios Webber. This book, printed by Conciliar Press (2003) “presents” says Fr. Thomas Hopko, “the vision and practice of the Twelve Step programs for dealing with addictions, particularly alcoholism. Fr. Meletios relates the Steps to Orthodox Christian spirituality, with clarity and conviction, and appealing personal engagement. Here is a book which addicts and their friends are sure to treasure. It is true, deep, pure, rich and highly rewarding.”



## RELICS AT SS. PETER & PAUL CHURCH

The Holy Relics are the miracle-working bones clothing or objects of certain saints. We honour them as objects in which God Himself manifests all the miraculous power of His Grace. As long as the saints were on earth, they had the Grace of the Holy Spirit in abundance and by this Grace they not infrequently worked miracles.

This Grace also lives in their souls in heaven where they now dwell. As the saint remains close to the people who call upon him to help them by means of a miracle, so much the more does he himself maintain an especial tie with his body, which is also a habitation of the Holy Spirit, as the Apostles says: "Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you and which you have from God, and that you are not your own" (1 Cor. 6:19).

Holy Scripture speaks to us concerning the miracle-workings of the saints during the period of their life on earth, that they bore witness to the power dwelling within them. Many people were healed only by touching the Apostle Paul's body with a handkerchief (Acts 19:12) while others were healed only by being under the shadow of the Apostle Peter when he passed by (Acts 5:15).

- Elder Cleopas of Romania (+1998)

### Apostles

\* St. Peter (+67?) Co-patron of the temple, foremost of the Apostles and brother of Andrew. Writer of an Epistle. Crucified in Rome on a cross turned upside-down. Feast: June 29th

\* St. Paul (+67?) Co-patron of the temple and Apostle to the Gentiles. Especially called by our Saviour. Writer of Epistles. Beheaded in Rome under Nero. Feast: June 29th.

\* St. Andrew (+1st c.) First-Called of the Apostles, brother of Apostle Peter. Preacher of the Gospel in what today is Southern Russia. Crucified on X shaped Cross. Feast: Nov. 30th.

\* St. Matthias (+1st c.) Chosen by lot by the Eleven Apostles to replace Judas, who betrayed Christ. Feast: Aug. 9th.

### Hierarchs

\* St. Cyprian of Carthage (+258) Bishop and Martyr of Northern Africa. Writer of theological works. Feast: Aug. 31st.

\* St. Nicholas of Myra (+330) Archbishop of Myra in Lycia. Pastor known for miraculous benefits and charity. Feasts: Dec. 6th & May 9th.

\* St. Athanasius the Great (+373) Patriarch of Alexandria. Writer and Defender of Orthodoxy against Arius. Exiled four times for the Holy Faith. Feasts: May 2nd & Jan. 18th.

\* St. Basil the Great (+379) Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia. Theologian, Pastor, Author of Monastic Rules and author of a Divine Liturgy and various prayers. Feasts: Jan. 1st & Jan. 30th.

\* St. Gregory the Theologian (+391) Archbishop of Constantinople. Theologian and Writer. Together with Ss. Basil the Great and John Chrysostom, one of the "Three Hierarchs." Feasts: Jan. 25th & Jan. 30th.

\* St. Ambrose of Milan (+397) A civil governor who became Bishop of Milan and fought against the Arians. Known for his powerful writings and preaching. Feast: Dec. 7th.

\* St. John Chrysostom (+407) Archbishop of Constantinople. Theologian, Pastor, Writer of Gospels and Epistle Commentaries. Prophet of Charity and Social Concerns. Feasts: Nov. 13th, Jan. 27th & Jan. 30th.

- \* St. Patrick of Ireland (+460) Bishop and Enlightener of Ireland. Wonderworker. Feast: Mar. 17th.
- \* St. Leo the Great (+461) Pope of Rome. Writer of the famous "Tomo" expounding Orthodox belief. Feast: Feb. 18th.
- \* St. Nectarios of Aegina (+1920) Metropolitan of Pentapolis in Egypt. Theologian, Preacher, Monastic Father, Miracle-Worker. Feasts: Nov. 9th & Sept. 3rd.
- \* St. John Maximovitch (+1966) Archbishop of Shanghai and San Francisco. Theologian, Pastor and Wonderworker. Feast: July 2nd.

### **Martyrs**

- \* Unknown Martyr Under Nero (+67). One of the many unknown Christian martyrs of Rome who suffered under the Pagan Emperor. Feast: All Saints Sunday.
- \* St. Barbara (+290). Virgin-Martyr, killed by her own pagan father. A particle of her relic is sealed in the Altar of our church. Feast: Dec. 4th.
- \* St. Theodore the Tyro (+297) Soldier and Martyr. Feasts: First Saturday of Great Lent & Feb. 17th.
- \* St. Mark of Chios (+1801). New-Martyr who suffered under the Turkish Yoke. Witnessed to the Faith by being beheaded. Feast: June 6th.
- \* St. Elizabeth the Nun-Martyr (+1918). Grandduchess of Russia. Nun and founder of charitable insitutions. Martyred by Communists. Feast: July 5th.

### **Confessors**

- \* St. John the Russian (+1730) Russian Soldier captured by Turks and enslaved. Confessor for the Faith. His relics are to be found in Evia, Greece and remain incorrupt. Feast: May 27th.

### **Priests**

- \* St. John of Kronstadt (+1908). Russian Priest and Wonderworker. Known for his preaching and healing gifts. Feast: Dec. 20th.

### **Monastics**

- \* St. Benedict of Nursia (+547) Founder of the monastic life in the region of Italy. Writer of monastic rules and miracle-worker. Feast: Mar. 14th.
- \* St. Theodore of Sanaxar (+1791) Russian hermit and establisher of a model ascetic community at Sanaxar Monastery. Feast: Feb. 19th.
- \* St. Herman of Alaska (+1837) Monk and Missionary to Alaska. First saint of the American lands. Feasts: Dec. 13th & Aug. 9th.
- \* St. Antipas the Athonite (+1882) Originally from Moldavia, he spent time on Mt. Athos as well as in Russian monasteries. He reposed at Valaamo. Feast: Jan. 10th.

### **Unmercenary Healers**

- \* Ss. Cosmas and Damian (+3rd c.) The brothers were from Asia Minor and physicians. They are called "Unmercenary" for they charged no fee for their services. They healed in the Name of Jesus and with medicines. Feasts: Nov. 1st & First Sunday of Nov.