

**SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
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**BULLETIN OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2007**

**SUNDAY/SEPTEMBER 23rd**  
**17th Sunday after Pentecost (Tone 8)**  
**Conception of St. John the Baptist**  
9:10a.m. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy  
Coffee Hour; Question & Answer Period

**MONDAY/SEPTEMBER 24th**  
7:00p.m. Vespers

**TUESDAY/SEPTEMBER 25th**  
**St. Sergius of Radonezh**  
9:30a.m. Akathist to St. Sergius  
10:00a.m. Memorial Service for Charles, Eugenia  
and Charles Jr. Fetchko

7:00p.m. Compline & Akathist to **St. John the Theologian (Sept. 26th)**

**SATURDAY/SEPTEMBER 29th**  
9:30a.m. Akathist; Confession  
5:30p.m. Vigil; Confession

**SUNDAY/SEPTEMBER 30th**  
**18th Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 1)**  
**St. Gregory of Armenia**  
9:10a.m. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy  
Coffee Hour  
6:30p.m. Vespers

**MONDAY/OCTOBER 1st**  
**Protection of the Holy Theotokos**  
9:10a.m. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

**Fasting Days**  
Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> (Fish, wine & oil)  
Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup> (wine & oil)



AND HE SAW TWO SHIPS  
STANDING BY THE LAKE, BUT  
THE FISHERMEN WERE GONE OUT  
OF THEM, AND WERE WASHING  
THEIR NETS.

**A Pattern in Making Disciples**

- 1) Jesus teaches the Word of God.
  - 1) The Word of God stirs listeners to initial faith.
  - 2) Jesus involves the new believer in a specific challenge.
  - 2) The new believer personally experiences the grace of God; he or she feels unworthy, yet amazed.
  - 3) Jesus calls the new believer to become a permanent disciples and co-worker in God's work.
  - 3) The new believer freely and totally gives over his or her life to the Lord and has a new sense of mission as Christ's disciple.

### **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).

### **Offerings for the Week of Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Olive Oil** – in memory of Emilia; in memory of Michael; for the health of Tessie (birthday); for the health of Jeffery Alexander (birthday); for the health of Mary Elizabeth.

**Wine** in memory of Joan.

### **Candle Sale for Benefit of Christ the Savior Mission in Delaware**

Will end next Sunday, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>. There are a variety of homemade candles for sale in the lower hall by the office door. Stock up now while you can. If you do not have a need for any candles, you may still make an offering for the Mission Church. Place offerings in the basket provided.



### **Parish Synodicon**

Oct. 10, 2007 40<sup>th</sup> Day Fr. John (George) Lewis  
(Parish Rector 1969-1971)  
Sept. 23, 1985 Mary Koles  
Sept. 24, 1917 Evdokia Philmiuchuk  
Sept. 25, 1937 Kuzma Trushko  
Sept. 25, 1959 Marie Dezko  
Sept. 25, 1997 Olga Semergieff  
Sept. 28, 1953 Thomas Lisowski  
Sept. 29, 1929 Demetrius Berdar  
Sept. 30, 1954 Wasyl Kluchnik  
Sept. 30, 1966 Anna Gnoinsky  
Sept. 30, 1983 Anna Motoviloff  
Sept. ?, 1930 Stephen Chemeris

### **Parish Educational Classes – Begin October**

The Education Classes already set in place are:

- 1) **Teen Discussion Group** (high school students) a brief 20 minute informal discussion to be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday during the Coffee Hour.
- 2) **A Five Week Adult Study** "On the Meaning of the Divine Liturgy," will be held on Tuesday evenings, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>-Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, 7-8:30p.m.
- 3) **Class A (K thru 3<sup>rd</sup> grade)** on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays during Coffee Hour.
- 4) **Class B (4 thru 8 grade)** on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays during Coffee Hour.
- 5) **General Question & Answer Period** on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday during Coffee Hour.

### **Aluminum Cans for Holy Trinity Church**

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

### **Namesday Greetings**

Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>/St. Peter the Aleut: Peter Parsells  
Many Blessed Years!

### **Fall Cheesecake Fundraiser**

Is underway. Please return your order forms by Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>. Extra forms may be found on the vestibule stand.

### **The Offering for St. Nicholas Orphanage in Slovakia**

Came to \$600. The Lord bless your generosity!

### **The Parish Bulletin Board**

Has posted various items, events, news, and other information. Check it out at Coffee Hour.

## RETURNING GOOD FOR EVIL

Fr. Richard Demetrius Andrews

Ever been treated poorly? Co-workers don't respect you? Boss criticizes too much? Spouse doesn't appreciate you? People slander you by telling rumors and falsehoods? Discriminated against because of your faith and beliefs?

St. Paul the Apostle endured almost all of these things and worse. He was imprisoned, physically abused and punished for proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This new Faith was directly at odds with the established pagan beliefs and rituals in Roman society. It challenged the man-made idols and silly beliefs in natural phenomena as manifestations of the divine. In today's Epistle Reading from the 10th Sunday of Matthew, 1 Corinthians 4:9-16, St. Paul identifies and names his new-found low-standing in society. He says that as apostles we are last, condemned to death, a spectacle (v.9), fools, weak, dishonored (v.10), reviled, persecuted (v.12), defamed, filth of the world, off-scouring of all things (v.13). Have you been made to feel like a fool, dishonored, defamed, and persecuted? What St. Paul experienced was so severe that it caused physical consequences of hunger, thirst, being poorly clothed, beaten and homeless.

How do we respond to this negative behavior? Somewhat instinctively we often return the same. You say something bad about me, I will say something bad about you. You say something hurtful to me, I'll say something hurtful to you. We may even escalate the affair to make our point. You hit me, I will smash you. Sadly, we know this occurs between children on the playgrounds and in the hallways of our schools. Some kids never grow up and it continues in the boardrooms and cafeterias of companies and corporations. Tragically, it also happens in pews and social halls of churches. Some of what St. Paul wrote in his letter was referring to Christians in Corinth.

How should we respond to this inappropriate, abusive and corrosive behavior? St. Paul gives us simple instructions in verse 12-13. He says "being reviled, we bless; being persecuted we endure; and being defamed, we entreat."

\* Reviled means "to be addressed or spoken of abusively". We respond by blessing which literally means "to speak with good words."

\* Persecuted means "to be pursued and harassed with oppressive treatment." The Greek has a

connotation of "to be chased off or driven away." We respond with endurance which means "to bear with patience or tolerate."

\* Defamed basically means "to be slandered; to have your good name, reputation attacked by uttering or publishing malicious or false accusations." We respond with entreaty which means "to make earnest request, petition or supplication." The Greek connotation means also "to pray."

In these instructions, St. Paul is teaching what Christ Himself taught in Matthew 5:43-44 "You

have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' (Lev.19:18; Dt.23:3-6) But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who persecute you, do good to those who hate you and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you." St. Peter reinforces the teaching by saying, "Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult but with blessing because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing" (1Peter 3:9). St. Paul also says, "Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong,

but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else" (1Thessalonians 5:15). And quoting Proverbs, "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head" (Pr.25:21-22). Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:20-21).

In this last passage we understand that St. Paul's instructions on how to respond to revilement, persecution and defamation did not give implicit or tacit approval to this ungodly behavior. Rather, he shows how the cycle of inappropriate and disrespectful words and actions can be ended. If we return slander for slander, then the evil from the other person has overcome and infected us. Let's end the cycle of evil in our lives. Let's end it here in our parish community. Because people are free, because the devil is free to work in this world, we will never completely eliminate revilement, persecution and defamation. However, these horribly hurtful and divisive tools can be stopped at our doorstep, they can be turned away from our home. When you hear bad words about yourself or others, be patient, speak good words and remember to pray for all people.



## HOW DOES YOUR PARISH RATE?

A reporter recently visited 18 different churches on successive Sundays to find out what each community was really like. In every instance, he dressed neatly and stood near the front. After services, he walked slow to the rear of the church, then returned to the front, and then went back to the foyer, using another aisle. He smiled at everyone and asked others for directions to specific places – the parish hall, the office, the rest rooms, etc. He remained for coffee, if served.

Using the following scale, the reporter awarded points to each community on the following basis:

- ✓ **10 points** for a smile from a worshipper.
- ✓ **10 points** for a greeting from someone nearby.
- ✓ **100 points** for an exchange of names.
- ✓ **200 points** for an invitation to have coffee.
- ✓ **300 points** for an invitation to return.
- ✓ **1,000 points** for an introduction to another worshipper.
- ✓ **2,000 points** for an invitation to meet the pastor.

The reporter discovered that, using this scale, 11 of the 18 churches visited earned *less than 100 points!* Five actually received *less than 20 points!* The conclusion: The doctrine may be sound, the singing inspirational, and the sermon uplifting – *but*, when a visitor finds nobody who cares whether he or she is there, he or she is *not* likely to return!

## DID YOU KNOW?

- ❖ One sixth of all of the words of Jesus Christ are concerned with the relationship of a person and his material possessions.
- ❖ One third of Christ's parables are devoted to man's preoccupation with money.

## FOR CONSIDERATION

Jesus says in Matthew 6:21, "Where your treasure is there shall your heart be also." What a person does with his money, how he thinks about it, where he spends it, what he will do to earn it, and the things to which he will give it are some of the real clues to who he is inside, to what is essentially important to him, to what is really in his heart.



Evil is bound to find a justification for itself, must appear disguised as good – often the highest good. Evil strives to present its positive aspect as a jewel so precious that all means are justified to attain it. Yet, good is not attained by evil means and the end does not justify the means. Good not obtained by good means is not good. This is the testament we have received from the Apostles and holy Fathers.

- Elder Sophrony on the teaching of Saint Silouan

As the moon waxes and wanes, it illustrates the condition of man. Sometimes he does what is right, sometimes he sins, and then through repentance returns to a holy life. The intellect of one who sins is not destroyed, just as the physical size of the moon does not diminish, but only its light. Through repentance, a man regains his true splendor, just as the moon clothes itself once more in its full light after a period of waning.

- Saint John of Karpathos

A holy man named Pambo asked Anthony, "What ought I to do to live a righteous and spiritual life?" Anthony replied, "Do not trust in your own righteousness, do not worry about the past, but control your tongue and your stomach."

- From the life of Saint Anthony the Great