

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 FEBRUARY 17, 2008

SUNDAY/FEBRUARY 17th
Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee
(Tone 5)

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
Church School; Coffee Hour
12:00p.m. Annual Parish Meeting

TUESDAY/FEBRUARY 19th
7:00p.m. Compline
7:30p.m. Informal Discussion at Rectory

SATURDAY/FEBRUARY 23rd
9:30a.m. Akathist; Confessions
5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

SUNDAY/FEBRUARY 24th
Sunday of the Prodigal Son
(Tone 6)
1st & 2nd Findings of the Head of
St. John the Baptist
9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour;
Question & Answer Period

Fast Free Week

There is no fasting this week, as we learn from the Parable of the Publican and Pharisee, that fasting without humility and repentance is of no avail.

Meat-Fare Sunday

March 2nd, this is the last day we partake of meat products until Holy Pascha, April 27th.

Cheese-Fare Sunday

March 9th, this is the last day we partake of dairy products until Holy Pascha, April 27th.

Pure Monday

March 10th, the Beginning of the 40 Day Great and Holy Fast



God, I thank you that I am not like this tax collector



God, have mercy on me, a sinner

AN INSTRUCTION OF ST. THEOPHAN
THE RECLUSE (+1894)

"Shouldn't I be doing something?"

Look to heaven, and measure every step of your life so that it is a step towards it.

What to do? Do whatever is presently before you, in your circle and in your situation – and believe that this is and will be your true work; nothing more from you is required. It is a great error to think that one must undertake important and great labors, whether for heaven or in order to serve mankind. That is not necessary at all.

It is necessary only to do everything in accordance with the Lord's commandments. Just exactly what is to be done? Nothing in particular, just that which presents itself to each person according to his or her life, and which is determined by the individual events which each of us meets.

That is all! God arranges the lot of each person, and the entire course of life of each one is also His good work, as is each moment and each encounter.

Offerings for the Week of Feb. 10th

Olive Oil – in memory of Emilia; in memory of Michael; for the health of Justina; in memory of Imagne, Farma, Claude and Ella; for the health of Eugenia.

Wine – for the protection, illumination and salvation of Stefan (birthday); in memory of Archpriest John, Fr. Alexis, Fr. Adion and Archimandrite Michael.

Flowers – in memory of Matushka Anna Karel; In memory of Joan.

Offerings for the week of Feb. 17th

Olive Oil – in memory of Joan; in memory of Michael; for the health of Eugenia; in memory of Helen Russo; for the health of John and Carol (anniversary); in memory of Emilia; for the health of Justina.

Wine – for the health of Zachary (birthday); for the remission of sins and life everlasting of Mariana, and Simona-Georgiana.

Concerning the Radiant or Dark Covering of the Soul – An Instruction by St. Theophan the Recluse (+1894)

The soul has a “covering” this is an element in which the soul works on the body and the body on the soul. The “covering” of the soul adopts precisely the appearance which corresponds to its inner attitude.

While God knows the inner most part of our souls, the saints are aware of the general condition of our souls by our “covering.”

The saints do not see directly, but by means of the souls’ covering, which is like their own (spiritual) and like the element in which they live (spiritual) because the state of the soul is accurately reflected by its covering.

Imagine, if you will now, two people are sitting and talking. During this, the soul of each person has its own disposition. Neither one sees what is in the soul of other account of the coarse covering of the body, beneath which the soul is concealed.

The angels and saints however, if they were to gaze upon them, would see their souls as they are and what is within them, because the state they are in, and that which is in them, are reflected in their souls’ covering.

If within the soul are holy thoughts and feelings, then its covering is bright; with each holy feeling the brightness has its own character. But if the thoughts and feelings are not quite pure, then the soul’s covering it likewise not bright, and each impure feeling has its own characteristic gloom, which is sometimes like fog, at other times like the gloom of night.

Suppose you were to rise up to heaven and perceive with angelic vision (after taking on, of course, an angelic body) – then having turned your gaze upon the earth, you would see among the varied masses of people bright shades, semi-bright, hazy and murky. It would not be at all surprising if those who were brightly dressed seemed gloomy to you, if their souls were bad, while those in tatters would seem bright, if their souls were pure.

This is how the saints, the angels and our Guardian Angel see us, and judging by what they see, they rejoice or grieve over us.

Besides the angels and saints, there are dark angels that are invisible to us and also see. However, when the soul is bright, they are unable to look at it, like bats who fear the light. They look at it only when it begins to darken. They run in packs everywhere, and as soon as they notice a darkened soul, they immediately fall upon it, and begin to twist it to and fro with thoughts, passionate desires and disturbance of feelings. The demons establish themselves in a turbulent way in the realm between the body and soul, here they sit next to the soul and begin to stir it up, like dust by wind.

How the spiritual powers see us is in fact how we really are.



Easter Candy Sale – February Month

Order forms have been distributed and may also be picked up at the church vestibule stand and in the hall office. Please return your orders no later than Sunday, Feb. 24th.

Informal Discussion

Will be held on the Tuesday evenings of this month from 7:30p.m. to 8:30p.m. at the parish rectory. This is an opportunity for you to ask, listen, share, comment, etc. on matters of the Faith and life in general.

Spaghetti Dinner – Sunday, March 2nd

This dinner will be held at our parish center by the Ways & Means Committee from 12:00noon to 2:30p.m. Reserve the date. At the dinner, you may purchase pirohi (not cooked) to bring home.

Pirohi Making

Monday, Feb. 25th – morning
Monday, Feb. 25th – evening
Tuesday, Feb. 26th – evening

Boiled Wheat Sought

For the General Memorial Service to be held on Friday, February 29th at 7:00p.m. (for Meat-Fare Memorial Saturday).

The Lenten Triodion

The liturgical book that governs the season of Pre-Lent (3 weeks) and Great Lent (7 weeks) begins today with the Commemoration of the Publican & Pharisee. It is the “announcement of the forth-coming season of repentance.”

Publican and the Pharisee

A Publican was a tax collector, who collaborated with the Romans and cheated the people. Publicans were despised by the people as public sinners.

A Pharisee was a member of a zealous religious party, who strictly observed the letter of the law and made sure everyone else was aware of their religious observance.

Parish Synodicon – Memory Eternal!

Feb. 27th (40th Day) Lydia Seman
Feb. 17, 2003 Anna Peschek
Feb. 18, 1952 Gregory Holovach
Feb. 18, 1963 Magdalena Padla
Feb. 18, 1993 Josephine Fedchin
Feb. 19, 1963 Gregory Klimchuk
Feb. 20, 1918 Jacob Shevchuk
Feb. 20, 1953 Anna Sabat
Feb. 20, 1963 Theodosia Zuboff
Feb. 20, 1981 Anna Lisowski
Feb. 21, 1939 John Cherkan
Feb. 21, 1963 Steven Piscadlo
Feb. 21, 1976 Anna Sharson
Feb. 22, 1931 Stephen Blisak
Feb. 22, 1931 Olga Yaskovsky
Feb. 22, 1977 Stella Honchar
Feb. 22, 1989 Gertrude Huzinec

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.

No classes on the 5th Sunday of the month.

OCA Mission Appeal Envelope

In the month of February, a special collection is taken for the benefit of mission work in the USA.

These funds will be distributed directly by our parish to our OCA Mission parishes of Christ the Saviour in Delaware (Fr. John Parsells) and St. Maximus the Confessor in Denton, Texas (Fr. Justin Frederick). Please be generous in your support.



2008-02-13 00:00:00

St. Valentine's Day is an opportunity for Orthodox lovers to express their feelings - Russian Church

Moscow, February 13, Interfax - The Dean of Psychology Department of St. John Russian Orthodox University Priest Andrey Lorgus thinks it is possible to celebrate St. Valentine's Day, including the celebration by Orthodox couple lovers.

"I see nothing wrong with this. Thank God, that people have another opportunity to spend more time together, and give presents to their loved ones. Certainly, as long as we really mean love, and not fashion or stereotypic induced behavior patterns. The latter case is a shame," said Fr. Andrey to *Interfax-Religion* Wednesday.

According to Fr. Andrey, St. Valentine's Day as a holiday "may be good or bad, as well as New Year's Day may also be good or bad."

"For some, it means joy and a chance to manifest love, giving and generosity," he noted.

Commenting the intention of some Orthodox young people to hold an Internet campaign on February 14 in protest at "pagan" and "commercial" nature of St. Valentine's Day, Fr. Andrey said that organizers of such events were "driven by fear on the one hand, and by hypocrisy and a wish to make a name for themselves, on the other hand."

"There is still a healthy trace in such protests - it is the zeal of their Orthodox tradition. However, it is well known, that such zeal unfortunately is not always moved by reason," claims Fr. Andrey.

At the same time, he agreed that the annual boom around St. Valentine's Day had a commercial nature and was "certainly instigated by sales networks which raise a lot of money on that."

"This boom refers to the modern tradition rather than to religious or popular worship of St. Valentine. From Christian and religious standpoint, this is not a holiday, because this day has no reference to any of St. Valentines known to us. For example, the Russian Orthodox Church celebrates the memory of St. Martyr Triphon on February 14," said Fr. Andrey.

In his turn, the Head of Communication Service of the Moscow Patriarchate Department for External Church Relations Mikhail Prokopenko thinks that the setting of Saint Valentine's Day and its symbols are "some kind of a flash mob (a large group of people who assemble at a certain time for a special purpose - *IF*) with a commercial touch," which indicate that people "lack festive events which could really reach their souls and lives."

"The most deplorable thing we have to observe during the days of total obsession with Valentine greetings is that great and enigmatic phenomena of human life, such as love and faith which inspired many generations of poets and artists are pushed into the Procrustean bed of spiritual "fast food," said Fr. Mikhail to *Interfax-Religion*.

He reminded that today's family crisis is the objective reality, and one of its reasons is the fact that "many people see no ideals of love and family life, the images on which to build their lives."

"Real true love is inseparable from responsibility; it is not selfish or ambitious. According to Paul the Apostle, such love is not self-seeking; it needs no reasons to reveal itself. Reasons are needed to habitual users of surrogates who lost their ability to feel true love long ago," claims Fr. Mikhail.

According to him, if a person in love "never thinks about responsibility, and never cares that love is a very serious affair, he should better not disturb his spirit with such emotions which have no vital prospects."

"Torturing one's spiritual world with infatuation is harmful," claims Fr. Mikhail.