

# **SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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**BULLETIN OF MAY 17, 2009**

## **CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!**

**SUNDAY/MAY 17**

**5th Sunday of Pascha (Tone 4)**

**The Samaritan Woman at Jacob's Well**

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

Coffee Hour; Church School

12:00p.m. to 2:00p.m. Church Open

**WEDNESDAY/MAY 20**

7:00p.m. Vespers

**THURSDAY/MAY 21**

**Ss. Constantine & Helen,**

**Equal-to-the-Apostles**

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

7:00p.m. Parish Council Meeting – Parishioners  
are invited to attend

**SATURDAY/MAY 23**

9:30a.m. Akathist; Confession

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confession

**SUNDAY/MAY 24**

**6th Sunday of Pascha (Tone 5)**

**The Blind Man**

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

Coffee Hour;

Question & Answer Period

12:00p.m. to 2:00p.m. Church Open

**Fasting Days**

Wednesday, May 20 wine & oil

Friday, May 22 wine & oil

**THE SAMARITAN WOMAN**



**Kontakion for Samaritan Woman  
(Tone 8)**

The Samaritan Woman came to the well in faith;  
She saw Thee the Water of Wisdom and drank  
abundantly!

She inherited the Kingdom on high,  
And is ever glorified!

**Tropar for Mid-Pentecost  
(Tone 8)**

**Used thru "Leave-Taking," May 20th**

In the middle of the Feast, O Saviour.  
Fill my thirsting soul with the waters of  
Godliness,

As Thou didst cry to all: If anyone thirsts  
Let him come to me and drink!

O Christ God, Fountain of our life,  
Glory to Thee!

### **Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!**

May 18, 1975	Wasil Kosticz
May 19, 1939	Gregory Halkovich
May 21, 1985	Julia Grigorieff
May 22, 1939	Ephraim Demianov
May 22, 1951	Joseph Fenuck
May 23, 1925	John Korolovich
May 23, 1954	Wasył Mlinetz
May 23, 1962	Thomas Cimpko

### **Orthodox Youth Soccer Tournament June 13th, Saturday at South River**

A day of fellowship and athletic activity. Join the team! Talk to AlexanderTorrise (732-545-5642).

### **Open Door Ministry Began in May**

If you wish to be a "greeter," please speak with Symeon Combs. The times are 12:00p.m. to 2:00p.m. You may team up with someone.

### **Deacon Joseph McCartney**

Will be ordained to the priesthood on May 24th, at St. Tikhon's Seminary. The Bread Plate for Sundays May 10 and 17 is earmarked for a gift for him.

### **The Parish Cemetery**

In this month of May, the annual offering envelope for Cemetery Care has been distributed. Please help us maintain the beauty and good order of our cemetery. On Pentecost Sunday, June 7th, at 4:00p.m. a General Memorial will be held at the Cemetery.

### **Kneeling and Prostrations**

In accordance with the festal nature of the 50 Days of Pentecost (April 19th – June 7th). We do not kneel or make prostrations either in church or in our homes.

### **105th Memorial Day Pilgrimage**

To the Monastery of St. Tikhon. The pilgrimage begins on May 22nd and ends May 25th. See posted flyer of scheduled services.

### **Newly Blessed Water**

May be secured from the Font in the coatroom or the bottle on the vestibule stand. We do well to make pious and frequent use of holy water.

### **Coming to Understanding of Terms**

**Free Will** The freedom to choose between good and evil, between God and sin, which is one aspect of humanity created in the image of God. According to Orthodox teaching, sin stains the image of God but does not destroy it. Human beings may choose to accept or reject the Gospel, but must suffer the consequences of their decision.

**Old Man** One not transformed or deified by the Holy Spirit, still a slave to sin and death. (Romans 6:5-7) and Ephesians 4:20-24).

**New Man** —One who is being transformed or deified by the Holy Spirit in communion with God (2 Corinthians 5:17 and Galatians 6:15).

**Sabaoth** means "Lord of the Angelic Hosts."

**Equal-to-the-Apostles** a title given to certain saints by the Church, such as Mary Magdalene, Constantine, Helen, Nina, Vladimir, Olga, Cyril & Methodius, Nicholas of Japan and others. The term signifies a great veneration given to a particular saint, and their preaching mission in the Church.

### **Namesday Greetings**

St. Helen/May 21: Helen Macinko, Helen Perry, Helen Lapchuk, Helen Kulina, Helen Gregovitch; Many Blessed Years!

### **Offerings for the Week of May 17**

**Olive Oil** - in memory of Michael and Justine; in memory of Vaschen and Emilia; in memory of Joan; for the health of Michael (birthday); in memory of Catherine.

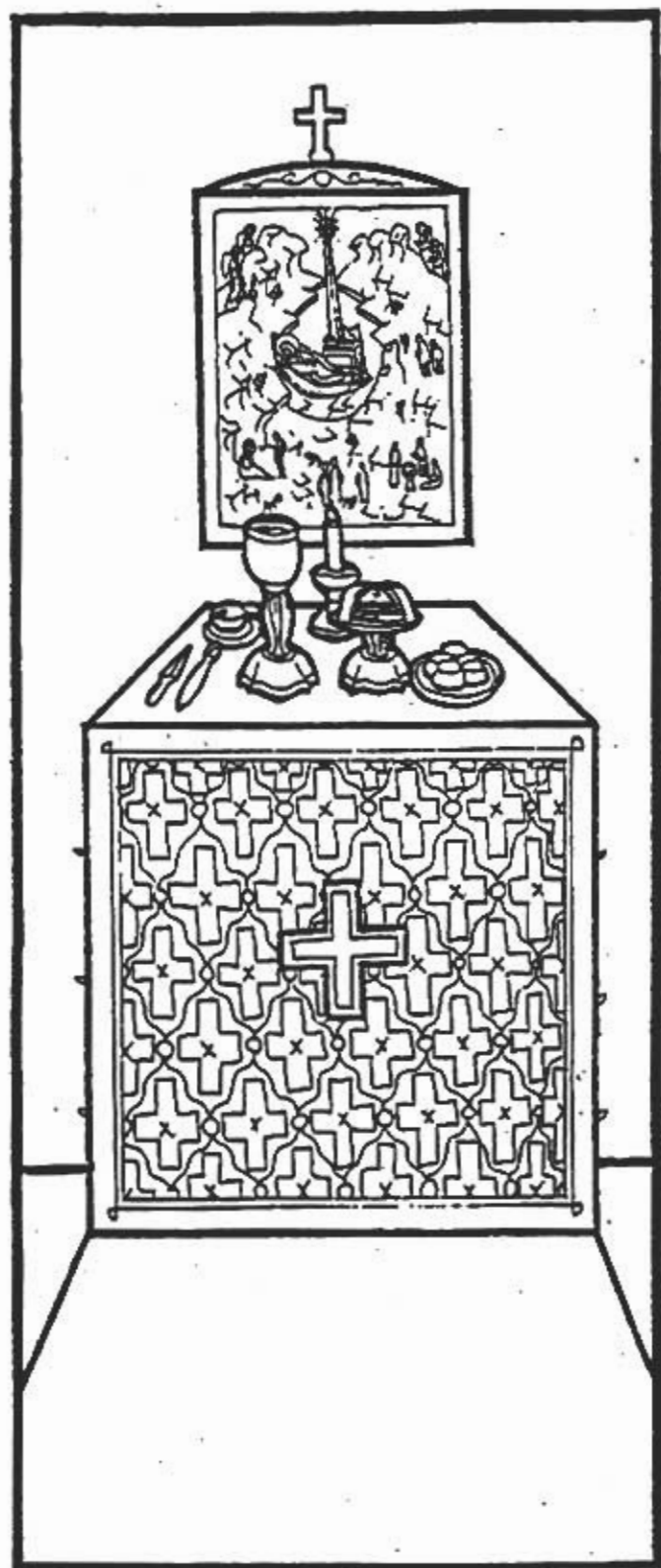
**Wine** - in thanksgiving in graduation from College of Amanda and Catherine.

### **A New Stock of Commemoration Books**

May be found on the vestibule stand. Please obtain a new book if you need it and adhere to the guidelines as found in today's bulletin.

### **Christian Fellowship at Work**

Learn a new name of someone you don't know. Take the initiative and be the first to say, "hello."



#### ON HOW TO USE YOUR COMMEMORATION BOOK

- 1) On the outside front cover on the top place your last name.
- 2) Print the first names of the living in the front red section of the book. Use baptismal names and only the first name.  
ex. John not Jack  
Michael not Mike
- 3) Print the first names of the departed in the back black section of the book. Use baptismal names and only the first name.
- 4) If the persons you are commemorating are not Orthodox Christian, place a check mark before their name, as the Church commemorates Her members one way and non-members another way.
- 5) If possible place your commemoration book out at Vespers the evening before. All commemoration books need to be read at least ten minutes before the Liturgy starts.
- 6) Your offering goes towards the cost of making the bread.
- 7) Commemoration Sheets - red for the living and black for the departed may also be used and are found on the candle stand.
- 8) The prosphora, blessed bread may be shared with non-Orthodox believers, be sure they know that while the bread is blessed, it is not Holy Communion.

## The Miraculous Return of a Cow

There lived in Constantinople a craftsman who had a special love and veneration for Saint Nicholas. Every year he celebrated his Feastday. Having lived to a great age and having lost his ability to work, he fell into poverty.

Once, shortly before the Feast of Saint Nicholas, this poverty-stricken old man said to his wife, "Well, dear, the day of the beloved protector and man of prayer, Saint Nicholas, is approaching, and we have no means to celebrate this great day."

"We don't have much longer left to live on this earth," responded his wife, "and we don't have children. We don't have anybody to whom to leave our belongings. Let's sell the remainder to please God and His great wonder-worker. We have one cow left. Go and sell it and buy all the necessary things for tomorrow's feast."

And so the old man did. He took the cow and went to sell it. At the marketplace, not far from the column of Constantine the Great, Saint Nicholas himself met him in the form of a venerable old man and asked,

"Where are you going, my dear friend?"

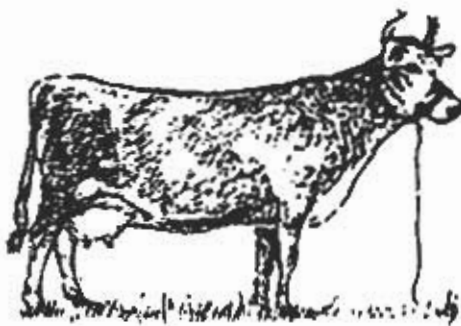
"I'm going to the auction to sell my cow," answered the craftsman.

"And how much will you charge for it?" the venerable old man asked.

"It used to be worth eight gold coins," replied the poor man, "but now I will take whatever is given." The holy man gave him six large gold coins and, taking the cow, went away.

The people at the marketplace surrounded the old craftsman and began to question him, "With whom were you talking just now? We didn't see anybody near you, but we heard you speaking with somebody, although we didn't hear the person's voice."

The old craftsman answered that he had con-



versed with a certain venerable old man who bought his cow from him and left.

Meanwhile, Saint Nicholas appeared to the old man's wife. Returning the cow to her, he said, "I have known your husband for a long time; he is my very old friend. Today I met him at the auction, and he asked me to bring you this cow. Take and harness it!" Having said this, the holy man departed.

The craftsman's wife became annoyed with her husband, thinking that he had been too soft-hearted to sell the cow. As soon as the old man returned, she heaped reproaches on him.

"You scoundrel!" she exclaimed. "You lied to Saint Nicholas! It would have been better for you not to have promised anything than to have broken your promise. Take your cow! You won't see me again," declared the old woman, flushed with indignation. "I am going to leave you. With this lie, you blackened all your previous honest life, and I can't live with a dishonest man."

The old man, bewildered by the old woman's outburst, didn't know what to say. He looked speechlessly at his wife and at the cow, his eyes wide with surprise. Finally, he asked who had brought the cow to her and when.

The old woman related the events of the cow's return in detail and also described the appearance of the man who had brought the cow. On hearing the story, the craftsman guessed who it was that had brought the cow, and he exclaimed joyfully, "God is alive and has mercy on His servants! Surely, Saint Nicholas himself bought the cow from me and returned it to our poverty-stricken cottage."

The elderly couple, kneeling down, praised God and the holy wonder-worker Nicholas, who is quick to help those who venerate his memory. News of the miracle spread to Constantinople and reached the Patriarch. After finding out the particulars of what had happened, the Patriarch arranged for the craftsman and his wife to be supported by income from the Cathedral of Hagia Sofia for the rest of their lives.

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Commemorations of Saint Nicholas: December 6th, May 9th and every Thursday.

Tropar Tone 4: YOU DID APPEAR TO YOUR FLOCK AS A RULE OF FAITH /  
AN IMAGE OF HUMILITY AND A TEACHER OF ABSTINENCE /  
BECAUSE OF YOUR LOWLINESS THE HEIGHTS WERE OPENED TO YOU /  
BECAUSE OF YOUR POVERTY, RICHES WERE GRANTED TO YOU /  
O HOLY FATHER NICHOLAS, INTERCEDE WITH CHRIST GOD THAT  
OUR SOULS MAY BE SAVED!

## GOSPEL HOMILIES OF ST. GREGORY

### THE GREAT, POPE OF ROME (+604)

#### + FISHING

Twice in the gospel we read that the Lord told his disciples to let down their nets while they were fishing, once before his passion, and once after his resurrection. Before our Redeemer suffered and rose, he ordered them to let down their net, but did not say whether they were to cast it on the right side of the boat or on the left. When he appeared to his disciples after his resurrection, he ordered them to let down their net on the right side. In the earlier catch they took so many fish that their net was torn, but in the later, even though they took an enormous number of fish, the net was not broken.

You know that at the judgment the good are to be placed at the Lord's right side and the wicked at his left, and from this we infer the significance of right and left in Scripture. The first catch of fish, in which no directions were given regarding where the net should be cast, represents the church in this present age. The church encompasses both the good and the bad, and cannot pick and choose because she is ignorant of those she has to choose from. The later catch, however, coming after the Lord's resurrection, takes place only on the right side of the boat, because the gathering of the chosen at the end of time, when they behold God's glory, knows nothing of the deeds represented by the left side of the boat.

In the first catch, the net was broken because of the huge number of fish it took in. In the present age the ranks of the unjust coexist side by side with the virtuous in professing the faith, and in the process the church is torn apart with their heresies. In the later catch many large fish are caught, but the net remains unbroken. The church of the chosen continues in the uninterrupted peace of its Creator, with no dissensions to tear her apart.



## SIXTH CATECHISM

1. *St. Gregory Palamas says that the prodigal son is the nous of the man that leaves God and the heart? How do you understand that?*

The natural life of the nous is for it to dwell in God and in the heart. When it is dispersed towards created things and creatures through the senses, when it departs from God, it is a prodigal, a wastrel.

2. *What are the three powers or faculties of the soul?*

Nous, word (logos) and spirit.

3. *What is the nous?*

The most refined attention, the eye of the soul, the centre of man's being.

4. *What is the movement of the nous according to nature and what is its movement contrary to nature?*

The movement according to nature, and beyond nature, is when the nous is turned towards God and keeps all the soul's powers turned towards that direction. The movement contrary to nature is when it leaves God and destroys all the other powers of the soul.

5. *What is sin?*

The darkening of the nous, separation from God, the movement of the soul's powers contrary to nature.

6. *How does sin progress?*

Provocation - impassioned thoughts (logismoi), coupling, desire, the act, and passion.



7. *What is true freedom?*

Inner, existential freedom. Freedom from passions and from death.

8. *What are demons?*

Evil spirits that hate man.

9. *What are passions?*

The movement of the soul's energies contrary to nature. Passion is when love does not turn towards God, but towards creatures. The same thing is true with all the other powers of the soul.

10. *What are the basic passions?*

Self-love, which gives rise to ambition, love of money and self-indulgence.

11. *What do we mean when we say Orthodox ascetic practice?*

Following Christ's commandments, by which the heart is purified and we attain illumination of the nous.

12. *What is repentance?*

The movement of the soul's energies according to nature. The return to God. The illumination of the nous.

13. *What are the characteristics of true repentance?*

The return of the nous into the heart, self-accusation, the inspiration for change, the activation of the soul's incensive part, entrance into the Church and participation in the Eucharist Supper.