

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH
 605 Washington Ave., Manville, NJ 08835-1856
 Voice: 908-685-1452 / fax: 908-685-1074
 Email: frjames@ssppoc.org
 Website: www.ssppoc.org

BULLETIN OF JULY 29, 2007

SUNDAY/JULY 29th

9th Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 8)

9:10a.m. 3rd & 6th Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine
 Liturgy; Coffee Hour;
 Question & Answer Period

MONDAY/JULY 30th

7:00p.m. Parish Council Meeting

TUESDAY/JULY 31st

7:00p.m. Vespers

WEDNESDAY/AUGUST 1st

**Procession of the Holy Cross
 Maccabean Martyrs**

Beginning of Dormition Lent

9:10 3rd & 6th Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY/AUGUST 4th

9:30a.m. Akathist; Confession
 5:30p.m. Vigil; Confession

SUNDAY/AUGUST 5th

10th Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 1)

Pre Feast of the Transfiguration

9:10a.m. 3rd & 6th Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine
 Liturgy; Coffee Hour; Book-for-the-Month of
 Spiritual Reading from Parish Library
 5:30p.m. Vigil with blessing of fruits

MONDAY/AUGUST 6th

Transfiguration of our Lord

(One of "the 12 Great Feasts of the Year")

9:10a.m. 3rd & 6th Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
 with blessing of fruits

The Dormition Lent

Is observed from August 1st thru 14th. This two
 week Lent is in honor of the Repose, Burial,
 Resurrection and Ascension of the Mother of God
 into Heaven celebrated on August 15th.
 A Fast is held from meat, dairy, fish, wine and oil.
 See your wall calendar for modifications.

·CHRIST WALKS
 UPON THE
 WATERS·



**ON CLINGING TO OUR LORD JESUS
 CHRIST**

Let there be no gap between us and Christ. For if
 there is any gap, immediately we perish. For the
 branch by its adherence draws in the fatness, and
 the building stands because it is cemented
 together.

Let us not then merely keep hold of Christ, but let
 us be cemented to Him...Let us cleave to Him by
 our works. "For he who keeps my commandments,
 the same abides in me" (John 14:21).

He is the Head, we are the body.
 He is the foundation, we the building.
 He is the Vine, we the branches.
 He is the Bridegroom, we the bride.
 He is the Shepherd, we the sheep.
 He is the Way, we they who walk in it.
 Again, we are the temple, He the Indweller.

He is the Only-Begotten, we the brothers & sisters.
 He is the Heir, we the heirs together with Him.
 He is the Life, we the living.
 He is the Resurrection, we those who rise again.
 He is the Light, we the enlightened.

- by St. John Chrysostom (+407)

Offerings for the week of July 29th

Olive Oil – in memory of Michael; in memory of Joan; in memory of Emilia; in thanksgiving; in memory of John.

Wine – in memory of Livia & Florian; in memory of John Rosocha Jr.; in memory of Alex Bartushak; in memory of Nicholas Chabra.

Being Sought – How Can You Help in Building-Up the Body of Christ?

Official Greeters – persons that on a particular Sunday look out for new faces and welcome them on behalf of the parish. They make sure that the visitor fills out a visitor card, if they so desire and invite them to the Coffee Hour, escorting them over and introducing them to some parishioners.

- please see Deacon Paul Sokol.

Parish Web Team – a newly-to-be formed group of individuals that seek to improve our parish website. Technical expertise is sought, but also individuals while not having programming abilities, have creative ideas.

- please see Fr. James or Michael Redmond.

Church School Teachers & Aides - this Fall a restructuring of the church school will take place. Presently, we are trying to identify persons who would be willing to teach and/or help out in the younger and middle classes.

- please see Fr. James or Stacey Kita.

Liturgical Ministries - new choir members, altar servers, prophora bakers, readers, ushers, are always welcome.

- please see Fr. James, Deacon Paul or Diaconissa Patricia Sokol.

Parishioner Talent Survey - to identify areas in which parishioners excel and can be of service to the parish community.

- please see Michael Redmond.

Remember in Prayer

May Holovach (Arbor Glen).



Sympathy Is Expressed

To Irene Kavchok, on the repose of her husband, Ronald (+July 20th). May his memory be eternal!

Parish Synodicon

Ronald Kavchok (Aug. 28th – 40th day)

July 29, 1960 Helen Monko

Aug. 01, 1954 Nicholas Lebedz

Aug. 01, 2005 John Rosocha Jr.

Aug. 03, 1995 Helen Hnatuk

Aug. 04, 1970 Archpriest Peter Karel

Aug. 05, 1966 Jacob Hosko

Aug. 05, 1977 Joseph Pituch

Aug. 05, 1988 Lepasava Ratzkovich

Parish Picnic – Sunday, Aug. 19th

Reserve the date for a parish picnic at the Village Recreation and Swim Club in East Brunswick. A great day of fun and fellowship is being planned! Please speak with Daniel Torrisi or Terri Filippini for more information. Please sign-up for the picnic at the vestibule stand (pink sheet) or call Susan Gorbatuk (908-722-7849) **no later than July 29th**. Need a ride to the picnic? Let Father James know.

Prayers for Travelers

May be offered after the Sunday Divine Liturgy. Let Father know when you venerate the Cross.

The Parish Bulletin Board

Has posted events, articles and other information that does not make it into the Sunday Bulletin. Please check it out at Sunday Coffee Hour.

Two of “the 12 Great Feasts” of the Year

Are celebrated in the month of August. On these days we should strive to participate in the divine services.

The Transfiguration of our Lord – Aug. 6th, Mon.

5:30p.m., Sun. Vigil & blessing of fruits

9:30a.m. Mon. Divine Liturgy & blessing of fruits

The Dormition of the Theotokos – Aug. 15th, Wed.

7:00p.m. Tues., Vigil & blessing of flowers

9:30a.m. Wed., Divine Liturgy & blessing of flowers

“...for this holy house and for those who enter in reverence”

Talking to God, not each other.

Turning off cell phones.

Being on time for services.

ON THE EPISTLE FOR THE 9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
1 Corinthians 3:9-17



In the Epistle for this Sunday the Holy Apostle Paul speaks to us about the Church. Here, the Apostle is speaking not about the Church as a building but the community of believers as the Church.

The Church is more than a physical building or an organization, it is the People of God built upon the Foundation of Jesus Christ. Using the images of foundation and building, St. Paul has some important things to say about the relationship between Christ and Christians, as well as the relationship between the work of Christians and God. The Apostle teaches three main things in this passage:

1) Christ is the foundation of the Church.

This means that Christ provides the unshakable security and ground of hope for everything in the Christian community. Everything done in the Church, all the designs and works of Christians, must be anchored on and related to the living Christ, if the community is to hold together and function as what it was meant to be, God's living temple permeated by God's Spirit (1 Cor. 3:16).

2) The Church Leaders and by extension all Christians laboring in the Church are "co-workers with God" (1 Cor. 3:9).

The correct translation of *synergoi Theou* (1 Cor. 3:9) is not "co-workers under God" which would mean partners working together for God or fellow workers in God's service. Rather it is "co-workers with God," which means laborers together with God or God's fellow laborers. In other words, Christians are not only brothers and sisters co-operating with one another and working under God's care; they are also God's direct partners, working immediately with God in their various specific acts of service, administration, teaching, helping, giving, guiding, evangelizing, and witnessing. This is a powerful statement of *synergia* (co-operation) between human beings and God.

3) All Christians are accountable to God.

The Christian community (the parish church) includes people of different personalities, gifts strengths, weaknesses, abilities, zeal, commitment and contributions. Their task is not to compete, compare, or critique one another, but to offer all their labors as a gift to God for the up-building of the entire community in Christ. God alone will test and evaluate the work of each person's work on the Day of Judgment.

Read 1Corinthians 3:9-17

What two images does St. Paul use for the Church in Corinth? (vs.9)

What does St. Paul mean by "the gift that God gave me" (vs. 10) What is this gift?

What is his warning about how to build? (vs. 10)

Who is the "one and only foundation" of the Church? (vs. 11) What does this imply about the nature of Christ?

In practical terms, what is the "gold of silver or precious stones....or wood or grass or straw" in God's eyes as far the life of the Christian community is concerned? (vs. 12)

When the fire comes, what do you think will be standing of your work? (vs. 13)

What new attitudes, new priorities, and specific steps can you adopt as God's partners to make your parish more aware that you all are "God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you" ? (vs. 16)

- from A Year of the Lord, by Fr. Theodore Stylianopoulos

Russian Orthodox Patriarch consecrates bells destined for Harvard

Posted on Mon Jul 23 2007:

Associated Press

MOSCOW --Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexy II on Tuesday consecrated 18 newly cast brass bells destined for Harvard University in a trade that will return the originals to Russia nearly 80 years after they were saved from Stalin's religious purges.

The originals have hung for decades in the towers at Lowell House and Harvard Business School's Baker Library in Cambridge, Mass.

American industrialist Charles R. Crane bought the bells from the Soviet government in 1930, saving them from being melted down in purges that left thousands of monks executed and churches and monasteries destroyed or turned into prisons and orphanages.

"Without exaggeration they can be called the best church art in modern history," Alexy said in a televised address after a consecration ceremony in which he swung incense to and fro, surrounded by priests in golden robes.

He called the replica bells a "worthy replacement" for the original ensemble.

"The bells will be sent on the same historic path that their predecessors took," he said.

The original bells were cast in the 18th and 19th centuries and are decorated with etchings of Jesus Christ and Mary, as well as saints and angels. The largest, the Mother Earth Bell, weighs 13 tons and has a 700-pound clapper. The smallest weighs 22 pounds.

The original bells will be returned to the Danilovsky Monastery, the Patriarch's residence. The first will arrive in Moscow on Sept. 12, with the others to be shipped in autumn 2008.

Russian oil and metals tycoon Viktor Vekselberg is paying several million dollars to organize the exchange.

The deal agreed upon in March this year is the latest chapter in Vekselberg's campaign to bring home Russia's cultural heritage. Ranked No. 61 on Forbes billionaire's list with a fortune of \$10.4 billion, Vekselberg bought 15 Czarist-era Faberge eggs from the estate of U.S. publisher Malcolm S. Forbes in 2004 and returned them to Russia.



Alleluia is a joyful song of praise to God. The word *Alleluia* is also used as a sign of the presence of God. Whenever we sing *Alleluia* we announce that God is here with us.

**CHRISTIAN CHARACTER ACCORDING
TO THE NEW LAW**

The new or ultimate Law of God was given to mankind by Jesus Christ, the God incarnate, in order to form a new character in men, or to create new men, worthy to be called the Children of God, and worthy to inherit the heavenly Kingdom of God. This new character of man ought to be God-like or Christ-like. It ought to be formed of all the evangelic virtues, individual and social.

The spiritual and moral character of every Christian is formed by three factors.

Q. What are those three factors?

A. Obedience to Christ and His Church; the individual efforts in exercising all the virtues; and God's grace through the Holy Mysteries or special inspirations.

Q. What are the greatest Christian virtues?

A. Faith, Hope, and Love.

Q. Can we express it in other words?

A. Right thinking through faith in Christ; right feeling through hope in Christ, and right doing through love of Christ.

Q. What are other Christian virtues?

A. There are many Christian virtues, but the following seven are considered above the others. They are:

- (a) Humility
- (b) Charity
- (c) Chastity
- (d) Benevolence
- (e) Temperance
- (f) Patience
- (g) Fortitude.



Q. How are we to acquire those virtues?

A. By constant repetition, until those virtues become as natural to us as breathing.

Q. Is the repetition of Christian virtues very essential to the development of our character?

A. Yes, so much so that true education consists of nothing else but the repetition, the exercising in practice, of all the Christian virtues.

Q. What is the power obstructing the true formation of a Christian character?

A. Sin.

Q. What is sin?

A. It is the opposite of virtue. Essentially every sin is falsehood or violence.

Q. What are the satanic sins?

A. All sins are satanic, but the denial of God is the most poisonous source of all sins, because

(a) the denial of God leads to the denial of the soul, which leads to

(b) the denial of the other world, which leads to

(c) the denial of the Last Judgment, which leads to

(d) the denial of God's laws, which leads to

(e) the denial of the experience of the saints, which leads to

(f) the denial of the sum total of people's faith, which leads to insanity and suicide.

Q. What are the consequences of all these blind denials?

A. Very sinister, according to the records of the Bible and the experience of our own generation. They are fear, uncertainties, wars, revolutions, brutalities, starvation, pestilence, seditions, quarrels, divorces, dissolutions, fragmentations, etc.

Q. Which sins are called mortal sins?

A. Those which lead to eternal death. There are seven mortal sins. They are just the opposite of the virtues, as:

(a) Pride is the opposite of Humility,

(b) Avarice is the opposite of Charity,

(c) Whoredom is the opposite of Chastity,

(d) Envy is the opposite of Benevolence,

(e) Gluttony is the opposite of Temperance,

(f) Anger is the opposite of Patience,

(g) Desperation is the opposite of Fortitude.

Q. Are there other heavy sins?

A. Yes, there are four sins called "the sins crying to God for revenge." They are:

(a) intentional killing with robbery;

(b) sodomy;

(c) cheating poor laborers;

(d) oppression of widows and orphans.

Q. How many lesser sins are there?

A. There are many lesser, or venial sins, by thought, word, desire, and deed.

Q. How can we get rid of our sins?

A. By the Mystery of Repentance, and by hard self-discipline in order to avoid the repetition of sins, and to practice the virtues.