

SS. PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH
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BULLETIN OF AUGUST 24, 2008

SUNDAY/AUGUST 24th

10th Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 1)

St. Dionysius of Zante

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy with Prayers for Teachers & Students on the Beginning of the Academic Year; Coffee Hour; Question & Answer Period

MONDAY/AUGUST 25th

7:00p.m. Compline & Akathist to **Vladimir Icon of Theotokos (Aug. 26th)**

THURSDAY/AUGUST 28th

7:00p.m. Vespers; Confessions

FRIDAY/AUGUST 29th (Strict Fast)

Beheading of St. John the Baptist

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

SATURDAY/AUGUST 30th

St. Alexander Nevsky

9:30a.m. Akathist to St. Alexander; Confessions

4:30p.m. Memorial Service for Frs. Nicholas Kiryluk & John Lewis

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

SUNDAY/AUGUST 31st

11th Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 2)

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

6:30p.m. Vespers

MONDAY/SEPTEMBER 1st

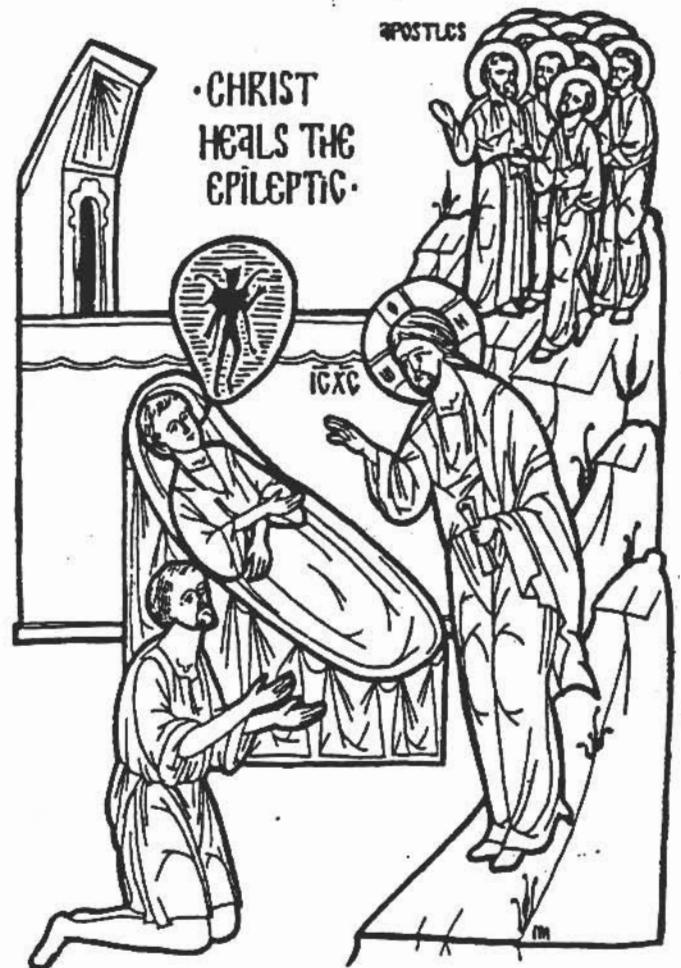
Church New Year

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

Fasting Days

Wednesday, August 27th

Friday, August 29th (wine & oil allowed)



Memory Eternal!

To the newly-departed Sophie Wassel of Manville, who reposed (+) August 19th. Our sympathy is expressed to her family.

Viewing

In our church Sunday, August 24th, from 3:00 to 6:00p.m. with a Panikheda at 4:00p.m.

Funeral

In our church Monday, August 25th at 10:30a.m. with burial at parish cemetery.

Memorial Service for Former Rectors

On Saturday, August 30th at 4:30p.m. a Memorial Service will be held for Fr. Nicholas Kiryluk (+Aug. 31, 1988) on the 20th anniversary of his repose and for Fr. John (George) Lewis (+ Sept. 1, 2007) on the 1st anniversary of his repose.

Fr. Nicholas served our parish 1946-1952.

Fr. John served our parish 1969-1971.

Support for St. Tikhon's Seminarian

For the third year, parishioners are invited to help Deacon Joseph Mc Cartney and his family in rent costs. Each month a free will offering of any amount is sent to help. Please speak with Pam Oliver (908-231-9201) if you wish to participate.

Open Door Ministry – September Month

An aspect of our "Outreach Program" is to keep the doors of our church open seasonally on Sundays as an opportunity for visitors to look in and perhaps say a prayer if they wish. A sign-up sheet for the month of September may be found on the vestibule stand. The Doors are kept open – weather permitting – from 12:30p.m. to 2:00p.m. For more information please speak with Reader Symeon Combs.

Offerings for the Week of August 24th

Olive Oil – in memory of Michael and Justina; in memory of Emilia; for the health of Vaschen; for the health of John (birthday); for the health of Natalie (namesday).

Wine – for the health of Constante (birthday); in memory of Joan.

Namesday Greetings

St. Natalie/Aug. 26th: Natalie Ratzkovich, Natalie Gripp and Natalie Garcia; Many Blessed Years!

The Poor Basket for the Month of September

Is earmarked for relief work for refugees in Georgia and Ossetia. Please see special page in today's bulletin.

Our Parish Website: www.ssppoc.org

Will have posted any important information that needs to be communicated. Go to "What Is New"

Parish Synodicon – Memory Eternal!

Sept. 27, 2008	Sophie Wassel (40 th Day)
Aug. 24, 1954	John Wasevich
Aug. 24, 1958	John Galida
Aug. 24, 1990	Michael Sudia
Aug. 25, 1977	Tekla Barna
Aug. 26, 1962	Anna Persurance
Aug. 26, 1965	John Harchin
Aug. 26, 2001	John Wassel
Aug. 27, 1934	John Poklitar
Aug. 27, 1970	Luke Vozny
Aug. 28, 1958	Daniel Zydiak
Aug. 30, 1952	Terry Beth Koles
Aug. 31, 1927	Jacob Kava
Aug. 31, 1972	Julia Marchuk
Aug. 31, 1988	Fr. Nicholas Kiryluk

Opportune Times for Holy Confession

Are posted in the weekly and monthly bulletin. You may also make other arrangements for Confession by contacting Father James.

NJ Deanery Clergy Meeting – Sep. 9th

On this day, our parish will host the meeting. If you can help in food preparation for the luncheon on this day please speak with Father James.

A Timely Reminder

If a shut-in or ill at home and you desire the ministry of the priest, let him know.

If you are in or going into a hospital, rehab unit, or nursing home, let your priest know.

The Lord God Preserve in Holy Orthodoxy

Rebecca Boyce on her Entrance into Holy Orthodoxy on August 14th at the Mother of God Church in Rocky Hill. Rebecca is engaged to Timothy Gorbatuk of our parish. The couple will be married this November.

Diocesan Assembly in South River

On September 15th, Monday our Diocese will gather in Assembly. Fr. James and Michael Redmond will represent our parish. If any parishioner in good standing wishes to be present as an observer, please let Fr. James know by August 31st.

Remember in Prayer

Anastasia Barna (Somerset Medical Center).

Sophie Wassel beloved mother

MANVILLE — Sophie (Lebedz) Wassel, 91, entered into eternal life on Wednesday, (Aug. 20, 2008) at her residence. Sophie was born and raised in Manville over 90 years ago.

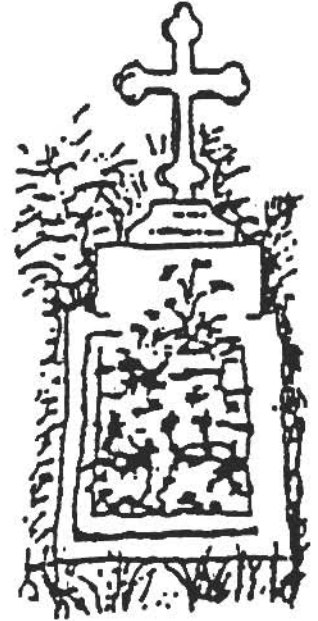
Sophie graduated from high school and went on to work at Diehl's in Bridgewater where she met and soon after married her husband, John Wassel of Elizabeth. John predeceased her on Aug. 26, 2001.

After Diehl's closed Sophie went on to work as a seamstress at Gavin's Sewing Factory in Somerville. When the factory closed Sophie moved on to work at RCA until retiring at the age of 70.

Sophie loved music and people, thus working weekends for many years as a waitress at her sister and brother's establishment, the Elmcrest Inn of Manville, both in the country music lounge and the banquet hall. Sophie's hobbies were gardening and crocheting and many of her garments are still used by family members.

Sophie, one of 12 children, is survived by her sister, Nancy Mastrianni of Somerville; her brother, George Lebedz of Nebraska and her baby brother, Nick Lebedz of Florida. Her immediate family, her loving daughter, Maureen Zakarzewski and son-in-law, Vincent, of Manville will miss her greatly. Taking care of her for her last months are her beloved grandson, Joel Zakarzewski of Manville and his companion, Kelly Meister, also of Manville. Sophie will be missed dearly.

Funeral services will begin 10:30 a.m. Monday, Aug. 25, at Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church, 605 Washington Ave, Manville. Sophie will be laid to rest beside her husband at Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Cemetery in Hillsborough. Relatives and friends are invited to attend visitation from 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 24, with a Panikhida service at 4 p.m.; and from 9:45 a.m. until the service time Monday, Aug. 25, at Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church in Manville. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Fucillo & Warren Funeral Home in Manville. To send condolences to the family or sign an online guest book, please visit www.FucilloandWarrenFuneralHome.com.



St. Dionysius of Zakynthos absolves his brother's murderer.

St. Dionysius of Zakynthos

This great saint who reposed in 1622, is known as a wonderworker and "walking saint". The relics of St. Dionysius are incorrupt and many blessings and miracles were associated with his ministry as bishop and even more after his repose through his holy relics.

On Sept. 11, 2001 when St. Nicholas Church next to the World Trade Center was totally destroyed only two items remained intact, a Cross and a paper icon of St. Dionysius.

Oftentimes it is impossible to open the saint's tomb. It appears as though this occurs when the saint is out performing miracles. Afterwards, when the tomb is opened, seaweed is found in the tomb and the saint's slippers are worn out and need replacement.

St. Dionysius is commemorated Dec. 17 & Aug. 24.

Miracles of St. Dionysios

The Blind Shoemaker

Panayiotis Kalantzopoulos, a devout Orthodox shoemaker in Zakynthos, lost his sight. In great grief for himself and his family he prayed fervently to St. Dionysios, and on December 14, three days before his feast, the saint appeared to him in a dream and said, "My child, take heart, in three days you will be healed." On the saint's feast-day, at the very moment the relics were being carried past the Kalantzopoulos home, Panayiotis was healed.

Fire in the Church

In 1849, Hilarion Garpasis, the sacristan of the church where the saint's relics were kept on Zakynthos, had three dreams of St. Dionysios in one night. He did not awaken fully, and as he began to dream the fourth time, he felt the saint pulling him, and saying, "Get up." He woke up and went to the church. When he entered he saw that a lampada that he had left lit had caught the wooden poor box on fire. He put out the flames, giving thanks.

The Crippled Invalid

Ioannis Bofardios, a crippled man, who for years had only been able to walk a few steps with the help of crutches, one winter forced himself to hobble from his home on the outskirts of Zakynthos to the port-church for St. Dionysios' feast-day. Exhausted by his unaccustomed labor, Ioannis asked the monks if he could stay in the church overnight. They consented and he prayed through the night, beseeching the saint to heal him. In the morning, he heard the monks knocking to let them in for services, but he was so exhausted from the day before that he was unable to reach the door. Suddenly he heard a voice from the coffin say, "Rise and open." With difficulty he made his way to the door and afterwards to his home. To his amazement he found that the farther he went, the more he could walk unaided and within a few days he was completely healed.

A Doubting Abbot

When Abbot Daniel was in charge of the monastery where the relics were kept, he was tempted with doubts about the sanctity of St. Dionysios. A good and careful cleric, he prayed earnestly to know whether or not the saint was in heaven. Not long afterwards he had a dream in which he gave one of the monks his blessing to ring the church bells to start the morning service. Awaking a moment later, he thought that he had really given the blessing and got up to go to church. When he opened the door, he saw St. Dionysios standing in the middle of the church, being arrayed for the service in his episcopal garb. The saint stood with his hands resting on the shoulders of the two deacons vesting him. Two priests also attended him dressed in white vestments and, as the abbot stood watching, one of them turned to him and asked, "Do you still doubt, or are you convinced now?" Deeply shaken, the abbot left the church, but, disbelieving his senses, crept back to see if the heavenly assembly was still present. The priests and deacons were gone, but the abbot clearly saw St. Dionysios climb back into his coffin. Awestruck, the abbot awoke the brothers to tell them of what he had seen and was afterwards a fervent preacher of St. Dionysios' sanctity and miracles.

IOCC begins distributions in Tbilisi & North Ossetia

Posted 08/15

BALTIMORE, MD [IOCC] – International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) distributed emergency food and hygiene supplies to people who were displaced due to the conflict between Georgian, Russian, and South Ossetian forces. The distribution took place on Thursday in Tbilisi where displaced families took shelter in a school for the blind and in the nearby town of Tskvarichamia. IOCC is also coordinating assistance to refugees in North Ossetia (Russia) in partnership with the Russian Orthodox Church.

"Most people had to flee the fighting in South Ossetia and brought nothing more than the clothes on their backs," said IOCC Georgia Program Manager Darejan Dzotsenidze. The Georgian government and the U.N. are currently registering some 23,000 people who fled the conflict and poured into Tbilisi. Those numbers are expected to increase.

IOCC released emergency funds to its Tbilisi and Moscow offices earlier this week to purchase food items such as pasta, rice, cereal, sugar and tea, and hygiene items including towels, soap and tooth paste. The collective centers where the displaced are housed often have two families in one room.

"Many of those who fled hid in basements and forests until they had to find food," said Dzotsenidze. "Now they are saying, 'please help me to get home—even if you give me a palace here, I would rather go home.'"

IOCC, which has worked on emergency and development projects in Russia and Georgia since the early 1990s, is working in partnership with the Georgian Orthodox Church in the affected areas of Georgia and with the Russian Orthodox Church in North Ossetia.

To help in providing emergency relief, call IOCC's donation hotline toll-free at 1-877-803-4622, make a gift on-line at www.iocc.org, or mail a check or money order payable to "IOCC" and write "Conflict in the Caucasus" in the memo line to: IOCC, P.O. Box 630225, Baltimore, Md. 21263-0225.

IOCC, founded in 1992 as the official humanitarian aid agency of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA), has implemented over \$275 million in relief and development programs in 33 countries around the world.



The U.N. estimates that more than 100,000 people have been displaced due to the conflict in Georgia. IOCC has distributed essential food and hygiene supplies to families in Tbilisi, and is working with the Russian Orthodox Church to assist refugees in North Ossetia. (photo credit: D. Dzotsenidze/IOCC Georgia)

POOR BASKET MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

FOR IOCC RELIEF WORK IN

GEORGIA AND NORTH OSSETIA

(Checks made to Ss. Peter & Paul Church with IOCC notation)

LIVING AS A CHRISTIAN

As Christians we are called to live in the light of the great gifts we have received. We enjoy the gift of life from the hand of God our Creator and the gift of eternal life in Christ:

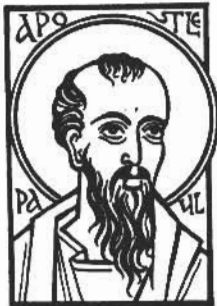
“Out of nothing You brought us into being, and when we had fallen, You raised us up again. You have not ceased doing everything until You graciously gave us Your future Kingdom”
(Liturgy of St John Chrysostom).

Three elements interact at the heart of our Christian life: grace, faith, and works.

- **Grace:** The source and basis of our life in Christ is God’s gracious concern for us, the sheer gift of His love for mankind, which He gives to us unearned.
- **Faith** is our saying “yes,” our enabling God to grace us, our accepting of God’s gift, allowing Him to be generous to us.
- Our **good works** do not merit God’s love for us, or even earn more of it. They are our response in gratitude for what He does for us. Having been adopted into God’s family, we are responsible for managing what we have been given.

Synergy is the interplay of these three elements: God’s initiative for loving us, our acceptance in faith, and our responsible management through works. God does not force His love on us: He offers it. We must accept His love openly to receive it, and then care for it responsibly to keep it. No one of these elements without the other defines the Christian life. All three together produce the fullness of God’s life in us.

God’s Free Gift: God gifts us with His life despite our weaknesses and failings. Though spiritually dead, we have been raised in Christ and exalted in glory with Him:



“God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved – and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

(Ephesians 2:4-7)

Our Active Response:

- We **believe** that God is calling us to be *divinized* in Christ, by being united with Him through the Holy Mysteries.
- We **respond** in a “*public life*” of worship, fellowship and service in the Church and in a “*secret life*” of prayer, fasting and sharing in the depths of our hearts.
- All the while engaging in a “*spiritual warfare*”: the life of **repentance**.

“For we are what He has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.” (Ephesians 2:10)
