

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Website: www.ssppoc.org Diocese of NY-NJ: www.nynjoca.org

BULLETIN OF JULY 21, 2013

SUNDAY/JULY 21

4th Sunday After Pentecost

Prophet Ezekiel

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
Blessing "of things mobile" in parking lot
Coffee Hour

MONDAY/JULY 22

7:00p.m. Compline and Akathist to Icon
"Joy of All That Sorrow" (July 23)

TUESDAY/JULY 23

7:00p.m. Lemonade and Informal
Conversations in the rectory – all invited!

FRIDAY/JULY 26

St. Jacob, Enlightener of Alaskans

9:00a.m. 40th Day Memorial Frank Gregovitch
9:30a.m. Akathist to St. Jacob
7:00p.m. Vespers and Confessions

SATURDAY/JULY 27

Great-Martyr & Healer Panteleimon

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
5:30p.m. Vigil and Confessions

SUNDAY/JULY 28

5th Sunday After Pentecost

St. Irene of Chrysovolantou

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy and
Blessing of Golden Apples; Coffee Hour;
Question & Answer Period
1:00p.m. Eagle Scout Court of Honor –
For Zachary Sokol – all invited!



The Prophet Ezekiel

Ezekiel was filled with a sense of the holiness of God. The righteousness of God is high above all the wickedness of earth; and to Ezekiel the sins of his people seemed as terrible black shadows in the light of the awful purity of God. The people had committed wicked acts which had to be cleansed. Only God could "take the stony heart out of their flesh" (Ezek. 11:19). Then he could say, "They shall be my people, and I will be their God" (Ezek. 11:20).

Ezekiel prophesized that every single person must be responsible for his own life. Many were saying that there was nothing they could do. The evil times, were due, they said, to what others had done that they could not help. "The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge" (Ezek. 18:2) But Ezekiel said this was not so. A man would not be condemned for somebody else's sins. Each man would stand before God according to his own righteousness or his own evil.

Ezekiel was a priest and he felt that the religious ceremonies at Jerusalem were very important to the people. And one of his passionate concerns was that the people in exile should want to get back some day to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple, and make the worship there more glorious than it had ever been. He tells exactly how the priests must be robed and how they must offer the sacrifices of the people.

Ezekiel is a prophet of judgment and warning, but there is a promise in his message too. In a vision he sees the people of Israel as a valley of dry bones of

the dead, but the spirit of God blows upon them "and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet" (Ezek. 37:10). So he gives hope that God will restore the people.

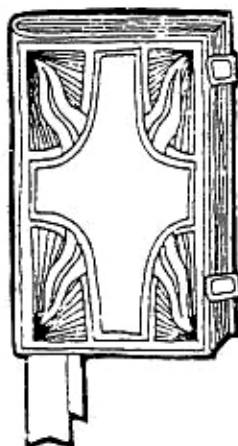
Offerings Week of July 21

Olive Oil – in memory of Michael, Justina, and Rosalie; in memory of Joan and Sandy; for the health of Stacey and Robert (anniversary); in memory of Cara.

Wine – for the health of Frank (birthday).

Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

July 27, 40th Day Frank Gregovitch
July 21, 1922 Luke Maximovich
July 21, 1925 Theodosius Horbel
July 22, 1982 Ann Holovach
July 22, 1989 Helen Stashkevetch
July 23, 1988 John Suseck
July 23, 1988 David Riegler
July 24, 1950 Joseph Hamermick
July 24, 1965 Steven Sabat
July 24, 1996 Roman Bodenchuk
July 24, 2004 Elizabeth Tyevech
July 25, 1941 Maria Kuch
July 25, 1966 Joseph Verkon
July 25, 1973 John Pawlik
July 26, 1917 Michael Kohut
July 26, 1956 Michael Evanoff
July 26, 1977 Clara bartushak
July 26, 1977 Peter Cresina



Coffee Hour Hosting

July 21 Combs, Mantafos, Parsells & Sokol
July 28 E. Sarchisian & C. Dunaenko
Aug. 04 (Lent) Peterson, Bakaletz & Mattei

Ushers Schedule

July 21 D. Fedechko and C. Dunaenko
July 28 E. Sarchisian, Luka K. & N. Popa
Aug. 04 T. Smith, P. Bakaletz & A. Moldoveanu

Our FaceBook Page – Is Now in Sync with our Parish Website For Announcements!

“Friends of Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church”
Lots of photos of our young people at the St. Tikhon’s Summer Camp! Check it out!

Diocesan Youth Day – August 22

At Six Flags Park in Jackson, NJ. Flyers on the Bulletin Board has information, registration and directions. Also check the diocesan website: www.nynjoca.org

Sync Your Smartphone

From ssppoc.org, you can now sync the parish liturgical calendar to your smart-phone, Google calendar, Outlook, iCalendar, etc.

About Vacationing This Summer

- A Prayer for Travelers may be obtained after the Sunday Divine Liturgy. Just ask Father James when you come to venerate the Holy Cross.
- Be mindful of being a good steward and make your regular offerings to cover the time you will be away.
- On Sundays – even while on vacation we should be at the Sunday Divine Liturgy. Check this site for a local Orthodox Church: www.orthodoxyinamerica.org.
- The Dormition Lent is held between August 1st and 14th.
- If you wish to receive Holy Communion in another church, it is your responsibility to speak with the priest of that church prior to the divine service. Call, write or e-mail him.
- Daily prayers, spiritual reading and the keeping of the Wednesday and Friday fast remains in effect.

Namesday Greetings: Many Blessed Years

St. Mary Magdalen/July 22: Magdalena Trofimiuk
St. Ann/July 25: Jill Ann Peterson, Lisa Ann Keller, Dolly Ann Bakaletz, Anna Kaliashvili and Kristabelle Ann Gorbatuk.

Eagle Scout Court of Honor – July 28th

At 1:00p.m. Zachary Sokol will be awarded the rank of Eagle Scout at our St. George Gazebo. The Sokol family invite all our parishioners to attend and share in the festivity.

A Word To Those Who Frequent the Holy Gifts – Communion Every Sunday

If you regularly receive Holy Communion, and you have not been to Holy Confession after Pascha (May 5th), in order to continue receiving the Holy Gifts, please go to Confession in the Dormition Lent (Aug. 1-14) or by extension before the end of the month of August. The discipline of Confession is necessary for all of us.



DIOCESE OF NEW YORK & NEW JERSEY DIOCESAN YOUTH DAY 2013 SIX FLAGS GREAT ADVENTURE

**For All Diocesan Youth... from elementary
to middle school, to high school, to college!**

**Bringing together the youth of our Churches –
with one another and with their Bishop – for a day of fun and fellowship!**

WHEN: Thursday, Aug. 22, 2013, 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM
WHERE: Six Flags Great Adventure – Jackson, New Jersey
COST: \$32 per person – Includes Admission to Six Flags Great Adventure and
Round Trip Bus Transportation from St. Mary's Church Hall, 633 Oakwood
Road, Jackson, NJ, to Six Flags Great Adventure.
A Meal Voucher, worth \$11.75, will be provided to each participant as a gift.

WHAT'S HAPPENING:

9:00 AM Registration & Breakfast at St. Mary Russian Orthodox Church Hall,
633 Oakwood Road, Jackson, New Jersey

9:30 AM Mollen Service of Thanksgiving,
Followed by "Stump the Clergy" Question-and-Answer Session
with Bishop Michael and Our Priests – Bring Your Questions!

11:00 AM Depart St. Mary Russian Orthodox Church for Six Flags Great Adventure
located at 1 Six Flags Blvd., Jackson, NJ 08527
(For GPS, also try 599 Monmouth Road)

11:30 AM – 8:00 PM Spend the Day at Six Flags Great Adventure
(We will meet at the Water Fountain at a designated time to distribute Meal Vouchers.)
The Park is open 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM.

8:00 PM Depart for St. Mary Russian Orthodox Church Hall, Jackson, New Jersey

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: August 1, 2013 – Registration Forms Attached

***** Adult Chaperones Needed... Contact Fr. Jason Vansuch (see below) to sign up! *****

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Fr. Jason Vansuch,
Chair, Diocesan Department of Youth Ministry
St. George Orthodox Church, Buffalo, NY
(716) 875-4222 (home phone) ~ (609) 851-3811 (cell phone)
jvansuch@hotmail.com

2013 Diocesan Youth Day Blogspot:
<http://2013diocesanyouthday.webs.com>

Diocese of New York & New Jersey: www.nynioca.org
Phone (914) 779-6580

Six Flags Great Adventure: www.sixflags.com/greatadventure
Phone (732) 928-1821



ORTHODOX DRIVING

In these days when "road rage" seems to be such a problem, it might do us some good to think about our own attitudes when we drive. As in all other aspects of life, we are not responsible for the behavior of others, but we are responsible for ours, and driving in traffic is not too unlike every other human interchange. Nevertheless, driving, somehow, seems to be able to release in us certain behaviors we otherwise do not manifest, and the most notable of these is, of course, anger.

Since we tend to be alone in driving, we can have some opportunities to look at ourselves and ask ourselves why we react in one way or another, and whether it does or does not conform to behavior expected of a Christian, especially an Orthodox Christian, in the light of the Gospel and our experience of the Savior. And if we are reacting angrily at such times, we might not be surprised to find that it usually is because we are angry about something else; or that, as is so often the case, we have not forgiven someone somehow, and we are consciously or unconsciously holding a grudge. Perhaps, in the solitude of the automobile, we have opportunities to see our symptoms, and prayerfully come to a better self-understanding, opening the door to our own ability to forgive, and to be healed in heart.



10 COMMANDMENTS FOR DRIVERS

- I. Always begin a trip with prayer, making the Sign of the Cross and entrusting yourself to the Lord.
- II. Never drink and drive.
- III. Never try to shorten the time of a trip. If you started out late, you will arrive late. Do not speed.
- IV. Apologize to a driver whom you have interfered with, even when you did not intend to. After all, when we are walking, and bump someone, we apologize without thinking. So why should there be a different ethic behind the wheel?
- V. Always yield way to someone who is in a great hurry, or is driving aggressively. If you do not yield, he will still pass you, but the situation will be more dangerous.
- VI. Give a wave of thanks to a driver who makes way for you.
- VII. Drive in such a way that you won't fear seeing a police car. Remember that God is watching, even if the police are not.
- VIII. Stay as far away as possible from cars that have dents or show signs of accidents. But be careful not to judge, or you may share in their misfortune.
- IX. Never speed up when another driver tries to pass you, or to get into your lane. Do not treat your neighbor in a way you do not want to be treated.
- X. After every trip, thank God for its safe completion. Be thankful after any trip, and not just a successful one. After all, almost always it could have been worse!

ST. IRENE OF CHRYSOVALANTOU AND THE THREE GOLDEN APPLES

St. Irene was a deaconess and abbess, that lived in the 9th century. During her life, she governed a monastery of nuns and was noted for her piety and miracles.

Once, she received a gift from heaven. Here is the story.

On the feast of St. Basil the Great, a compatriot of Abbess Irene, who was also from Cappadocia, before the day began to dawn, a bodiless voice said to the saint: "Receive the sailor who shall bring you fruit today. Eat them rejoicing and let your soul be glad."

After the nuns chanted Matins, the abbess sent two nuns, saying, "Go to the door and permit entry to the sailor you shall find outside." When the sailor approached the holy abbess, they bowed to one another and, praying, they sat. Saint Irene then inquired of him how he came to the convent. he answered, "I am a sailor from the island of Patmos. On account of my work, I took a ship bound for the capital city of Constantinople. As we were passing the tip of my island, I observed a handsome and godly looking elder, who called out to us to wait for him. Now we were unable to drop anchor because we had a strong wind as we were racing to pass by the rocks. Nevertheless, the elder, shouting louder, commanded the ship to halt. Forthwith, we stopped until the old man walked upon the waves. When he came up to our vessel, he took three apples from his breast and gave them to me, saying, 'When you shall arrive in the Imperial city, give these to the Patriarch Methodius, and tell him you did receive them from the All-Good God and His servant John from Paradise.' Then he took out three similar apples, and said, 'Give these to the Abbess of Chrysovalantou, named Irene, and tell her, Eat from these and whatever your good soul desires shall be realized; for now I have come from Paradise and brought them.' After he said this, he blessed God and bade all on board Godspeed. Straightway, the ship then moved and became invisible. I gave the three apples to the Patriarch; therefore, I brought your holiness the other three apples."

When the venerable Irene heard this, from her joy, she wept and offered up many thanks to the beloved Apostle and Theologian John, who delivered such a gift. The sailor then took out a gold-colored silk handkerchief where he kept and valued the three apples as holy objects. He then gave them over to the saint with much reverence. St. Irene received the fruits as divine gifts from God.

The three holy apples from Paradise were superior to the earth's fruits: first and foremost in beauty; second, according to fragrance; third, they were markedly larger and extraordinary. Thus, at that time, in the capital, none was holier than St. Methodius and St. Irene. The sailor then took the abbess' blessing and, by her leave, he departed.

The First Apple

St. Irene then fasted for one week, offering thanks unto the Lord for the gifts which he sent. Afterwards, to His glory, she began to eat a little from one of the apples everyday, without partaking of any other foods. She did not even partake of water for forty days. The beauty of fragrance that emitted from her mouth was sensed





by the nuns and all in the monastery, as though myrrh and precious spices were prepared by her daily. The atmosphere itself was permeated with this sweet and wondrous scent of Paradise.

The Second Apple

After this, Great and Holy Thursday arrived. The abbess ordered all the nuns to receive Holy Communion. After they communicated of the Holy Mysteries, the saint divided the second apple and gave each of the nuns a slice to partake. However, from whence the apples came they were not told. They only wondered at the fragrance and sweetness they sensed in their mouths; and much rather, they marveled at the delight and joy in their souls. The third apple was preserved as a precious keepsake; and whenever St. Irene inhaled its outstanding fragrance, she received rest and joy in her soul.

The Third Apple

Since the blessed Irene was also human, it was necessary that she too, depart this world. It was the 26th of July when Mother Irene celebrated the consecration of their convent Church of the Holy Archangels. The angel that always accompanied her revealed her repose when he said, "Know that in the coming year, on the 28th of this month (July), when you will celebrate the feast of the Great-Martyr Panteleimon, you will come before the throne of the Godhead."

The following year, according to her custom, St. Irene would communicate of the Divine Mysteries, after fasting and praying for one week. Indeed, she ate nothing and did not even drink water. At that time, she partook of that marvellous third apple, sent from Paradise by the beloved disciple of Christ, St. John the Theologian. She knew the time arrived to depart to her much desired Bridegroom.

We know how she partook of the two previous apples. The third apple, she saved, so that in this place of exile she might have it in the event of faintheartedness and discouragement, which she had once, as is human. Then there were other times when she needed consolation because of the sorrows and complaints of the nuns. Whenever she would take the apple into her hands and perceive its inexhaustible fragrance, all bitterness and irritability vanished. Mother Irene's sorrow and faintheartedness would turn into cheer and joy. This is because she would rejoice upon remembering that future rest she would inherit forever in the heavenly Kingdom.

After the saint partook of the third apple, again, all of the convent was replete with that otherworldly fragrance. Shortly after this, St. Irene peacefully reposed in the Lord.

It is a custom in some churches to bless apples on the feast of St. Irene, July 28th, commemorating her friendship with God.

