

## **SS. PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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**BULLETIN OF JANUARY 18, 2009**

### **SUNDAY/JANUARY 18th**

**31st Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 6)**

**Sanctity of Life Sunday**

**Ss. Athanasius and Cyril**

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

Coffee Hour; Church School

### **MONDAY/JANUARY 19th**

4:30p.m. Memorial for Mary Kralovich

### **THURSDAY/JANUARY 22nd**

7:00p.m. Parish Council Meeting

### **SATURDAY/JANUARY 24th**

**St. Xenia of Petersburg**

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

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

### **SUNDAY/JANUARY 25th**

**32nd Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 7)**

**New-Martyrs of Russia**

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

Coffee Hour; Church School

Question & Answer Period

### **Fasting Days**

Wednesday, Jan. 21st

Friday, Jan. 23rd

### **The Blessing of Homes**

Is taking place presently. All of the faithful are encouraged to have their homes blessed before Sunday, February 8th. Please make arrangements with Fr. James, in person, by phone or email for an agreeable time for your home blessing.



**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2009**

## **Help Our Parish Become Souper Bowl Champions!**

On Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009, team up with our parish's youth to help the needy in our community and around the world. Help our team in the "Souper Bowl of Caring" by bringing one dollar and a canned good with you to Liturgy. Please support this effort and help our parish become Souper Bowl Champions!



International Orthodox Christian Charities  
P.O. Box 630225 • Baltimore, MD 21263-0225  
Toll-Free: (877) 803-4622 • Fax: (410) 243-9824  
Internet: [www.iocc.org](http://www.iocc.org)



### **Parish Council Meeting**

January 22nd, Thursday at 7:00p.m.

### **Annual Parish Meeting**

February 8th, Sunday at 12:00p.m. The make-up date will be February 15th, if necessary.

All Reports for the Annual Meeting are asked to be submitted to the Rector, no later than January 30th, Friday, 6:00p.m.

Two persons are sought for Parish Council positions, please speak with Fr. James or Peter Bakaletz if interested.

### **36th Annual March For Life – Jan. 22nd**

On this day, prolife Americans gather in our Nations' capital to bring the important simple prolife message to those in government. Orthodox Christians gather and march together. Metropolitan Jonah will participate in the march. Are you familiar with Zoe for Life? [www.zoeforlifeonline.org](http://www.zoeforlifeonline.org) This is an Orthodox non-profit organization helping pregnant mothers. See also March For Life: [www.marchforlife.org](http://www.marchforlife.org)

### **Namesday Greetings**

St. Timothy/Jan. 22nd: Timothy Smith, Timothy Gorbatak

St. Xenia/Jan. 24th: Xenia Bodenchuk;

Many Blessed Years!

### **Offerings for the Week of January 18th**

Olive Oil - for the health of Amanda Sarah (birthday); in memory of Michael, Justina and Pavel; in memory of Vaschen and Emilia.

Flowers - in memory of Joan and Negeba.

### **New Priest and Deacon Vestments**

Four sets of matching priest and deacon vestments - white, dark red, green and white have been made and are now in our possession. The greater costs of the vestments have been secured but another \$2,500 is sought. If you wish to make any offering in any amount, may it be blessed.

### **Parish Synodicon- Memory Eternal!**

January	18, 1927	Anastasia Petrushevich
January	18, 1963	Helen Trehubets
January	18, 1990	Constantine Putyrsk
January	19, 1974	Vera Gromack
January	19, 1999	Charles Basil Fetchko
January	20, 1960	Nazar Pasechnik
January	20, 1963	Charles Chabala
January	21, 1971	Andrew Zorella
January	22, 1923	Tarasius Lasin
January	23, 1936	Paul Dzioba
January	24, 1960	John Lapa
January	24, 1963	Fr. Stephen Podlusky (Rector 1917-1918)
January	24, 1976	Jacob Mogilevsky
January	24, 1985	Anna Putyrsk

### **During the Divine Liturgy We Ought**

- To remember that the Holy Angels are present and sing and pray with fear and devout piety. So should we.
- We should be in church before 9:30a.m., so we have time to pray in our own words, light candles and be ready for the solemn beginning of the Divine Liturgy. Lateness to church is sinful.
- In prayer talk to God – not one another – Coffee Hour is the time and place for us to hold our conversations.
- Church business should not be engaged in during services by council members.
- Candles should be lighted before service begin, if you do come late, light them only at times when the Royal Doors are closed.
- When eating prosphora (church bread) be mindful not to drop any crumbs of the blessed bread on the floor. Parents should instruct their children on carefulness.

### **Icon Print Collection Box**

A box to bring your icon prints – from calendars, and cards is on the vestibule stand. Icon prints should not be disposed like trash. The box will be in the vestibule only to the end of January.



# News and Events

## Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah for Sanctity of Life Sunday

*Posted 01/11*

January 18, 2009

To the Venerable Hierarchs, Clergy, Monastics and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America

Dearly Beloved in Christ:

The Lord Jesus Christ emerged from the waters of Baptism, and heard the Word of the Father: "You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." The Lord's word to each and every human being, to each and every being which bears the image and can actualize the likeness of God, is the same: You are my beloved. It is the very Word of God who, by His incarnation and assumption of our whole life and our whole condition, affirms and blesses the ultimate value of every human person--and indeed of creation as a whole. He filled it with His own being, uniting us to Himself, making us His own Body, transfiguring and deifying our lives, and raising us up to God our Father. He affirms and fulfills us, not simply as individuals seeking happiness, but rather as persons with an infinite capacity to love and be loved, and thus fulfills us through His own divine personhood in communion.

Our life as human beings is not given to us to live autonomously and independently. This, however, is the great temptation: to deny our personhood, by the depersonalization of those around us, seeing them only as objects that are useful and give us pleasure, or are obstacles to be removed or overcome. This is the essence of our fallenness, our brokenness. With this comes the denial of God, and loss of spiritual consciousness. It has resulted in profound alienation and loneliness, a society plummeting into the abyss of nihilism and despair. There can be no sanctity of life when nothing is sacred, nothing is holy. Nor can there be any respect for persons in a society that accepts only autonomous individualism: there can be no love, only selfish gratification. This, of course, is delusion. We are mutually interdependent.

First as Christians, but even more so, as human beings, we must repent and turn to God and one another, seeking forgiveness and reconciliation. Only this will heal the soul. Only by confronting our bitterness and resentment, and finding forgiveness for those who have hurt us, can we be free from the rage that binds us in despair. Repentance is not about beating ourselves up for our errors and feeling guilty; that is a sin in and of itself! Guilt keeps us entombed in self-pity. All sin is some form of self-centeredness, selfishness. Repentance is the transformation of our minds and hearts as we turn away from our sin, and turn to God, and to one another. Repentance means to forgive. Forgiveness does not mean to justify someone's sin against us. When we resent and hold a grudge, we objectify the person who hurt us according to their action, and erect a barrier between us and them. And, we continue to beat ourselves up with their sin. To forgive means to overcome that barrier, and see that there is a person who, just like us, is hurt and broken, and to overlook the sin and embrace him or her in love. When we live in a state of repentance and reconciliation, we live in a communion of love, and overcome all the barriers that prevented us from fulfilling our own personhood.

All the sins against humanity, abortion, euthanasia, war, violence, and victimization of all kinds, are the results of depersonalization. Whether it is "the unwanted pregnancy", or worse, "the fetus" rather than "my son" or "my daughter;" whether it is "the enemy" rather than Joe or Harry (maybe Ahmed or Mohammed), the same depersonalization allows us to fulfill our own selfishness against the obstacle to my will. How many of our elderly,

our parents and grandparents, live forgotten in isolation and loneliness? How many Afghan, Iraqi, Palestinian and American youths will we sacrifice to agonizing injuries and deaths for the sake of our political will? They are called "soldiers," or "enemy combatants" or "civilian casualties" or any variety of other euphemisms to deny their personhood. But ask their parents or children! Pro-war is NOT pro-life! God weeps for our callousness.

We have to extend a hand to those suffering from their sins, what ever they are. There is no sin that cannot be forgiven, save the one we refuse to accept forgiveness for. Abortion not only destroys the life of the infant; it rips the soul out of the mother (and the father!). It becomes a sin for which a woman torments herself for years, sinking deeper into despair and self-condemnation and self-hatred. But there is forgiveness, if only she will ask. We must seek out and embrace the veterans who have seen such horrors, and committed them. They need to be able to repent and accept forgiveness, so that their souls, their memories, and their lives, might be healed.

Most of all, we must restore the family: not just the nuclear family, but the multi-generational family which lives together, supports one another, and teaches each one what it means to be loved and to be a person. It teaches what forgiveness and reconciliation are. And it embraces and consoles the prodigals who have fallen. In this, the real sanctity of life is revealed, from pregnancy to old age. And in the multi-generational family each person finds value. This is the most important thing that we can possibly do.

The Blessed Mother Teresa said that the greatest poverty of the industrialized world is loneliness. Let us reach out to those isolated, alienated, alone, and in despair, finding in them someone most worthy of love; and in turn, we will find in ourselves that same love and value, and know indeed that God speaks to us in the depths of our souls, You are my beloved in whom I am well pleased.

With love in Christ,



+JONAH

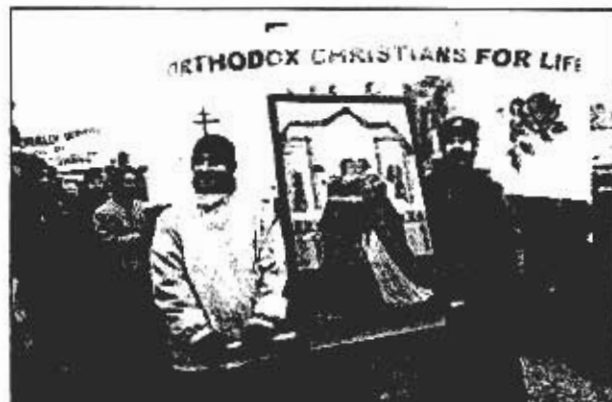
Archbishop of Washington and New York

## Metropolitan Jonah to take part in 2009 March for Life

*Posted 01/09*

SYOSSET, NY [OCA Communications] -- On Thursday, January 22, 2009, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah will join Orthodox Christian clergy and faithful from across America for the 36th annual March for Life in Washington, DC.

On the evening of Wednesday, January 21, 2008, Metropolitan Jonah will celebrate Vespers at St. Nicholas Cathedral, Washington, DC, at 7:00 PM. The following day, he will take part in the March and will be one of the first religious leaders to give a message at the rally on Capitol Hill. That evening, Metropolitan Jonah will give the invocation at the March for Life's annual Rose Dinner at the Hyatt Regency Washington.



"The Orthodox Church in America has designated the Sunday before January 22, the annual date for the March for Life, as 'Sanctity of Life Sunday,'" said OCA Director of Communications, Archpriest Andrew Jarmus. "This year, the Sanctity of Life Sunday will fall on January 18. We will shortly be posting Metropolitan Jonah's message for the Sanctity of Life Sunday and special petitions to be included in the Divine Liturgy on that day."