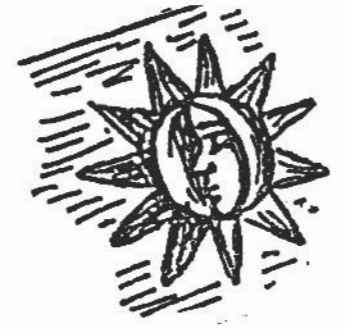




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BULLETIN OF DECEMBER 2, 2007

SUNDAY/DECEMBER 2nd
27th Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 2)

Prophet Habakkuk

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
 Coffee Hour; Book-for-the-Month of
 Spiritual Reading from Parish Library;
 Church School Classes

MONDAY/DECEMBER 3rd
 7:00p.m. Compline and Akathist to
Great-Martyr Barbara (Dec. 4th)

WEDNESDAY/DECEMBER 5th
 7:00p.m. Vespers

THURSDAY/DECEMBER 6th
St. Nicholas the Wonderworker
 9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30 Divine Liturgy

FRIDAY/DECEMBER 7th
 9:30a.m. Memorial Service for
 Fr. Jaroslav Roman & Stephanida Seminuk

SATURDAY/DECEMBER 8th
 9:30a.m. Akathist; Confession
 5:30p.m. Vigil; Confession

SUNDAY/DECEMBER 9th
28th Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 3)
Conception of the Theotokos; Icon
of the "Unexpected Joy"
 9:30a.m. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
With Bishop PETER of Cleveland and Elevation
of Deacon Paul to the Protodeaconate
Festal Lenten Lunch to follow
 (no church school classes today)

Fasting Days of Nativity Lent

Sunday,	Dec. 2nd	fish, wine & oil
Monday,	Dec. 3rd	
Tuesday,	Dec. 4th	wine & oil
Wednesday,	Dec. 5th	fish, wine & oil
Thursday,	Dec. 6th	fish, wine & oil
Friday,	Dec. 7th	
Saturday,	Dec. 8th	fish, wine & oil
Sunday,	Dec. 9th	fish, wine & oil

Sunday, December 9th – Special Day

By the grace of God a very historic event will take place in our parish church as well as our diocese next Sunday. This will be visitation and celebration of the Divine Liturgy by His Grace, PETER, Bishop of Cleveland of the ROCA (Russian Orthodox Church Abroad). There has been no hierarch of the ROCA to celebrate in our diocese since the 1940's.

Our bishop, Metropolitan HERMAN has graciously permitted Bishop PETER to serve as well as to elevate in his name Deacon Paul Sokol to the rank of Protodeacon.

A festal Lenten lunch will follow at Our parish center. All are invited! Please sign-up on the vestibule stand or call Patricia Sokol at (908-806-3415) no later than Monday, Dec. 3rd, so we can have a count for the lunch.

At the lunch a basket will be found if you wish to participate by a free will offering in presenting Deacon Paul with a new set of vestments in appreciation for his honorable service to our parish.



IC and XC
 are abbreviations
 for Jesus.
 NIKA may
 be translated as
 "Victor" or
 "Conqueror."

Peter (Loukianoff) of Cleveland

From OrthodoxWiki

His Grace, **Bishop Peter (Loukianoff)** is bishop of Cleveland, vicar for the administration of the Diocese of Chicago and Midwest America for the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia.

Life

The future bishop, in the world Pavel Andreyevich Loukianoff, was born August 9, 1948 in San Francisco, California. There he studied at the Ss. Cyril and Methodius Russian Church gymnasium and school. On August 19, 1965 he was tonsured reader by St. John (Maximovitch) of San Francisco. He served as an acolyte for St. John and assisted him in archpastoral duties. In September 1966 he enrolled in Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary in Jordanville, New York. Between 1971 and 1976 he worked at the Synod of Bishops as an aide to Bp. Laurus of Manhattan. After completing seminary, he graduated from Norwich University and the department of theology of Belgrade university. In 1988 he was

tonsured a monk and ordained a hierodeacon by Abp. Laurus. On April 25, 1989 he was ordained a hieromonk. He then worked as an instructor of Church history and world history at Holy Trinity Seminary as well as holding the position of the seminary's inspector. In 2000 he was appointed director of the Russian Ecclesiastic Mission in Jerusalem and in 2002, administrator of the Diocese of Chicago and Detroit (now Chicago and Midwest America). In 2003 the Synod of Bishops approved his consecration as Bishop of Cleveland.

The consecration was appointed for July 12, 2003, the feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul. It took place at the Protection of the Theotokos cathedral in Des Plaines, Illinois. At the conclusion of the All-Night Vigil, the order of naming was performed by Metropolitan Laurus assisted by Abp. Alyphy of Chicago and Detroit and Bp. Kyrill of San Francisco and Western America. The next morning, at the Divine Liturgy, the bishop-elect presented his confession of faith and the consecration took place and was performed by the same bishops. Present at the Liturgy were Archbishop Job of Chicago and the Midwest (OCA) and representatives of other local churches. Also present was Her Royal Highness Princess Maria Louisa, sister of King Simeon of Bulgaria with representatives of the Bulgarian Royal house, which was commemorated at the Great Entrance.



His Grace, Bishop Peter (Loukianoff) of Cleveland

THE ORLETS

One of the features of a service in which a bishop serves, is the usage of the "orlets." This is a circular rug with the image of an eagle flying over a city, upon which the bishop stands. This symbolizes that the bishop should soar from the earthly to the heavenly like an eagle, and as an eagle can see clearly over distances, so must a bishop oversee all parts of his diocese.



Orlets

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.

Offerings for the week of Dec. 2nd

Olive Oil - in memory of Emilia; for the health of Nicole (namesday); for protection and healing from God for Gabriela-Antoaneta; in Memory of Joan; in memory of Michael.

Wine - for protection during travel and in thanksgiving for all blessings received.

Flowers - in honor of St. Nicholas.

Namesday Greetings

St. Barbara/Dec. 4th: Barbara Kulick, Barbara Erkman;

St. Sava/Dec. 5th: Saba Kaliashvili;

St. Nicholas/Dec. 6th: Nicholas Kita. Nicholas Mattei; Nicholas Oliver; Nicole Melnikov; Many Blessed years!

The Mysteries of Confession & Communion

Should be received by all the faithful during the time of this 40 Day Fast (Nov. 15th-Dec. 24th). Please not in the monthly bulletin the times offered for Confession.

Those That Are Home Bound

Be sure to arrange with Fr. James for a visit to your home for the Holy Mysteries and prayers. Please arrange this during the weeks of Dec. 2nd, 9th and 16th.

End the Year 2007 in Good Standing

Be sure your \$180 per adult assessment is paid in full by Dec. 31st. To be eligible to participate in the Annual Meeting, vote and hold any parish administrative office, you must be in financial good standing. 2007 assessments must be paid in the calendar year of 2007.

Parish Synodicon

Dec. 07, 2007 (40th Day) Stephanida Seminuk
Dec. 28, 2007 (40th Day) Archbishop PETER
Dec. 28, 2007 (40th Day) Vera Somoluk
Dec. 05, 1941 Anastasia Rilik
Dec. 05, 1978 Stefan Syubiak
Dec. 06, 1997 John Suseck Jr.
Dec. 07, 1929 Felxi Kshanovsky
Dec. 07, 1972 Gregory Hriniaik
Dec. 07, 1999 Priest Jaroslav Roman
Dec. 09, 1965 Max Horbel
Dec. 09, 1970 Helen Horbel



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).

Have You Notified the Rector?

Of any changes in parish membership status, as well as names, addresses, and phone for the new 2008 Parish Directory?



Dikiri

The Dikiri & Trikiri Candles

These are held by the bishop during Divine services. The Dikiri is held in the left hand and signifies the two natures of Jesus Christ – both divine and human. The Trikiri symbolizes the Trinity of Persons and is always held in the right hand.



Trikiri

2007-11-06 23:12:00

An 82-year-old bell-ringer from Bryansk rope-climbs the belfry

Moscow, November 6, Interfax - Bryansk Region's only woman bell-ringer Galina Nikolashina from the village Ovstug rope-climbs the belfry each time she needs to ring her bells before church services.

Galina has learnt ringing bells with no teacher, *Express-Gazeta* reports. She felt her he was called to this occupation in the mid 1990s when the local church's belfry, destroyed during WW2, was rebuilt and given new bells.

'When we got the main bell I promised myself that I would ring it at least once. And after I did I got a taste for that. I had no teacher except a small church booklet yet in a year I mastered bell-ringing more or less,' she said.

The woman has to rope-climb the belfry since the ladder is not complete so far. How she managed to do that? 'Burning desire is worse than fire,' she replied.

One rainy day she fell down and broke her leg so that now she needs crutches to get about. Yet Galina remains optimistic.

'I will climb up as soon as I can. And there I will ring!' she said.

The chief ringer of the Moscow Kremlin and the Cathedral of Christ the Savior Igor Konovalov commented that he never heard of so aged women ringers.

Russian Church may revise relations with WCC if liberal trends prevail - spokesman

Moscow, November 21, Interfax - The Russian Orthodox Church might revise its relations with the World Council of Churches if liberal Protestant circles take the upper hand in that organization, the Moscow Patriarchate has said.

"Everything will depend on how the World Council of Churches develops. At the present time, we see resolute steps against adopting documents which run counter to the Orthodox faith within the Council. The principle of gaining a consensus has been introduced for making the most important decisions," Moscow Patriarchate spokesman Vsevolod Chaplin said in an interview published in the Wednesday issue of the *NG-Religi* newspaper.

At the same time, "it is obvious that liberal Protestant circles are seeking to turn the WCC into a rostrum for promoting feminism, the rights of sexual minorities, ideas which erode the principle of national sovereignty, and certain political programs," he said.

"If these trends prevail, I cannot rule out that our church may reconsider its relations with the WCC," he said.

Russian Church reserved about prospect of meeting between Patriarch, Pope

Moscow, November 26, Interfax - A meeting between the pope and the Russian patriarch is not an issue at the moment and is being artificially kept in the limelight by the media, said Priest Igor Vyzhanov, the secretary for Inter-Christian Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate Department for External Church Relations.

"Statements which Vatican officials have been making for the press refer to their relations with the press, not with the Orthodox Church. We have direct contact with them. If they ever want to say anything, they say this directly to us. We don't need any instruments to send signals to each other," he told *Interfax* on Monday.

Fr. Igor was commenting on a recent statement by Cardinal Walter Kasper, the president of the Pontifical Council for promoting Christian Unity, to the effect that "a possible historic meeting between Pope Benedict XVI and Russian Patriarch Alexy II could improve relations between the Orthodox and Catholic churches." However, the cardinal did not say exactly when such a meeting was likely to take place.

"The meeting has never been rejected as such. But prior to it, problems must be settled so the meeting will mark a new stage in our relations. No specific discussions of this issue are under way now," Fr. Igor said.

Speaking about problems between the Roman Catholic Church and the Russian Orthodox Church, he said that, "relations between Greek-Catholic and Orthodox churches must be settled in Western Ukraine."

"In addition to this, the issue of Catholic clergy's work in Russia and in other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States should be finally settled, so it will be service to their own flock, not a mission in the Orthodox environment," Fr. Igor said.

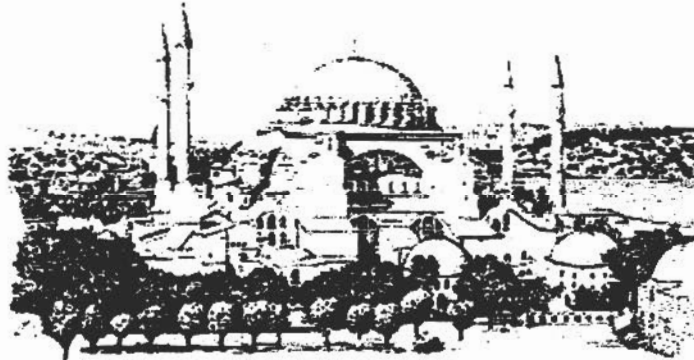
REFLECTIONS ON A HOLY PILGRIMAGE

By Georgia Economou

In November of this year, I was blessed to have been able to take a Holy Pilgrimage to the cities of Constantinople, Turkey, Florence, Venice and Ravenna, Italy. I realized several things on this trip. First what a privilege and a blessing it is to live in a country where we can freely worship our Orthodox Christianity and second how much we take for granted every day.

My trip began in Constantinople, Turkey where on our first day we were taken to Liturgy at The Church of the Panagia in downtown Turkey. The first thing I saw as I entered the church was an icon of the Panagia with Christ in which both faces had been scratched out. It left me with a feeling of sadness to see the faces of these holy icons so desecrated, but I also realized that even though they scratched the surface, they cannot touch what is inside. Liturgy was as beautiful as it should be, and at coffee hour following, the priest and bishop expressed how thrilled they were to have people attending their Liturgy as the church is constantly under attack by Moslems who throw rocks at the church and threaten to slit their throats. The danger became more obvious to us as we left the church and a group of small Moslem children threw firecrackers at us and spit down upon us. It was a completely unfamiliar experience to all of us and made us realize what Christ must have felt being spit on while hanging on a cross for the sins of the world.

The rest of our stay in Turkey we visited the awe-inspiring Cathedral of Agia Sophia. This is the third edifice of Agia Sophia, the first church having been burned in 404. The second edifice stood intact for more than a century until 'Nika' riots in 532. It is Agia Sophia where the Empress Theodora once worshipped. Again even in this amazing cathedral we saw evidence of vandalism in the icons as well as etchings in the wall where crosses have been removed.



Hagia Sophia

From there we crossed the street to enter the Blue Mosque where worship is held 5 times a day depending on the direction of the sun. We were asked to remove our shoes before entering the mosque where the men and women pray in different cordoned off sections. Amazingly enough we found out that the prostrations that the Moslems perform when they pray were modeled from Orthodoxy. From there we took a tour of the famous Theodosian walls which were set up to protect the city from invasions by land and were breached by the Ottomans in 1453. We climbed to the top of these walls and below us was the entire city of Istanbul with the sun setting pink in the distance and the chant of the Moslems announcing prayer filled our ears.

The highlight for all of us on our visit to Constantinople was the private audience we had with His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew. While addressing us, His All Holiness encouraged us to visit the Church of St. George in the Patriarchate and venerate the relics of St. Gregory Palamas and St. John Chrysostom which after 800 years were finally brought back from Rome to the Church of Constantinople. We were also blessed to be able to venerate the most treasured relic of the Church of St. George, a piece of the actual pole in which Christ has been flogged.

After departing Turkey, our journey took us to Florence, Italy, site of the unsuccessful attempt to reunite the Catholic and Orthodox Churches. We visited the Piazza Del Duomo, The Cathedral of Santa Maria Del Fiore and the Baptistery of St. John. On a leisure day a group of us visited the Academia which currently houses the statue of Michelangelo's "David." One thing that really struck me about this famous statue was its grandeur and size in stark contrast to the tiny person David actually was when he conquered Goliath. The next day we boarded the train for a day trip to Venice, the city surrounded by water. Upon arrival in Venice we hopped the "water cab" which dropped us off in St. Mark's Square where we visited the Basilica of St. Mark. One interesting icon in this famous basilica was St. Mark being wrapped in pork to be snuck out of the country. The reason they used pork was to keep the Moslems from finding him. One of the rooms in the basilica also housed the relics that the Venetians had stolen from Constantinople.

Our final stop in Italy was Ravenna, the ancient capital of the Western Roman Empire and an artistic bridge between the East and the West. Ravenna is the Capital of Mosaic. All the icons are made entirely of tiled mosaics.

Even though the historical and spiritual sites that were surrounding us during this pilgrimage were amazing, one thing I noticed most was the simple lifestyle and ways of the people both in Turkey and Italy. I noticed one Moslem woman hanging her clothes on a laundry line hanging from her window because they have no dryers. In Venice the Venetians method of transportation every day is a water cab that is constantly crowded by tourists. There are 74 Orthodox Churches in Turkey yet not enough priests to keep them open. The priests are not allowed to wear their vestments of the street for fear of being arrested or even killed. Yet, despite all these hardships and the simple way the people lived, they seemed happier than the richest stockbroker in America. And I am happier person to have experienced it all.

