

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN DECEMBER 20, 2009

SUNDAY/DECEMBER 20

Sunday Before the Nativity

St. John of Kronstadt

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour; Church School
5:30p.m. Compline; Confessions

MONDAY/DECEMBER 21

Pre-Feast of Nativity

3:00p.m. Confessions
7:00p.m. Compline; Confessions

TUESDAY/DECEMBER 22

Pre-Feast of Nativity

3:00p.m. Confessions
7:00p.m. Compline; Confessions

WEDNESDAY/DECEMBER 23

Pre-Feast of Nativity

7:00p.m. Compline; Confessions

THURSDAY/DECEMBER 24

Eve of Nativity – Strict Fast Day

9:00a.m. Confessions 9:30a.m. Royal Hours
5:30p.m. Matins

FRIDAY/DECEMBER 25

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
6:30p.m. Vespers

SATURDAY/DECEMBER 26

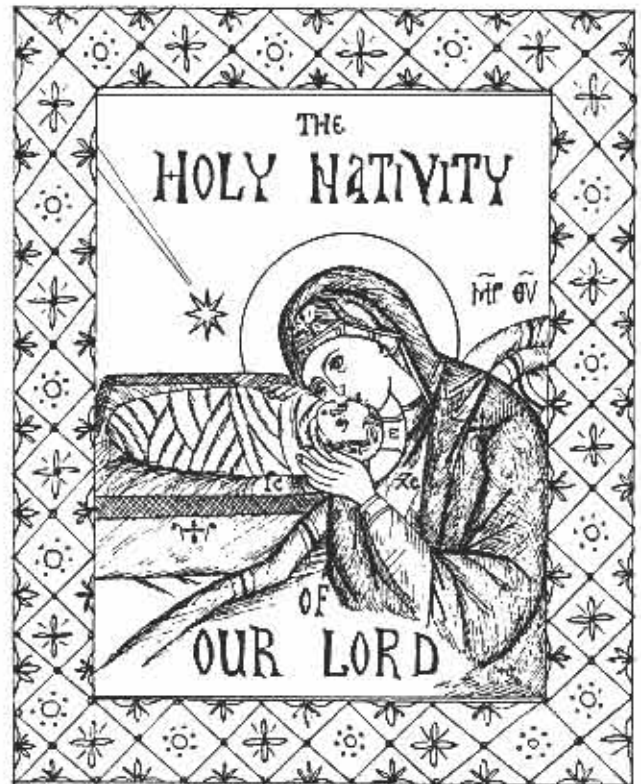
Synaxis of Theotokos

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
5:30p.m. Vespers & Compline; Confessions

SUNDAY/DECEMBER 27

Sunday After Nativity & St. Stephen

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



Pre-Feast Tropar Tone 4 December 20 thru 24

*Prepare, O Bethlehem,
For Eden as been opened to all!
Adorn yourself, O Ephratha,
For the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the
Virgin in the cave!
Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with
the divine fruit:
If we eat of eat, we shall live forever and not die
like Adam,
Christ comes to restore the image He made in the
beginning.*

Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Dec. 25, 40th Day Patriarch Pavle
Dec. 26, 40th Day Mary Romanak
Dec. 20, 1962 Michael Popko
Dec. 20, 1980 Ann Martin
Dec. 21, 1946 Helen Semoskovich
Dec. 21, 1997 Nadia Marchuk
Dec. 21, 2006 Nicholas Chabra
Dec. 23, 1950 Gregory Persuance
Dec. 23, 1989 Peter Kozura
Dec. 23, 1991 Olga Barna
Dec. 24, 1946 Steven Holovach
Dec. 24, 1947 Catherine Hriniaik
Dec. 24, 1961 Sophie O'Connell
Dec. 24, 1978 Anna Martinchuk
Dec. 25, 1990 Alexander Kuntzevich
Dec. 25, 1991 Helen Wislosky
Dec. 26, 1980 Jerry Russo
Dec. 26, 2004 Douglas Rose

The Nativity 40 Day Lent

Began November 15th and is observed until after the Divine Liturgy on the Nativity Feast, December 25th. A Fast is observed from meat, dairy, fish, wine and oil. Your parish wall calendar as well as the monthly printed calendar indicates fast modifications of fish, wine and oil.

Winter Weather Changes in the schedule

Due to weather conditions, it may be necessary to postpone or cancel services, meetings, classes or other events. The parish website will provide this information at least one hour before the scheduled event. You may also call the rectory, if in doubt.

Namesday Greetings

St. Anastasia/Dec. 22: Anastasia Mickel, Anastasia Kita, Meredith Anastasia Hansen;
St. Eugenia/Dec. 24: Joan Bongiorno
Many Blessed years!

Remember in Prayer

Archpriest Michael Lewis, Tatiana Onuschak, Charles Kachek, Theodora Combs and others especially needful of prayers.

Blessing of Homes

Will take place January 6th thru February 6th.

Parish Financial Support

Is provided through the Offering Envelopes that are mailed to your home every other month. To secure envelopes speak with Fr. James.

The Miraculous Kursk-Root Icon

On Jan. 2 Sat. at 9:30a.m. Metropolitan Jonah will celebrate the Divine Liturgy before the Icon at Ss. Peter & Paul Church in Jersey City. All are invited!

Facebook – Fr. David Straut

Here you may see photos of the service of the Visitation of the Kursk Icon to St. Elizabeth Church in Rocky Hill on December 15th. It was wonderful that many came from our parish.

Fast Free Period

There is no fasting or kneeling in this festal period between Dec. 25th and Jan. 3rd.

Movie & Pizza Dec. 29th, Tues. at 6:00p.m.

Everyone in our parish family is invited for Pizza and a viewing of a comedy film, "Up". Reserve the evening and join us! A sign-up sheet is on the vestibule stand. A free will donation may be made at the time of the film to cover food costs.

Facebook – Friends of Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

This forum is for everyone to post on, exchange ideas, make comments and share information. You are encouraged to use the site.

2010 Parish Wall Calendars

May be picked up in the church vestibule. Please, only one calendar per household, as there are no extras ordered. Please note that shaded red days on the calendar are fasting days. Plan accordingly.

Offerings for the week of December 20

Olive Oil – in memory of Michael and Justina; in memory of Joan; for the health of John (birthday); in thanksgiving to God for another year of work and blessings; in memory of Vaschen and Emilia
Wine – in memory of Nicholas Chabra
Flowers – in memory of Louise Chabra and health of Chabra family.

THE INCARNATION

In the Creed, we proclaim that Jesus Christ "was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became man." Thus, the eternal Word of God **took on our human nature** and fulfilled the Old Testament prophecy of Isaiah: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).

COMING TO TERMS

IMMANUEL: In Hebrew, "God with us." Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of this Old Testament title.

INCARNATION literally means "the action of taking on the flesh." By "dissecting" this word, its meaning becomes clear:

IN = to take up; to be put into

CARN = flesh

ATION = the action of

- **JESUS CHRIST REVEALED THAT WHICH HAD ONLY BEEN PARTIALLY REVEALED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT...**

Formerly He appeared to Moses and to the other prophets in the form of fire or as a bodiless being; but now, by a Virgin and by the will of the Father, He has become man... (Saint Justin the Martyr)

- **...AS WELL AS THE EXTENT OF GOD'S LOVE FOR HIS PEOPLE.**

Who is able to explain the extent of God's love? In love the Master took hold of us. Jesus Christ, for the sake of the love which He had for us and by the will of God, gave His blood for us, His flesh for our flesh, and His life for our lives. (Saint Clement of Rome)

- **BY LIKENING HIMSELF TO US...**

He became man and dwelt bodily in the flesh... In the body He experienced hunger, thirst, suffering, weariness, and the like... The flesh was His... He carries our infirmities and He Himself bears our sins, so that it might be revealed that He has become man for the sake of us, and that the body in which He bore our sins is His own body. (Saint Athanasius)

- **...HE RENEWS THE IMAGE OF GOD IN US...**

Man abandoned God and fashioned images carved after the human form. Since an image of man was falsely worshipped as God, God became truly man so that the falsehood might be destroyed... The Lord took on our likeness so that He might give us an even greater grace, so that sinful mankind might become a partaker of God. (Saint Cyril of Jerusalem)

- **...AND LIKENS US TO HIMSELF.**

You will follow the only true and reliable Teacher, the Word of God, Jesus Christ our Lord, who, because of His great love, became what we are so that He might bring us to be what He Himself is. (Saint Irenaeus of Lyons)

- **BY UNITING US TO HIMSELF...**

He became man, having been conceived according to the will of God the Father, for the sake of believing men and for the defeat of the demons. (Saint Justin the Martyr)

- **...HE SERVES AS OUR MODEL.**

The word is the cause of our beginning and of our well-being, for He is God. And now this same Word has appeared as man. He alone is both God and Man... By Him we are taught to live well and to enter into life eternal. (Saint Clement of Alexandria)



Archbishop Hilarion of Volokolamsk: A woman can hold major leading positions in the Church | OBL News

14.12.2009

Speaking about the role of woman in the Church on the Church and the World TV talk-show on December 12, 2009, Archbishop Hilarion of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate department for external church relations, answered questions from TV-viewers.

He said in particular that a woman can hold major leading positions in the Church, citing mothers-superior of major convents who run large households and direct hundreds of nuns. He noted that an absolute majority of precenters in Russian Orthodox churches are also women who sometimes conduct very large professional choirs.

It's quite a different story that in the Russian Orthodox Church, just as in the Roman Catholic Church, a woman cannot become a priest. It is because we preserve the church order which was formed in the early centuries of Christianity and established by Christ Himself and His apostles, the archbishop said.

In Christian tradition, priesthood has always been associated with the service of men, and there is no discrimination whatsoever here. It's simply different functions, just as fatherhood belongs to men, while motherhood to women. One cannot say that a woman is deprived of anything because she can be only a mother and cannot be a father, the DECR chairman explained.

He also said that in church practice there are various forms of the self-organization of lay people, including women, in which women who wish to take an active part in church life can find their calling.

Asked about the requirements that the Russian Orthodox Church sets for woman-parishioners' clothes, His Eminence Hilarion said that it depends on national customs and traditions. Our parishes and dioceses in Western Europe do not know of any bans at all with regard to women's clothes, he said, adding that for over 80 years now pantsuits have been manufactured both in Russia and the West; therefore one can no longer call trousers a piece of purely men's clothes. The Lord looks at a person's heart, rather than at his or her clothing, he assured.

The DECR chairman expressed regret at those cases where young men in casual clothes and young women in trousers come to church to seek understanding and compassion but are met with peremptory shouts and abuse. He described this attitude as an illness to be struggled with.

DECR Communication Service

Orthodox businessmen found heavenly protector

Moscow, December 8, Interfax - St. Joseph of Volotsk is proclaimed a heavenly protector of Orthodox enterprises and management.

Patriarchal Council for *Economics and Ethics* requested to give a heavenly protector to business activities. Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia blessed the initiative, his press service said.

St. Joseph of Volotsk (secular name Ioann Sanin, 1440-1515) went down to history as an ardent advocate of Orthodoxy and defender of church and state unity in struggle against heresies and church schisms, an inspirer of the teaching about the Holy Russia as the keeper of ancient ecumenical piety.

He is also famous for his business activities aimed at strengthening church authority and influence on society, enhancing the Church financial capabilities for carrying out the charity.

It'll be 500 years since the Holy Father deceased in 2015.