

SS. PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH
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BULLETIN OF OCTOBER 12, 2008

SUNDAY/OCTOBER 12th

17th Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 8)

**Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical
Council held in Nicea 787**

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour; Church School
Teen Discussion
Youth Bake Sale at Coffee Hour

MONDAY/OCTOBER 13th

Iveron Icon of the Theotokos

9:30a.m. Akathist to the Icon
7:00p.m. Outreach Committee Meeting

TUESDAY/OCTOBER 14th

6:30p.m. Compline

7-8:30p.m. Scripture Study on Ephesians:
Part Two:

Baptism, Truth, Members of One Another

SATURDAY/OCTOBER 18th

St. Luke the Evangelist

St. Peter of Montenegro

9:30a.m. Akathist to St. Luke; Confessions
5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

SUNDAY/OCTOBER 19th

18th Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 1)

St. John of Rila, Bulgaria

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

Fasting Days

Wednesday, October 15th

Friday, October 17th



The Mother of God "Iviron" Icon was in the Iviron Monastery on Mount Athos from the year 999. This icon miraculously came to the Holy Mount Athos floating on the waters of the Marmara Sea during the Byzantine Iconoclastic controversy in the 9th century. Apparently to preserve the icon from destruction, the faithful placed it in the waters at Nicea in the ninth century and it made its way to Athos.

During the time of the celebrated Patriarch Nikon, when he was still an archimandrite of the New Savior Monastery, he commissioned that a copy be made of the icon in 1648 and had it brought to Moscow. Almost immediately the copy, an exact replica, became highly venerated because of the great many miracles which took place at her original shrine in the Iviron Monastery. The icon in Moscow was soon 'glorified' by the numerous miracles and countless cures attributed to it.

The feastday of the Iviron Icon is celebrated on the second day of Bright (New) Week; on 12 February, the day on which it miraculously appeared to the brethren of the Mount Athos Iviron Monastery; and, on 13 October, to commemorate her arrival in Moscow from Athos.

Scripture Study Classes – Tuesdays in October 7-8:30p.m.

On the four Tuesday evenings in the Conference Room a Study on part of St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:25-32 will be held. This section of the Epistle speaks about members of the Faith relating to one another. All are invited!

Tues. Oct. 14th *Baptism, Truth, Members of One Another*

Tues. Oct. 21st *Conflict – Be angry but do not Sin*

Tues. Oct. 28th *Honor the Spirit – Honor the New Life in Christ.*

Offerings for the Week of October 12th

Olive Oil – in memory of Michael and Justina; in memory of Joan; for the health of Vaschen.

Flowers - in memory of Emilia.

The 3rd Quarter Financial Statements

You have received in the mail.

Our Parish Finances this year are in bad straits. The Sunday Envelope is \$11,506 less than in 2007.

Some 30 parishioners still have not fulfilled their OCA/Diocese Assessment, which the parish will have to fulfill to the amount of \$5,400.

Please examine your statement and see if you are regular and are offering "the first-portion," of what you are blessed with. While we may have to make certain "cuts" in our own personal finances due to the economic crisis, our offerings to the church ought to be stable.

Parish Council Positions for 2009

The Council is seeking two people for the positions of Financial Recording Secretary and Treasurer. Both positions would be temporary – for up to six months (unless you have a long-term interest!). A good opportunity to "try out" either of these positions for a short-term and serve your parish. Interested parties must have their own home computers. Please speak with Fr. James or Robert Smith for more information.

The Parish Website: www.ssppoc.org

Has posted photos of the 30th Anniversary Celebration held on Sunday, Oct. 5th. Check it out.

Parish Synodicon – Memory Eternal!

October 12, 1967 Timothy Zeban
October 12, 1967 Matthew Zeban
October 12, 1981 Andrew Mogilevsky
October 14, 1973 Anthony Bolash
October 17, 1916 Yerzhy Golombus
October 18, 1976 Paul Kuntzevich
October 19, 1951 Peter Putyrsk
October 19, 1002 Julia Pribish

IRA Benefit of Matching Funds for 2008

As per decision of the 2008 Annual Parish Meeting, the Parish Council are inviting parishioners to respond to the matching contribution for the Rector's Retirement Account. The Parish will match up to \$2,500, monies so earmarked. Any amount may be offered. For more information, speak with the Treasurer, Robert Smith. If using an offering envelope, please mark it "IRA contribution."

Memorial Services

For Joan Filippini, Oct. 27th, Monday, 6:30p.m.

For Helen Chabra, Oct. 30th, Thursday, 7:00p.m.

Demetrius Saturday – October 25th

A General Memorial Service for All the Departed is held on this day. This is an opportunity to express our love for our decorated ones and offer the gift of corporate prayer. The names of all the departed in the Parish Synodicon are read as well as names from your Commemoration Books that are submitted. An offering of Boiled Wheat for the service is sought.

Remember in Prayer

Health Concerns: Theodora Combs, Anastasia Barna, Alexandra Tereby, and Richard Nevitt.

Some Good Church Websites

Russian Religious News: www.interfax-religion.com

Orthodox Christians for Accountability: www.ocanews.org

General Church News:

www.direflectionstoorthodoxy.org

Orthodox Culture and Morality

www.orthodoxytoday.org





***A PASTORAL REFLECTION ON 30 YEARS AS RECTOR
OF SS. PETER AND PAUL CHURCH IN MANVILLE***

On the Feast of the Holy Protection of the Theotokos, October 1, 1978, I served the Divine Liturgy in Manville as a substitute priest. It was on a Sunday. On October 14th, I was officially assigned to the parish.

For 30 years – half of my life, I have been rector of this parish. In this period of time much has happened in the life of our parish and in my own personal life. This 30th year is a suitable time for reflection on my part. I have been blessed to be your parish priest. In these 30 years, I and my family have been loved and found ourselves as being wedded to this parish. The Parish Family and my Personal Family have been as one. I am deeply appreciative of your kindness, respect and support in many ways and at many times.

I thank you for these 30 years. I am ever mindful of our parishioners who have gone before us in the hope of eternal life. Every Sunday, I read their names at the Divine Liturgy and I recall their labors and ministry to our parish. I owe a debt to them and remember lovingly their service to our parish and myself. The names, faces and lives of many I have given Christian burial to, have strengthened me in my own personal life. Even now, years later, I still remember where they “stood” in church. May their memory be eternal!

I also thank you present members of our parish for your ministry and stewardship. I thank for your gathering to celebrate my anniversary as your rector, last Sunday as well as your kind gift; which will be used for a pilgrimage in the near future.

The course of my priestly ministry here in Manville, is also built upon the labors of the rectors that have served before me. May the Lord be mindful of their service to our parish. Certainly, I owe an unaccountable debt to the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul. I am convinced that every good accomplishment that you and I have accomplished – and can accomplish in the future – is through their love and heavenly service for us. May we always love and honor our Patron Saints.

It is not the time to examine what has been accomplished in the past 30 years. It is the time for ever-increased labor, prayers and sacrifice on my part. Thirty years does not entitle one to “coast” or “cruise.” There are many new challenges and opportunities for you and me together to make manifest our parish as a spiritual treasury of heavenly blessings and safe harbor on the voyage of life.

Let me take this occasion to ask for forgiveness from you for my failures and offences. I know that I have not served all or you in ways to be expected. Yes, I am a priest, but alas, a sinner. Forgive me! Pray for me.

I assure you of my love and re-dedicate myself to an honorable priestly ministry in serving our Lord Jesus Christ and you the parishioners of Ss. Peter and Paul in Manville.

LIVING IN THE BODY

Going to church for worship is one element in living as a Christian. *Being church* means making an active contribution to the Church's life, being a vital organ in a living body.

The first step in being church is being connected to others in our parish by:

- **Cultivating community** in the "fellowship of the Holy Spirit." Get to know one another in a more than casual way.
- **Treating others as brothers and sisters in the family of God** in Christ. Give others the time and attention we would give to our blood relatives.
- "Above all, **clothing yourselves with love**, which binds everything together in perfect harmony" (Colossians 3:14).



We nurture the relationships in the parish or the eparchy when we:

- ⊗ **Share our lives** – Authentic fellowship calls for more than coffee-hour courtesies. Grow to the stage when you can share your troubles as well.
- ⊗ **Learn together** - Take part in adult formation, retreats, or workshops to encourage others as well as to improve our own spiritual life.
- ⊗ **Work together** - Join in parish projects or committees to support the work of others as well as to make our own contribution. "*So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith*" (Galatians 6:10).
- ⊗ **Encourage each other** – by supporting their efforts, praying for their concerns and building them up in the eyes of others. "*Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor*" (Romans 12:10).
- ⊗ **Bear one another's burdens** – Be accepting of the weaker community members. There is no "perfect" church: every parish is made up of "saints" who are sinners, each with their own weaknesses and infirmities. "*Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ*" (Galatians 6:2).
- ⊗ **Admonish one another** – Do not shrink from confronting "family members" who are hurting others by promoting conflicts, pettiness, or legalism. "*My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted*" (Galatians 6:1).
- ⊗ **Protect the unity of the church** – by avoiding gossip or cliques, and speaking ill of others.
- ⊗ **Restore broken relationships** – when they occur by admitting our faults. No project or program is worth harming the family's inner life. "*If anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive*" (Colossians 3:13).