

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH
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BULLETIN OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2007

SUNDAY/SEPTEMBER 9th
15th Sunday After Pentecost & Sunday
Before the Elevation of the Cross (Tone 6)
Post-Feast of the Nativity

9:10a.m. 3rd & 6th Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
 Coffee Hour with Presentation by the
 Russian Brotherhood Organization

MONDAY/SEPTEMBER 10th
 7:00p.m. Compline & Akathist to
 St. Silouan of Athos (Sept. 11th)

THURSDAY/SEPTEMBER 13th
Pre Feast of the Holy Cross
 7:00p.m. Vigil

FRIDAY/SEPTEMBER 14th
ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
(One of "the 12 Great Feasts of the Year")
Strict Fast Day- Wine & oil permitted
 9:10a.m. 3rd & 6th Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY/SEPTEMBER 15th
Postfeast of the Holy Cross
 9:30a.m. Akathist to the Holy Cross; Confession
 5:30p.m. Vigil; Confession

SUNDAY/SEPTEMBER 16th
16th Sunday After Pentecost & Sunday
After the Cross (Tone 7)
 9:10a.m. 3rd & 6th Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
 Coffee Hour
 5:00p.m. Liturgical Benefit Concert at St. John
 the Baptist Church in Rahway

Fasting Days
 Wednesday, September 12th
 Friday, September 14th (Strict Fast)



The Postfeast of the Elevation of the Cross
 Is celebrated from Sept. 15th thru Sept. 21st, the
 "leave-taking" of the feast. Throughout this time
 the troparion and kontakion for the feast are sung
 or said with our evening and morning prayers and
 at meal times; the troparion before the meal and
 the kontakion after the meal.

Troparion (Tone 1)
 O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine
 inheritance / grant victories to the Orthodox
 Christians / over their adversaries; / and by virtue
 of Thy Cross/ preserve Thy habitation.

Kontakion (Tone 4)
 As Thou wast voluntarily crucified for our sake /
 Grant mercy to those who are called by Thy name /
 make all Orthodox Christians glad by Thy power /
 granting them victories over their adversaries / by
 bestowing on them the invincible trophy / Thy
 weapon of peace.

The Sunday Bulletin

May be picked up Saturday evening, ask someone to secure it for you from the sacristy. You may also view the bulletin on our parish website. If you are receiving the bulletin by regular mail – when you are absent – and would rather read it on line, please let Fr. James know.

Offerings for the Week of Sept. 9th

Olive Oil – in memory of Emilia; in memory of Michael; for the health of Jason (birthday) for the health of Julia (surgery); in memory of Joan; for safety of Basil and Barbara.

Wine – for the health of Nicholas and Alexander; for a safe journey, Bon, Marie, June and Michael.

Seminarian Housing Support

For a number of years now, individual parishioners have offered a free will offering to help in the rent monies of a family attending St. Tikhon's Seminary. There is no family housing provided at the seminary. Our parish has been helping seminarian Joseph McCartney and his wife Maura and their children Anna, Sara and Justin. If you wish to help out – you determine the amount you wish to give – please speak with Pam Oliver (908-231-9201).

You Know You're Orthodox If...

- On Wednesdays & Fridays you eat Chinese foods.
- You are more comfortable standing than sitting in church.
- To you, a "topless" gal is one without a headscarf.
- You have experience at removing wax from clothing.
- You don't flinch when someone throws water at you.
- You can say "Christ is Risen" in a million languages.
- You know which chocolates are lenten.
- You wonder why the Pope crosses himself backwards when you see him.
- When you first tell people what religion you are, at first they think you're Jewish.

Parish Synodicon

Sept. 09, 1978 Xenia Seminuk
Sept. 11, 1964 Michael Grenther
Sept. 12, 1929 Helen Kotliarchik
Sept. 12, 1971 Pauline Kravitsky
Sept. 12, 1974 Anna Naruta
Sept. 12, 1995 Anna Rudxina
Sept. 14, 1978 Stephen Keselchak
Sept. 15, 1966 Theodore Mivonuk
Sept. 16, 1980 Mary Lukasik



Parish Educational Classes

Both for children and adults will get under way in the month of October. The present structure of classes for our children (younger and middle) needs restructuring and the impute of parents is sought at a special meeting to take place in the near future. Concerns may be addressed to either Fr. James or Stacey Kita.

The Education Classes already set in place are:

- 1) Teen Discussion Group (high school students) a brief 15-2- minute informal discussion to be held on the 2nd Sunday (beginning in October) during the Coffee Hour.
- 2) Adult Study Class will be held on the 5 Tuesday evenings in October from 7-8:30p.m. The topic will be: "A Study on the Meaning of the Divine Liturgy," based on the Commentary of St. Nicholas Cabasilas.

The Parish Bulletin Board

Please examine it for information that does not appear in the Sunday Bulletin.

Parish Council Meeting

Sept. 20th, Thursday at 7:00p.m

"I Am Forced to Work on Sunday Mornings"

Try to change this when and if you can. Meanwhile, come to the Saturday evening Service (or part of it) and if this is not possible, the Saturday morning service. We should not let the week go by without glorifying God at the divine services.

First Anniversary Memorial Service

For Eugenia Fetchko (+ Sept. 20, 2006) on Thursday, Sept. 20th at 5:30p.m

Aluminum Cans for Holy Trinity Church

Don't forget to bring your rinsed cans to the bucket in our church hall.



THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS

On September 14th, the Church commemorates two events in connection with the Honorable Cross of Christ: first, the finding of the Honorable Cross on Golgotha and second, the return of the Honorable Cross from Persia to Jerusalem.

Visiting the Holy Land, the holy Empress Helena decided to find the Honorable Cross of Christ. An old Jewish man named Judah was the only one who knew where the Cross was located, and, constrained by the empress, he revealed that the Cross was buried under the temple of Venus that Emperor Hadrian had built on Golgotha. The empress ordered that this idolatrous temple be razed and, having dug deep below it, found three crosses. While the empress pondered on how to recognize which of these was the Cross of Christ, a funeral procession passed by. Patriarch Macarius told them to place the crosses, one by one, on the dead man. When they placed the first and second cross on the dead man, the dead man lay unchanged. When they placed the third cross on him, the dead man came back to life. By this they knew that this was the Precious and Life-giving Cross of Christ. They then placed the Cross on a sick woman, and she became well. The patriarch elevated the Cross for all the people to see, and the people sang with tears: "Lord, have mercy!" Empress Helena had a silver case made and set the Honorable Cross in it.

Later, the Persian Emperor Chozroes conquered Jerusalem, enslaved many people, and took the Lord's Cross to Persia. The Cross remained in Persia for fourteen years. In the year 628 the Greek Emperor Heraclius defeated Chozroes and, with much ceremony, returned the Cross to Jerusalem. As he entered the city Emperor Heraclius carried the Cross on his back, but suddenly was unable to take another step. Patriarch Zacharias saw an angel preventing the emperor from bearing the Cross on the same path that the Lord had walked barefoot and humiliated. The patriarch communicated this vision to the emperor. The emperor removed his raiment and, in ragged attire and barefoot, took up the Cross, carried it to Golgotha, and placed it in the Church of the Resurrection, to the joy and consolation of the whole Christian world.



FROM THE COUNSELS OF ELDER PAISIOS

If you want to grab God's attention so He'll hear you during prayer, turn the dial to humility, for God always works in this frequency; then humbly ask for His mercy.

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If we haven't got control of our mind during the hour of spiritual study we are not benefited at all. We simply yawn and tire ourselves without a goal, for we cannot remember anything. In the same way, when the printer doesn't have his mind on his work and forgets to put ink in, the printing presses work without printing anything.

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There are no people more blessed than those who have made contact with the "heavenly television station" and who are piously connected to God. In the same way, no people are more wretched than those who have cut contact with God and wander, dizzy, around the world, flipping through the world's many television stations so as to forget, if only for a short time, the anguish of the derailment of their lives.

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In the hour of prayer, when our mind wanders to thoughts of bad things, of if these thoughts come without our wanting them, we shouldn't wage an offensive war against the enemy; because, even if all the lawyers in the world joined together, they wouldn't make any headway with a little demon. Only through ignoring these thoughts can one chase them away. The same holds true for blasphemous thoughts.

From the Prologue of Ochrid by Saint Nikolai of Zicha

The Sign of the Cross

Saint Athanasios says, "Behold then what men considered the foolishness of God because of the Cross, has become of all things most honored. For our resurrection is stored up in it, and no longer that of Israel alone; but henceforth all the nations, as the prophet has foretold, leave their idols and acknowledge the true God, the Father of the Christ. And the illusion of demons is come to nought, and He only Who is really God is worshipped in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Saint Kyril of Alexandria (378-444) counsels us, "Let us not be ashamed of the Cross of Christ, but though another hide it, do thou openly seal it upon thy forehead, that the devils may behold the royal sign and flee, trembling, far away. Make this sign at eating and drinking, at sitting, at lying down, at rising up, at speaking, at walking: in a word, at every act."

Saint John Chrysostom asks, "Art thou one of the faithful? Sign the Cross; say, this I have for my only weapon, this for my remedy; and other I know none."

Saint John Chrysostom expounds on signing ourselves with the Cross, saying, "One ought not merely by the fingers to engrave it, but before this to have much faith in the heart. And if in this way thou markest it upon thy face, none of the unclean spirits will be able to stand near thee, seeing the blade whereby the devil received his wound, seeing the sword which gave him his mortal stroke. For if we, on seeing the places in which the criminals are beheaded, shudder, think what the devil must endure, seeing the weapon whereby Christ put an end to all his power, and cut off the head of the dragon."

"This therefore do thou engrave upon thy mind, and embrace the salvation of our souls. For this Cross saved and converted the world, drove away error, brought back truth, made earth heaven, fashioned men into angels. Because of this, the devils are no longer terrible, but contemptible; neither is death death, but a sleep; because of this, all that wars against us is cast to the ground and trodden underfoot."

"This sign, both in the days of our forefathers and now, has opened doors that were shut up; this has quenched poisonous drugs; this has taken away the power of hemlock; this has healed bites of venomous beasts. For if it opened the gates of Hades, and threw wide the archways of the heavens, and made a new entrance into Paradise, and cut away the nerves of the devil, why marvel, if it prevailed over poisonous drugs, and venomous beasts, and all other such things?"



Grace and Peace

Making the sign of the cross

Making the sign of the cross is a way of praying with the body, with the whole being, rather than with the mind alone. According to Orthodox understanding a human being, body and soul, is a single entity, so that it is right to use the whole body in prayer.

To make the sign is a gesture of blessing and of being one with Christ.



- 1 Three fingers symbolise the three persons of the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- 2 Two fingers symbolise the two natures of Christ – human and divine



With the sign of the cross
I unite my mind heart and
all my strength with the
life of Christ

- 1 Forehead – ask God to bless thoughts and deeds
- 2 Heart – ask God to grant love in the heart
- 3 The right shoulder
- 4 And then the left – ask for blessing on the deeds of the hands
- 5 (Optional) bow and touch the ground – remember that human beings are made from the earth and are created by God

THE INVOCATION OF THE SAINTS FOR VARIOUS NEEDS

Folk Tradition,

According to the Typicon of the Lavra of the Miracle

This script was presented to the Great Lord Tsar and Great Prince Alexis Mikhailovich, the Autocrat of All Russia, and to the Great Lord and Most Holy Kyr Joseph, the Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus in the city made illustrious by the reigning throne, Moscow, in the year 7160 (1652).

11) ***For the healing of incurable diseases and for deafness:*** The holy Martyr Coprius 9th July.

12) ***For deliverance from hard drinking, slothfulness, over-sleeping and from insomnia:*** St Boniface the Merciful, bishop of Ferentino - 19th December [a more common practice is to pray to the Holy Martyr Boniface, also commemorated on 19th December, against drunkenness - ed.]; Venerable. Moses the Black - 28th August; the Seven Sleepers of Ephesus - [this last entry is, in our copy, written in by hand].

13) ***To avoid a difficult childbirth:*** The Feodorovskaya Icon of the Mother of God - 14th March and 16th August; the holy Great Martyr Catherine, the most wise virgin, of Alexandria - 24th November; and the holy Great Martyr Anastasia the deliverer from bonds - commemorated 22nd December.

14) ***For the healing of sick feeding mothers and wet nurses:*** The holy Martyr Agatha - 5th February.

15) ***For the preservation of infants from death, snake bites and bee stings:*** The holy Chief of the Apostles Paul - commemorated 29th June; St Julian, bishop of Cenomanis (Le Mans) in Gaul - 13th July.

16) ***For the preservation of infants' health:*** Tikhvin Icon of the All-holy Theotokos - 26th June; and the holy and righteous Simeon the God-receiver - commemorated 3rd February.

17) ***For infants' recovery from chicken pox:*** The holy Martyr Conon of Isauria - 5th March.

18) ***For infants' recovery from cramps:*** The holy Great Martyr Nicetas of the land of the Goths - commemorated 15th September.

19) ***This is missing in the original!***

20) ***To cast out evil spirits and demons from a man:*** The venerable Niphon, bishop of Constantia, a city of Cyprus - commemorated 23rd December [N.B. In Russian sources, St Niphon is always commemorated as bishop of the Constantia in Cyprus, but it seems that he was not the Bishop of that town but of another Constantia - ed.]; and the Venerable Maruthas, bishop of Martyropolis - 16th February.

(...to be continued in next Sunday Bulletin)



The Spirit of Orthodoxy Choir

Celebrating Our 10th Season



*The Bread Basket (held by the altar server) after the Divine Liturgy
For Sundays Sept. 9th and 16th will be earmarked for the
Benefit of St. Nicholas Orphanage. You may make checks out
To: Ss. Peter & Paul Church*

Benefit Concert for St. Nicholas Orphanage Slovakia

**Sunday, September 16, 2007
5:00 pm**

St. John the Baptist Church
211 West Grand Avenue
Rahway, NJ 07065

Fr. Andrew Fetchina, 732-382-8844
or Doreen@spiritoforthodoxy.com

Admission by donation

For info and to make a donation to the
Orphanage: www.spiritoforthodoxy.com

