

SS. PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH
605 Washington Ave., Manville, NJ 08835-185
Voice: 908-685-1452 / fax: 908-685-1074
Web: ssppoc.org / email: frjames@ssppoc.org

BULLETIN OF JULY 27, 2008

SUNDAY/JULY 27th

6th Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 5)

St. Panteleimon the Healer

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour; Question & Answer Period

THURSDAY/JULY 31st

7:00p.m. Vespers; Confession

FRIDAY/AUGUST 1st

**Procession of the Holy Cross
Beginning of Dormition Lent:**

(Aug. 1st – 14th)

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY/AUGUST 2nd

10:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. OCA Town Meeting
At Ss. Peter & Paul Church in South River
5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

SUNDAY/AUGUST 3rd

7th Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 6)

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

Fast Days

Wednesday, July 30th

Friday, Aug. 1st (wine & oil)

Saturday, Aug. 2nd (wine & oil)

Sunday, Aug. 3rd (wine & oil)

**Two of the Twelve Great Feasts
Of the Church Year**

Occur in the month of August:

The Transfiguration of our Lord (6th)
(blessing of fruits)

The Dormition of the Theotokos (15th)
(blessing of flowers)

On these feast days we should be at the divine
services, on the eve and on the day of.



Tropar Tone 3 to St. Panteleimon

O Holy Healer and Martyr Panteleimon, /
intercede with our Merciful God, /
that He will grant unto our souls, /
remission of our transgressions.

Kontakion Tone 5

As an imitator of the Merciful One /
And as one who received from Him the grace of
healing /

O prize-winner and martyr of Christ our God /
By your prayers heal the diseases of our souls
and ever banish the snare of the enemy /
From them that cry with faith: save us, O Lord!

A Prayer to the Saint

Lord Jesus Christ Son of God have mercy
on (name) through the prayers of St.
Panteleimon.

“Let the children come...and do not hinder them” (Matthew 19:14)

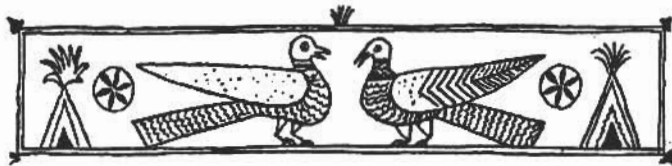
The Experience of the Church

As a general rule, children like to be in church, and this instinctive attraction to and interest in church services is the foundation on which we must build our religious education. When parents worry that the children will get tired because services are long, they usually subconsciously express their concern not for their children, but for themselves. Children penetrate more easily than adults into the world of ritual, into liturgical symbolism. They feel and appreciate the “atmosphere” of worship. The experience of the “Holy,” of that “mysterium tremendum” which is at the root of all religion - the feeling of an encounter with Someone who is beyond daily life - is more accessible to children than it is to us.

“Unless you turn and become like children” (Matthew 18:3): these words apply to the receptivity, the open-mindedness, the naturalness which we lose when we grow out of childhood. How many men have devoted their lives to the service of God and consecrated themselves to the Church because, from their very childhood, they have treasured the house of God and the joy of liturgical experience. Therefore, the first duty of parents and educators is to “let the children come...and do not hinder them” (Matthew 19:14) from attending Church.

It is in church that children must hear the word “God” for the first time. In a classroom it is difficult to understand, it remains abstract; but in church it is “in its own element.” In our childhood we have the capacity to understand, not intellectually, but with our whole being, that there is no greater joy on earth than to be in church, to participate in church services, to breathe the fragrance of the Kingdom of Heaven, which is “joy and peace in the Holy Spirit” (Romans 14:17)

- Fr. Alexander Schmemmann



Email for Parish Directory

A posting of email addresses as part of the Parish Directory is under way. If you wish to share your email address with other parishioners, please mail it to frjames@ssppoc.org. Even if your email is known to Father James, please send it again, as changes take place and sometimes husbands, wives and children have their own emails.

Offerings for the week of July 27th

Olive Oil - in memory of Michael; in memory of Emilia; for the health of Vaschen; for a safe journey; in memory of John; in memory of Justina; in memory of Joan.

Wine - for the health of Peter Parsells (birthday); in memory of Louise Chabra.

Flowers - in memory of Nicholas Chabra (birthday).

Vacation Planning – Orthodox Churches

An online directory of churches in North America on the site: Orthodoxy in America www.orthodoxyinamerica.org

Dormition Lent: Aug. 1st-14th

This two week summer Lent prepares us for the joyous celebration of the Dormition of the Mother of God on August 15th.

A fast is observed from meat, dairy, fish, wine and oil products. Your parish wall calendar indicates days of modification to the fast.

Those of the faithful that regularly receive Holy Communion every Sunday, and wish to continue to do so - must go to Confession before Aug. 15th, if they have not been to Confession anytime since Pascha (April 27th).

Parish Council Meeting Actions

The July 17th meeting heard reports from the rector and parish officers. The actions of the Parish Council included:

- 1) Consideration and acceptance of the report of the Parish Treasurer.
- 2) The approval of Michael Redmond to be the lay delegate at the Diocesan Council in September.
- 3) The approval of Theodora Combs to be the lay delegate at the All-American Council in November.
- 4) The purchase of a new refrigerator for the lower hall.
- 5) Heard the report on the status of the New Doors by Baut Studios for the 7th Ave., entrance into the upper hall.
- 6) Expressed dismay that a good number of parishioners have not paid their OCA assessment to date.
- 7) Accepted the proposal to rekindle the parish "Outreach Program."
- 8) To add emails to the Parish Directory.
- 9) Will seek out individuals to be part of the parish website team.
- 10) To develop a "green team," making our parish more ecologically friendly.
- 11) The next meeting of the Parish Council is Thursday, Sept. 18th at 7:00p.m.

Parish Synodicon – Memory Eternal!

Aug. 13	40 th Day	Justina Sokol
July 28,	1946	Sophia Sufrinko
July 28,	1985	Euzebius Tarangul
July 28,	1999	Nicholas Barnsoky
July 29,	1980	Helen Monko
Aug. 01,	1954	Nicholas Lebedz
Aug. 01,	2005	John Rosocha Jr.

OCA Town Meeting – Saturday, Aug. 2nd in South River.

Ss. Peter & Paul Church in South River will be the site for a 2 hour (10:00a.m.-12:00p.m) open forum for clergy and laity to speak to Metropolitan Herman on the subject of the crisis in our Church.

The meeting is designed for the faithful to express their feelings in an atmosphere of openness and candor. The bishop presiding is to hear the voice, pain, ideas and concerns of the faithful; and not engage in any response or dialogue.

There are four questions that govern the forum:

- 1) How has the scandal affected you personally?
- 2) What solutions would you offer to make things right?
- 3) What would you like to see happen at the All-American Council this November?
- 4) How do you envision the future of our OCA?

The OCA news site (www.orthodoxnews.org) offers views of a recent Town Hall Meetings held. Also check out the blog for the 15th All-American Council: www.oa15acc.wordpress.com

Appreciation

Is expressed to Daniel & Maria Torissi, for chairing the Annual Parish Picnic last Sunday. A good time was had by all. Thanks to all who helped out in making the day one of fine fellowship!

Prayer for travelers

May be offered for you after the Sunday Divine Liturgy. Simply let Fr. James know when you come to venerate the Holy Cross.



CONCERNING THE EFFECTS OF RECEIVING THE BODY AND BLOOD OF OUR LORD

There are at least four major benefits which may be expected after partaking of Christ's Body and Blood, namely:

1. Intimate union with Christ through His love.

Through this union we mingle with God and share with Him. As God is love, when we partake of Him through Holy Communion we become partakers of His love. It should be added that these Gifts from God are truly free. He compels no one to accept, just as in true love there is no compulsion, but absolute free to either accept or reject.

2. Strengthening of the body and soul.

Eating ordinary food only nourishes a person's body; but eating Christ's Flesh and Blood strengthens and nourishes both the body and soul. When the soul is nourished, a person is better able to live, grow and develop spiritually. This means that the ability to resist sin is greatly increased, thus enhancing the desire and capacity to be more virtuous, righteous, compassionate and considerate. We can be sure that this is so since Christ said: "I am the bread of life, he who comes to Me shall not hunger and he who believes in Me shall never thirst" (Jn 6:35), and then: "For My Flesh is true food and My Blood is true drink" (Jn 6:55).

With these statements Christ expounded the eternal nourishment value of His Flesh and Blood. Unlike ordinary food which only temporarily strengthens the body, true Divine food strengthens the soul eternally.

The strengthening effect of these Gifts, is another indicator of Christ's great love for us. Christ gave us certain Commandments to follow if we are able to inherit the Kingdom of Heaven. Scripture teaches that evil is spread through man by various demonic powers (Eph 6:12). Without Divine intervention man does not have the strength to fight these extremely powerful, fleshless creatures – as Christ said: "...for without Me you can do nothing" (Jn 15:5). Man alone does not have the strength to become perfect. Not wishing man to be condemned to hell, Christ nourishes us with His Body

and Blood – giving us a Perfect Food with which to become perfect.

3. Preparation for eternal life with God.

Partaking in Communion prepares us to share with God, an eternally joyful life after the resurrection of the dead. Christ is God and therefore lives forever – by eating His Body and Blood, we are blended with Him and will likewise live forever. This is Christ's promise when He said: "He who eats My Flesh and drinks My Blood has eternal life; and I will raise him up on the last day" (Jn 6:54).

This "life" that Christ refers to is not related to the life here on earth, since it is obvious that all men "live" here, even non-Christians. Nor does He refer to "life" of the general resurrection. Rather, Christ refers to the glorious life which some Christians will inherit as a reward for righteous living. How necessary it is for us to partake in Christ's Body and Blood; by being with Him, our souls are washed and transformed – made beautiful – then, after death, we would not expect punishment and hell, but the unspeakable rewards of the Heavenly Kingdom.



4. Unity through love with other Christians.

Christ has only one Body, by partaking of It, each and everyone of us also becomes united into one body – the Body of Christ. Christ's love for us is made perfect in unity, since not only is it reciprocated between ourselves and Christ, but amongst ourselves as well. This is what Christ meant when He established the Church.

The Church is not a building where people pray, it is the Body of Christ – a living organism, in which we all unite in love with Him and amongst ourselves, when we partake of Holy Communion (1 Cor 10:17). Christ is the head of His Body, the Church (Col 1:18), and not some bishop, patriarch, theologian or other mortal man. The Orthodox Church is thus infallible, since Christ being God, is infallible; we can then be sure that our Divine nourishment can never be false or corrupted, even if those who perform this Sacrament are themselves imperfect or unworthy.