

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH
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BULLETIN OF NOVEMBER 25, 2007

SUNDAY/NOVEMBER 25th
26th Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 1)
Leave-Taking of the Entrance Feast
St. Clement of Ochrid
9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour; Question & Answer Period

MONDAY/NOVEMBER 26th
9:30a.m. Funeral of Vera Somoluk
(at Fucillo & Warren Funeral Home)

FRIDAY/NOVEMBER 30th
7:00p.m. Vespers
(St. Philaret/Dec. 1st)

SATURDAY/DECEMBER 1st
9:30a.m. Akathist; Confessions
5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

SUNDAY/DECEMBER 2nd
27th Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 2)
Prophet Habbakuk
9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour; Book-for-the-Month of
Spiritual Reading from Parish Library;
Church School Classes

Fasting Days

Sunday,	Nov. 25th (Fish, wine & oil)
Monday,	Nov. 26th
Tuesday,	Nov. 27th (Wine & oil)
Wednesday,	Nov. 28th
Thursday,	Nov. 29th (Wine & oil)
Friday,	Nov. 30th (Fish, wine & oil)
Saturday,	Dec. 1st (Fish, wine & oil)
Sunday,	Dec. 2nd (Fish, wine & oil)

ON THE FOUR TYPES OF COMMUNION
WITH GOD IN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

By Elder Cleopa of Romania

Our union and communion with God in general terms come about in two ways: through the mystical communion of the Body and Blood of the Lord and through spiritual communion.

The first and most important communion with Christ takes place through the partaking of His Body and Blood at the Divine Liturgy.

The second way of communion and union with Christ is in the prayer of Jesus, during which the intellect is plunged into the heart and there says unceasingly, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner."

The third way of communion with God our Creator takes place through the keeping of His commandments and the acquisition of the virtues.

And the fourth way of communion with Christ takes place through the reading and hearing of the word of God in the Holy Scriptures.

Our Orthodox Church is the special, most holy place in which is realized our many-sided communion with Christ. Therein, all of our faithful, approaching the divine services with piety and faith, dwell in a mystical atmosphere and communion by the intellect, heart, prayer and participation in the divine communion of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Grace and Peace



Offerings for the Week of Nov. 25th

Olive Oil - in memory of Emilia; in memory of Michael; in memory of Joan; for protection and health from God for Gabriela-Antoaneta.

Wine - in memory of Anastasia Kuzmiak; for the health of Alexander (birthday).

Remember in Prayer

Mary Holovach, Justina Sokol.



About Tithing

- In November of 2006, the Tithing Model was recommended to our parishioners as the best way to make their offerings.
- The Theology of Stewardship, a 19 page booklet was distributed and may still be picked up on the church vestibule stand. This gives a clear understanding of the tithes.
- Presently 25% of our parishioners tithe, either 10% or some other percentage greater or lesser.
- By parishioners responding to the model of tithing, the year 2007 will end in a \$15,000 increase in offerings.
- The tithe is determined not so much by the wallet but by the heart.
- You accomplish your tithe through the use of your Sunday envelopes.
- You will never be in a better position to tithe than you are today. Whether you can tithe has relatively little to do with the amount of income or the number of financial obligations. The person who says "After I pay all my bills, I can't afford to tithe," is telling the truth. He or she simply has the cart before the horse. None of us could afford to tithe with what's left. Tithing (10% giving) is a matter of putting first things first, taking our tithe out first, and then wisely managing the rest of our income in a way still to pay our bills.

Vera Somoluk – Memory Eternal!

MANVILLE – Vera Somoluk, 79, entered into eternal rest Monday (Nov. 19, 2007) at Raritan Health & Extended Care Center in Raritan. Born in Youngstown, Ohio to her late parents, Paul and Anna (Terpack) Somoluk, she had been a resident of Manville since the age of 8.

During her youth, Vera was a member of the Civil Air Patrol in Manville. She had been employed as a laborer with Snappy Knits for many years, and was a member of Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Manville.

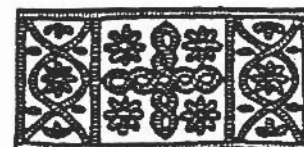
Vera is survived by her dear sister and brother-in-law, Olga J. and John L. Tafilowski of Manville; her cherished nephew and niece, David J. Tafilowski and his wife, Tania, and Karen Liccardi and her husband, Mike; and three great-nephews and a great-niece, Justin, Ryan, Brandon, and Cheynne Rose. Vera will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

The funeral service will begin 9:30 a.m. Monday at Fucillo & Warren Funeral Home, 205 S. Main St., Manville, with Fr. Parsells from Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Manville, officiating. Vera will be laid to rest at Ss. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Hillsborough. Visitation will be from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday, with a 7:30 p.m. Panikhida service, and on Monday, from 9 a.m. until the service time.

Pastoral Visitations to those Home Bound

In the weeks of December 2nd, 9th and 16th, Father James will bring the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion to those that are home bound. If you wish to receive the holy Mysteries or simply wish for a visit for prayers and conversation, please let Father James know.

It is essential for those home bound to be and feel part of the parish community. The visitation of your priest to your home is determined by your desire. Father James recommend that all those home bound be visited once a month, if not, at least during the four lenten seasons.



Nativity Lent

On November 15th, the 40 Day Nativity Fast began. One of the "Four Lents" of the year, we prepare for the Nativity of the Lord, on December 25th with an ascetical work of fasting from meat, dairy, fish, wine and oil. Your parish wall calendar indicates modifications to the Lent.

Sunday, December 9th – Special Day

On this Sunday, two important events will be taking place in our parish.

***Bishop Peter** of Cleveland and the Diocese of Mid-America of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad (ROCA) will celebrate the Divine Liturgy. This is a historic first in our Diocese. There has been no bishop of the ROCA to celebrate in our diocese since the 1940's. Metropolitan Herman has graciously permitted Bishop Peter to serve. Bishop Peter is a long time friend of the parish rector and Godfather of Peter Parsells.

***At the Divine Liturgy** on this day, Bishop Peter (with the permission of Metropolitan Herman) will elevate **Deacon Paul Sokol** to the rank of Protodeacon. This honor was bestowed upon Deacon Paul by the Holy Synod of Bishops (OCA) this past Spring.

***A festal Lenten lunch** will be held after the Divine Liturgy. Please sign-up for the lunch at the vestibule stand or call Patricia Sokol (908-806-3415) so we can prepare the foods. Please do this by December 3rd, Monday.

At the lunch a basket will be placed if you wish to make an offering for a **gift of new vestments** for Deacon Paul.

Ways & Means Report

The October Cheese-Cake sale profit was \$519 and the November Pirohi Sale was \$567. Thank you for your help as well as your purchasing.

Your Cell Phone

Please be sure it is off before you enter the church for services. Thanks!

Parish Synodicon

Dec. 07, 2007 (40th Day) Stephanida Seminuk
Dec. 28, 2007 (40th Day) Archbishop PETER
Dec. 28, 2007 (40th Day) Vera Somoluk
Nov. 25, 1968 Michael Spotts
Nov. 25, 1971 Julia Hansen
Nov. 26, 1950 Metrophan Saffron
Nov. 26, 1953 Sauka Greunther
Nov. 26, 2002 Mary Gavlick
Nov. 27, 1979 John Skwarla
Nov. 27, 1992 Mary Bozinta
Nov. 28, 1974 Anna Perchishin
Nov. 29, 1921 Alexander Khvechin
Nov. 29, 1934 Fr. Peter Shemanshko
Nov. 30, 1930 Athanasius Klebanovich



Parish Educational Classes

Teen Discussion Group (high school students) a brief 20 minute informal discussion to be held on the 2nd Sunday during the Coffee Hour.

Class A (K thru 3rd grade) on the 1st and 3rd Sundays during Coffee Hour.

Class B (4 thru 8 grade) on the 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays during Coffee Hour.

General Question & Answer Period on the 4th Sunday during Coffee Hour.

Christmas Cookie Walk – Dec. 16th

A sign-up sheet for making cookies may be found on the vestibule stand. For more information please speak with Terri Filippini.

OCA Charities Appeal

You are asked to use your envelope for this annual offering. Instead of the funds being sent to Syosset, The Parish Council will directly disperse them to persons and charitable causes (due to OCA crisis).

The Parish Website: www.ssppoc.org

Posts important news about our diocese or parish as it is announced. Changes to the schedule are also made due to factors as bad weather, the absence of the rector or changes in the time of services or their cancellation.

If winter weather is "iffy" check the website before you set out for church or call the rectory. Cancellation of services, meetings or events will be posted at least one hour before scheduled.

A QUESTION ABOUT TITHING

Why does the Orthodox Church endorse tithing? The reason I ask this is that although 10% is required in Old Testament times, so is stoning for adultery and other rules we don't follow now. How do we tell what is valid today and what is not?

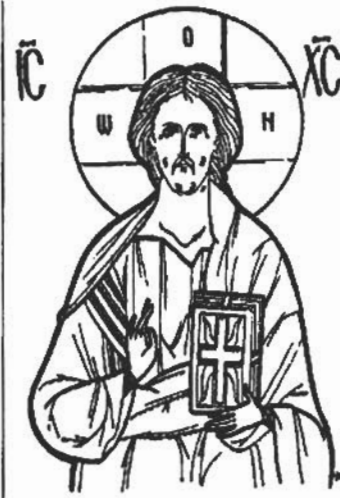
Tithing, as you correctly observe, is the Old Testament injunction to set aside 10% of all one possesses for the work of the Lord. Many Christians, Orthodox and non-Orthodox alike, strive to achieve this level of giving, even though its origin is in the Old Testament and there are those who would say that the New Testament maxim would be to recognize that all we possess is in fact the Lord's and that we should return to Him all that we have, or at least the first portion of our treasures.

Even though tithing is from the Old Testament, it should not be seen as something that should not be practiced, such as stoning. Would one also recommend that Christians ignore the Ten Commandments because they are found in the Old rather than New Testament? Jesus Christ came to fulfill the law, not to abolish it. That which was worth saving from the Old Covenant was incorporated into the New.

In looking at the reality of some of our parishes – especially those with 50 members or less – tithing might be a reasonable means of keeping the parishes properly funded and, in some cases, alive. The "I'll give a buck a week" attitude in a small parish will ensure that there are not enough funds to keep the doors open, much less support a priest.

The thing that is critical is not the percentage – or the origin of the maxim – but, rather, that one is giving the first and the best of one's resources to the work of the Church – in honesty and out of a sense of thanksgiving to God for His many blessings. Remember the widow who only gave two coins was blessed because she gave everything she had to God. She overshot the tithe by 90%!

Fr. John Matusiak



SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

"Let each of you regularly on the first day of the week set aside a proportion as God has prospered him."

1 Corinthians 16:2

"What shall I render to the Lord for all He has given me?"

Psalm 116:12

"What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

Matthew 16:26

DETERMINING YOUR WEEKLY OFFERING

If Annual Gross Income Is:	3%	5%	7%	10%	12%	15%
20,000	\$12	\$19	\$27	\$38	\$46	\$58
30,000	\$17	\$29	\$40	\$58	\$69	\$87
40,000	\$23	\$38	\$54	\$77	\$92	\$115
50,000	\$29	\$48	\$67	\$96	\$115	\$144
60,000	\$35	\$58	\$81	\$115	\$138	\$173
75,000	\$43	\$72	\$101	\$144	\$173	\$216
100,000	\$58	\$96	\$135	\$192	\$231	\$288



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In Memoriam: His Eminence Archbishop Peter, Retired Archbishop of New York and New Jersey

Article posted: 11/19/2007 3:24 PM

SYOSSET, NY [OCA Communications] – On Monday, November 19, 2007, His Eminence, Archbishop Peter, retired ruling hierarch of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey fell asleep in the Lord.

Archbishop Peter was born as Paul L'Huilier on December 3, 1926 in Paris, France. In his youth he became interested in Eastern Christian theology. In 1945, while enrolled at the St. Denys Institute in Paris, he embraced the Orthodox faith. In addition to studies at St. Denys, Archbishop Peter did graduate work at the University of Paris and received a Licentiate of Theology from the Moscow Theological Academy in 1962. From the same institution, he earned the prestigious Doctorate of Canon Law degree in 1985. His doctoral dissertation, "The Church of the Ancient Councils – The Disciplinary Work of the First Four Ecumenical Councils", was published by St. Vladimir's Seminary Press in 1996.

Archbishop Peter began his ecclesiastical life on August 30, 1954, when he was tonsured a monk. On September 4 and 5, 1954, he was ordained hierodeacon and hieromonk. As a hieromonk, His Eminence served as parish pastor at two Orthodox churches in Paris, Three Hierarchs and the Church of our Lady the Joy of Those who Sorrow. In 1960, he was elevated to the rank of Archimandrite. On September 12, 1968, on the Feast of St. Alexander Nevsky, he was consecrated Bishop of Chersonese at St. Alexander Nevsky Monastery in St. Petersburg (then called Leningrad).



In 1979, Archbishop Peter was invited to come to the Orthodox Church in America by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius, to serve as the Bishop of Brooklyn. In 1981, he was installed as the Bishop of New York and New Jersey. In 1989, the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America bestowed on him the title of Archbishop.

Archbishop Peter was deeply involved the academic world. He lectured at the Institute of St. Denys, Paris, France, from 1949 to 1950. From 1952 to 1962, he taught at the Three Hierarchs Seminary in Villemoisson, France. He was a Professor at the Catholic University in Paris from 1966 to 1978. In 1979, he became Adjunct Professor of Canon Law at St. Vladimir's Seminary, Crestwood, New York. As a specialist in Orthodox Canon Law, Archbishop Peter occupied a prominent position. He was often sought as an expert in this field by other Orthodox jurisdictions and represented the Orthodox Church at various conferences, meetings, and ecumenical dialogues.

In addition to his archpastoral ministry and academic work, for many years Archbishop Peter was chair of the *External Affairs Department of the Orthodox Church in America*. His dealings within the international Orthodox community often brought him face to face with other notable hierarchs and Church leaders, many of whom he knew personally. Archbishop Peter's service in this role played a great part in forging strong relations between the Orthodox Church in America and other Orthodox Churches. His Eminence was also Canonical Advisor for the Standing Conference of Orthodox Bishops in America (SCOBA), and was an active promoter of Orthodox unity in North America.

From the spring of 2004, His Eminence was on leave of absence from His archpastoral duties. In March of 2005, the members of the Holy Synod of the OCA accepted Archbishop Peter's request for retirement, which became effective April 30, 2005.

Funeral services for His Eminence, Archbishop Peter, will be served at Holy Virgin Protection Cathedral, 59 East 2nd Street, New York, NY. On Monday, November 26, he will be waked from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., with a Panikhida served at 7:00 p.m. On Tuesday, November 27, His Eminence will be waked from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., with the Funeral Service for a Hierarch served at 7:00 p.m. On Wednesday, November 28, a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m., celebrated by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman and members of the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America, with final prayers following the Liturgy. After a memorial luncheon, Archbishop Peter will be interred at St. Tikhon's Monastery in South Canaan, PA.

May His Eminence, Archbishop Peter's memory be eternal!

THE MOVIE – “THE GOLDEN COMPASS”

*Some comments by Fr. Michael Lewis
St. Luke’s Orthodox Church, Garden Grove, CA.*

There will be a new "children's movie" out in December called *The Golden Compass*. It is written by Phillip Pullman, a proud atheist who belongs to secular humanist societies. He hates C.S. Lewis's *The Chronicles of Narnia* and has written a trilogy to show the other side. The movie version has been "dumbed" down in order to seduce and fool kids, and their parents, in the hope that they will buy his trilogy - where in the end the children kill God and everyone can do as they please! Nicole Kidman stars in the movie so it will probably be advertised a lot. This is just a friendly warning that you sure won't hear on the regular TV.

As your father in Christ at St. Luke's, I wanted to inform and warn you about this movie that is coming out December 7th, during the Christmas season, which is entitled *The Golden Compass*. It is directed toward children and is filled with a blatant atheist and anti-Christian message. What is disturbing to me is that this movie is based on the first of a trilogy of books for children called *His Dark Materials* written by Philip Pullman of England.

Mr. Pullman is a devout atheist. His objective is to bash Christianity and promote atheism. He has made remarks that he wants to kill God in the minds of children, and that's what his books are all about. He despised C.S. Lewis and Narnia, etc. An article written about him said, "this is the most dangerous author in Britain" and that Pullman would be the writer "the atheists would be praying for, if atheists prayed." Pullman said he doesn't think it is possible that there is a God and he has great difficulty understanding the words "spiritual" and "spirituality." What I thought was important to communicate is what part of his agenda is for making this picture. This movie is a watered down version of the first book, which is the least offensive of the three books. The second book of the trilogy is *The Subtle Knife* and the third book is *The Amber Spyglass*. Each book gets worse and worse regarding Pullman's hatred of God. In the trilogy, a young girl becomes enmeshed in an epic struggle against a nefarious Church known as the Magisterium. Another character, and ex-nun, describes Christianity as "a very powerful and convincing mistake." In the last book, a boy and girl are depicted representing Adam and Eve and they kill God, who at times is called Yahweh (which in the spirit of political correctness, is definitely not Allah).

They are hoping that unsuspecting parents will take their children to see the movie; that they will enjoy the movie and then the children will want the books for Christmas. That's the hook. Pullman says he wants the children to read the books and decide against God and the kingdom of heaven.

If you decide that you do not want to support something like this, I suggest that you stay away from the movie and the books. We need not take our minds for a swim in sewage when we already know it is sewage. Let us fill our hearts and minds with prayer, and good worthwhile books!