

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN DECEMBER 6, 2009

SUNDAY/DECEMBER 6

26th Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 1)

St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy; Coffee Hour; 12:00p.m. Movie: "Faith of our Fathers"

MONDAY/DECEMBER 7

7:00p.m. Lesser Blessing of Waters

An opportunity to bring home newly-blessed water – bring a vessel

TUESDAY/DECEMBER 8

7:30p.m. Movie: "Faith of Our Fathers"

WEDNESDAY/DECEMBER 9

6:30p.m. Compline

7:00p.m. Adult Study Class: Part 2 on "The 3 Parts of the Soul and Their Curative Exercises by St. Theophan the Recluse"

THURSDAY/DECEMBER 10

9:30a.m. Memorial Service for (+) Ann Kralovich

SATURDAY/DECEMBER 12

St. Spyridon the Wonderworker

9:30a.m. Akathist to St. Spyridon and anointing with oil from his tomb; Confession

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confession

SUNDAY/DECEMBER 13

Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

St. Herman of Alaska

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour; Church School & Teen Class

11:00a.m. Christmas Cookie Walk in Lower Hall



A Contemporary Miracle of St. Nicholas As told by Father Andrew

Here in our USA, St. Nicholas continues to work miracles. On a particular day a certain Orthodox woman went shopping in a mall. Her car was in a parking garage and as she was leaving, the parking garage collapsed. Her car was destroyed. Some people died, many were injured. She herself was crushed under a huge piece of concrete. At some point as the rescue service was doing their work, someone came by her and said that she would be fine and lifted up the concrete and dragged her out from under it and left.

The rescue services were surprised, since their initial survey had indicated that she was under something that required machinery to move. The woman went to the hospital for treatment of serious injuries. Her recovery and physiotherapy took a very long time.

It was months later when the woman was finally able to return to church. Here she saw for the first time the new iconostasis that had been erected in her absence. "That is him! That is him!" She pointed to the new icon of St. Nicholas on the iconostasis and said this is the very man who had saved her in the collapsed parking garage. The woman's encounter with the saint shaped her subsequent life.



Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Dec. 25, 40th Day	Patriarch Pavle
Dec. 26, 40th Day	Mary Romanak
Dec. 06, 1997	John Suseck Jr.
Dec. 07, 1929	Felix Kshanovsky
Dec. 07, 1972	Gregory Hriniaik
Dec. 07, 1999	Fr. Jaroslav Roman
Dec. 09, 1965	Max Horbel
Dec. 09, 1970	Helen Horbel
Dec. 10, 1946	David Gerasmechuk
Dec. 10, 1956	Anthony Pawlik
Dec. 10, 1988	Michael Sofko
Dec. 10, 2004	Ann Kralovich
Dec. 11, 1961	Paul Romanovich
Dec. 12, 1976	Christian Swidonovich

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.

The Holy Mysteries of Confession & Communion

Should be received by all the faithful in this period of the Nativity Lent. Parishioners desiring to make their Confession elsewhere than in their parish church, should first seek a blessing from their parish priest.

Offerings for the Weeks of December 6

Olive Oil – in memory of Michael and Justina; for the health of Alexander (birthday); in memory of Joan; in memory of Floarea, Gheorghe, Alexandru, Sasinca, Elena, Petre, Anastasia, Maria, Eugenia and Kathleen.

Wine – for the health of Nicole (namesday) for protection and salvation of Gabriella-Antaoneat and Gabriele.

Namesday Greetings

St. Barbara/Dec. 4: Barbara Kulick, Barbara Erkman;

St. Sabbas/Dec. 5: Saba Kaliashvili;

Sr. Nicholas/Dec. 6: Nicholas Kita, Nicholas Mattei and Nicholas Oliver;

Many Blessed years!

Adult Study Classes: Dec. 2 & 9

These two Wednesday evening classes will focus on "The 3 Powers of the Soul and Their Curative Exercises." Based on the writings of St. Theophan the Recluse (+1894), we will examine the mind, the will and the heart and how they are spiritualized. Classes are open to all. We meet in the Conference Room 7:00 to 8:30p.m.

Remember in Prayer

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

The Miraculous Kursk-Root Icon

Will be in our territory on two near dates.

On Dec. 15, Tues. at 6:00p.m. at St. Elizabeth Church in Rocky Hill. An akathist will be served, followed by a dinner. All are invited!

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!

Movie Presentation – Sunday, December 6

At 12:00noon the film "Faith of our Fathers" will be shown. This documentary examines what the founding fathers of the USA intended when they framed the Constitution and wrote the First Amendment religion clauses. What is the separation of Church and State? What was the belief of the fathers and how have things changed? What was the Supreme Court decision in 1947 with the State of NJ that changed the course of religion in our USA? A second presentation of the film will be Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 7:30p.m.

Food Basket For Local Food Pantry

Staple food items may be brought to the church Dec. 6, 13 and 20 for the local food pantry. Baskets will be in the vestibule.

Christmas Cookie Walk

Sunday, December 13th at 11:00a.m. Bakers are sought. Please help us advertise this events, tell your friends and be sure to come yourself to buy.

Parish Website: www.ssppoc.org

Has an advanced calendar of events thru July 2010. Check it out.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15th

**VISIT OF THE
MIRACULOUS
KURSK-ROOT
ICON**



to

St Elizabeth the New-Martyr Orthodox Church
38 Princeton Avenue, Rocky Hill, New Jersey

6:00 pm - Moleben with Akathist at St Elizabeth's

*A Lenten Meal with an audio-visual presentation
of the Kursk Root Icon's recent visit to Russia
will follow at the Rocky Hill Fire House.*

For more information you may contact our priest,

Fr David Straut

at (908) 203-1252

or FrDStraut@saint-elizabeths.org

Parish Website: www.saint-elizabeths.org

Renowned religious expert urges not to dramatize Swiss ban on minarets

Moscow, December 1, Interfax - Renowned religious expert and author of numerous works on history of modern Islam Roman Silantyev understands the ban on the construction of minarets in Switzerland and urged not to dramatize the decision.

"There's no need to dramatize the situation. Swiss Minister of Justice clearly explained this vote was not aimed against Muslims as such, but against extremist Muslims because this problem exists although Europe," Silantyev told *Interfax-Religion* on Tuesday.

According to him, Swiss understood that it was not the matter "of satisfying religious needs of Muslims, but an attempt of aggressive expansion and decided to terminate it."

"Presence or absence of a minaret in no way influences the ability of Muslims to pray. Earlier believers were summoned to prayer from minarets, today almost everyone has watches, cellular phones, alarm clocks. Minarets have lost their function, thus obsessive desire to build minarets puts many people on guard," the religious expert believes.

He pointed out Muslim countries often "exile most religiously unreliable elements and these people certainly don't leave for Africa, they go to developed countries where they're warmly welcomed, but they don't value such reception, they don't understand they've come on a visit and should respect traditions and customs of these countries."

"Pompous mosques, especially with lofty minarets, are often positioned not as a place of prayer, but as provoking symbols of presence and that's exactly the point of some Arab countries when they build bigger mosques than are really needed for communities, mosques "to grow into," the expert said.

He noted that he can recall two dozens of analogical cases in Russia when "such kind of hypermosques not correlated to size of Muslim community were to be built in some Russian cities and only the threat of national vote abandoned such plans."

Minaret ban in Switzerland does not restrict religious freedom - Russian Church envoy to Council of Europe

Moscow, December 2, Interfax - Hegumen Filaret (Bulekov), a Moscow Patriarchate representative at the Council of Europe, doesn't share the view of those who consider the outcome of a recent referendum in Switzerland, in which a majority of voters supported a ban on building new minarets in the country, as a violation of freedom of religion.

"Accusing Switzerland that it is somehow discriminating against the Islamic minority would be at least lopsided. Second, Switzerland has no restrictions on building prayer homes either for Christians, or for Muslims, or for members of other religions," Father Filaret told *Interfax-Religion* in commenting on the Swiss referendum.

Switzerland's cities have "quite capacious mosques with absolutely visible minarets, and therefore, if you can talk about a restriction of the right of religion, you should make a lot of reservations," he said.

"The issue of minarets is not an issue of religious freedom, but it is an issue of political presence of people of a certain faith and ethnic background in a country. Taking into account a rapid rate of Islamization, visible signs of Muslims' presence would have, in particular, a political tint," he said.

The issue of minarets "can be a subject of public discussion, including a referendum," Father Filaret said. By voting against the building of new minarets in Switzerland, most Swiss citizens have actually voted against the changing of the traditional cultural environment by immigrants, he said.

"As many Muslim states are currently speaking categorically against the referendum and its outcome, I would like to point out that the countries with overwhelming Islamic majorities have significant restrictions on the construction of Christian churches as visible signs of Christian presence," the priest said.

At the same time, the outcome of the Swiss referendum has highlighted the question as to "whether the restriction of minorities' rights can be put up for public discussion," he said.

"The referendum itself was held quite incorrectly. I mean above all the advertising that was used by those supporting the ban on building new minarets. In my view, some of these posters looked like the anti-Islamic cartoons that earlier produced such an outburst of anger in both Europe and the Islamic world," Father Filaret said.

On the one hand, the rule of law principle "was absolutely followed in Switzerland, but on the other, [it turns out that] an overwhelming majority can use democratic institutions to restrict some minorities' rights stipulated by international agreements," he said.