

SS. PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF JANUARY 11, 2009

SUNDAY/JANUARY 11th

Sunday After Theophany (Tone 5)

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

Coffee Hour; Church School;

Teen Discussion

MONDAY/JANUARY 12th

7:00p.m. Outreach Meeting in Conference Room

SATURDAY/JANUARY 17th

9:30a.m. Akathist; Confession

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confession

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

Fasting Days

Wednesday, Jan. 14th

Friday, Jan. 16th

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.

KEEP IN TOUCH



PRAY
WITHOUT
CEASING



A Theology of Blessed Waters

That these waters...are made holy by the descent of the Holy Spirit;

That these waters...have the cleansing operation of the Holy Trinity;

That these waters...have the grace of redemption and the blessing of the Jordan River;

That these waters...are a gift of holiness;

That these waters...are a remission of sins;

That these waters...be for the healing of soul and body;

That these waters...may be for the blessing of homes;

That these waters...may be for every purpose that is expedient;

That these waters...may deliver us from every assault of visible and invisible enemies;

That these waters...may cleanse our souls and bodies;

That these waters...may become a fountain springing up unto life eternal!

-from the Service of the Great Blessing of Water

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.

Namesday Greetings

St. Tatiana/Jan. 12th: Tatiana Onuschak and Tatiana Hansen; Many Blessed Years!

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.

Are you familiar with Zoe for Life? www.zoeforlifeonline.org This is an Orthodox non-profit organization helping pregnant mothers. See also March For Life: www.marchforlife.org

Souper Bowl of Caring – IOCC & Parish Youth Team Up

On Sundays, Jan. 25th or Feb. 1st, help support our local charity – Great Expectations – that helps unwedded pregnant mothers, with \$1 or more donation and a can or more of food for the local Food Pantry.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2009

HELP US BECOME SOUPER BOWL CHAMPIONS!

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

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!

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Parish Synodicon- Memory Eternal!

January	11, 1979	Vassily Koles
January	12, 1965	Alex Emilianov
January	12, 1976	Julia Dzyban
January	12, 1982	Xenia Kalevich
January	13, 1953	Katheri ne Shwetz
January	13, 1966	Peter Krenitsky
January	15, 2000	Ekaterina Moroshan
January	17, 1938	Fr. Elia Lilikovich (rector 1925-1929)
January	17, 1953	Radion Tzarkov
January	17, 1975	Mary Kralovich

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.

Offerings for week of Jan. 11th

Olive Oil – in memory of Michael & Justina; in memory of Vaschen & Emilia; in memory of Joan.

HOW TO LIFE ACCORDING TO THE FAITH:
LESSONS OF
ST. PHILARET OF MOSCOW (+1867)



What to do in the Morning

When you wake up, first of all let your soul and heart say "Glory to Thee, O Lord, Who has preserved us this night! Glory to Thee, Who has shown us the light! Lord, bless this day for us!" In doing this, think about how God gives you the day which you could not give to yourself, and devote the first hour, or perhaps the first quarter hour of the day given you and offer it as a sacrifice to God, in grateful, supplicatory prayer. The more zealously you do this, the more you will sanctify your day, the more strongly you will protect yourself from the temptations that we meet every day.



The Dwelling and Clothing of the Christian

From the start of the morning and throughout the day, make the thought about Christ the soul of your life, the moving force of your actions. So, for example, if you glance over your dwelling, remember Christ in the manger, in swaddling clothes, lying on straw, all this life not having a place to lay His head, finally imprisoned, nailed to the Cross, and thank God for your house, your shelter, however humble and poor it may be. Do not envy magnificently decorated mansions: the mansion of Christ is a pure heart!

As you dress in your simple clothing, remember Christ stripped naked and then robed in the clothing of mockery. Do not dwell on clothing, do not follow the trends of fashion like a slave, but try to clothe yourself in goodness, humility, meekness, long-suffering, gazing mentally on the meek and humble heart of Jesus.

If you are eating a meal, remember the vinegar and gall that Christ tasted, and do not demand plentiful, luxurious food and drink: the heavenly Guest loves to enter not the house of feasting, but always to the one that opens the door of his heart to Him. Place in your heart Christ suffering and dying on the Cross, and in His unseen presence mortify your passions and lusts.

Contact with People

Later, when you deal with people, both relatives and others, before saying a word, think about what will be its effect, and think even more seriously before you do something in their presence, for actions speak louder than words.

Worldly Affairs

If you are undertaking anything, before asking any other adviser, ask the advice of faith. Appeal in the words of the Apostle: *Lord, what wilt Thou have me do?* (Acts 9:6). Is what I would undertake pleasing to Thee, Lord? If it is pleasing, bless it; if not, do not let me do what is displeasing to Thee. And then listen to what the Lord tells you in your conscience, in your reason, in the counsels of pious and wise people and, having begun the course that you select, pray in your heart, *O Lord, make haste to help me* (Ps. 69:1).

Absences

If you are going anywhere, *go with God*, as our pious forbearer said as a farewell, *walk before me* as the Lord Himself demanded (Gen. 17:1); always see Him before you, for He is *at thy right hand* (Ps. 15:8). As much as possible keep in your thoughts and in your heart that God sees you, so that you may be both ashamed and afraid to attempt anything unworthy before the eyes of God.

Attending Church

When the time comes, and especially the time put aside for God and His temple, a feast day or the hour of Divine Services, hurry to tear yourself away from business and worldly cares and voluntarily and zealously offer yourself to God in His Church. When you enter the Church bring to mind the promise of the Lord to those that gather in His name: *there am I in the midst of them* (Matt. 18:20), and stand reverently in Church, as before the very face of Christ, and pray to Him that He sanctify you by His holiness, enliven you by His prayer, and enlighten you with the word of the Gospel and the Grace of the Mysteries.



Take note of this, too: in the Church, angels serve with us and guard the holiness dwelling there. Once, in the Lavra of Saint Theodosius near Jerusalem, Abba Leontius, coming one Sunday to Church to receive the Holy Mysteries, saw an angel standing on the right side of the Holy Table, and when the elder, being afraid, turned to run to his cell, the voice of the angel called to him: "From the time this Holy Table was consecrated, I have been charged to stay by it." Remember this, beloved, and stand reverently. And, if you feel that only your body is standing in Church, while your mind thinks of home, or the market, or a place of merriment, collect yourself. Hurry to bring back your mind that has strayed, join it to God in your heart, force it to strive towards God, Who looks upon you. When you hear the word of God, open up not only your bodily ears, but your spiritual ones as well, open your heart, receive this heavenly Bread and with it nourish not only your memory, but also your life and work.

On Communion

When you are preparing to be a communicant of the Body and Blood of Christ, or are simply present at this Mystery, cleave in mind and heart to the Cross and the Tomb of the Lord, to the Body of Christ, suffering, dying, buried, risen, glorified and believe that touching Him by your faith will be more substantial than the touching of His garment by the woman with an issue of blood, and Christ's *power* [will] *go out* (Luke 8:46) to purify and elevate your powers of soul and body.



Words and Feelings

If you enter the company of people, behave with extreme caution. If you hear a word of praise for yourself there, be careful: praises frequently conceal flattery and can arouse in you self-satisfaction and neglect of your further improvement. If you hear an insulting or humiliating word, take care not to become inflamed with anger which *worketh not the righteousness of God* (James 1:20). Answer the one who insults you either with silence or a meek word of truth. If you hear a word that accuses a neighbour, be careful that you not take part in the sin of someone else's tongue. Do not join in words that are more harmful to the one who judges than to the one being judged. If you hear bad news which saddens you, be careful lest your sorrow become stronger than your common sense. Dissolve it with hope in God's mercy and with the warm prayer: *O my Rejoicing, deliver me from them which have encircled me* (Ps. 31:7). Endure without complaint sorrows and misfortunes. Sorrows are inescapable on the path leading to the Kingdom of God!

What to do in the Evening

Now the day has ended - you are going off to sleep. Ponder the thought that God gives you rest from labours, and take the first fruits of the time of your rest and dedicate it to God with pure and humble prayer. Its fragrance will draw an angel close to preserve your rest. While preparing for sleep, remember death, of which sleep is an image and entry, and with a prayer of faith surrender yourself to Him that *is the Resurrection and the Life* (John 11:25). But when you can conquer sleep, or when it does not conquer you, *remember* [the Lord's] *name in the night* (Ps. 118:55).

Such should be the constant disposition and activity of the believer that he may gradually draw near to that state of soul in which the holy Apostle Paul says of himself: *I live by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me... Yet not I, but Christ liveth in me* (Gal. 2:20)!

