

# **SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH**

605 Washington Avenue, Manville, New Jersey 08835-1856

Voice: 908-685-1452 / fax: 908-685-1074

Email: [frjames@ssppoc.org](mailto:frjames@ssppoc.org)

Website: [www.ssppoc.org](http://www.ssppoc.org)

**BULLETIN OF JANUARY 31, 2010**

*(The Sunday Bulletin also is on the parish website)*

## **SUNDAY/JANUARY 31**

**Sunday of the Prodigal Son (Tone 1)**

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

## **MONDAY/FEBRUARY 1**

**Pre-Feast of the Meeting**

7:00p.m. Vigil and blessing of candles

## **TUESDAY/FEBRUARY 2**

**Meeting of our Lord in the Temple  
(One of "the 12 Great Feasts")**

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy and  
blessing of candles

7:00p.m. Compline & Akathist to

**St. Nicholas of Japan (Feb. 3)**

## **SATURDAY/FEBRUARY 6**

**Memorial Saturday**

9:30a.m. General Memorial Service; Confession  
5:30p.m. Vigil; Confession

## **SUNDAY/FEBRUARY 7**

**Meat-Fare Sunday (Tone 2)**

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

12:00p.m. Annual Parish Meeting

## **Fasting Days**

Wed., Feb 3 & Fri. Feb. 5

## **Meat-Fare Sunday/Feb. 7**

This is the last day we partake of meat products  
until the Holy Pascha, April 4



## **Guilt or Sadness? A Lesson from the Prodigal Son**

A careful examination of our own self can end up delivering. However here also there is a trap. Considering our sins and our state many times we are inundated by grave feelings of guilt. This state of guilt is not related to true repentance, but might lead to heresy, because it denotes: 1) fear for the upcoming punishment on the part of God (that is, in the end, God is not a father who awaits us with an open embrace, but only a merciless judge and a harsh punisher), and 2) sinful haughtiness and egotism ("how is it possible for me to have done such a sin...!"). The man who feels pangs and guilts, can accept God's mercy with difficulty. And then he seeks expiating punishments.

The prodigal of the parable, realizing his state, does not feel guilt, but sadness. Sadness for his state. Sadness because he grieved his father and did not remain worthy of his love. He knows that his father continues to love him. He has the assurance that his father will accept him again, for this reason he makes the decision to return.



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

Feb. 09, 40th Day	Helen Homiak
Feb. 09, 40th Day	Paul Lebedz
Feb. 12, 40th Day	Olga Poklitar
Mar. 02, 40th Day	Merab Tukahveli
Jan. 31, 1952	Jacob Michaelieski
Feb. 02, 1940	Michel Petro
Feb. 02, 1949	Theodora Mahalick
Feb. 02, 1984	Natalie Kuntzevich
Feb. 02, 1986	Sonia Espositio
Feb. 02, 1994	Kalioppi Alexis
Feb. 03, 1929	Jonah Lasin
Feb. 03, 1973	Mary Bolash
Feb. 04, 1975	Pelagia Grishkivech
Feb. 05, 1958	Theodore Andreosky
Feb. 07, 1931	Basil Petrovsky



### **Namesday Greetings**

St. Nicholas/Feb. 3: Nicholas Torrisi,  
Many Blessed Years!

### **Annual Parish Meeting – Feb. 7th, Sun.**

The 2010 Parish Meeting will be held at 12:00p.m. and last no longer than one hour. In case of inclement weather, the Meeting is scheduled to be held the following Sunday, February 14th.

### **The Calendar**

Feb. 02/Tues.	Feast of the Meeting of our Lord
Feb. 07/Sun.	Meat-Fare – last day for meats
Feb. 14/Sun.	Cheese-Fare - last day for dairy and the Beginning of Great Lent with Vespers and Rite of Forgiveness at 6:30p.m.
Feb. 15/Mon.	Pure Monday – 1st day of Lent
Apr. 04/Sun.	Pascha – Resurrection of Christ

### **Annual Easter Candy Sale**

Is now taking place. Your support is appreciated. Extra order forms in the vestibule.

### **Souper Bowl of Caring**

On Sundays, January 31 and February 07, our parish will be collecting food staples for the local food pantry and monetary gifts for Great Expectations (a local home helping unwedded pregnant mothers). On these Sundays you are asked to bring a **canned goof** or goods and **\$1.00** or more for these charitable causes. Baskets will be in the church vestibule.

### **Poor Basket – Haiti Earthquake Relief**

The Poor Basket is earmarked for contributions through the IOCC for the needs of Haitians. Checks may be made out to Ss. Peter & Paul Church with notation, IOCC. The entire month of February is designated for this collection.

### **Offerings for the week of January 24**

Olive Oil – in memory of Vaschen and Emila; in memory of Michael and Justina; in memory of Joan.

Wine – for the health and salvation of Nicholas (namesday).

### **Donors Sought to Prepare Boiled Wheat**

The dates are for the Memorial Saturdays of Feb. 06, Feb. 27, Mar. 06 and Mar. 13 at 9:30a.m. An offering of boiled wheat is also sought for St. Theodore Day, Friday, Feb. 19 at 6:30p.m. Please let Father James know if you wish to bring the wheat. Cups, spoons and napkins are provided by the church.

### **Remember in Prayer**

Newly-departed Merab Tukahveli (+ Jan. 22).

### **Sympathy Is Expressed**

To John Finnegan on the recent repose of his father, John Sr. (+Jan. 18). May the Lord grant him eternal rest.

### **Congratulations**

To John and Nino Finnegan on the birth of their daughter, Heather Marie on Jan. 23. 7 lbs. 9 oz.

### **Movie Presentation – Feb. 21 & Feb. 23**

*“Where God Walked On Earth.”* This is a production of the BBC on the 6<sup>th</sup> century Monastery of St. Katherine on Mount Sinai. It was on this holy site, that God appeared to Moses and Elias. This superbly produced video allows us into this most ancient monastery and explore it's treasures of icons and manuscripts as well as the contemporary lives of the monks that live there. Sunday show at 12:00p.m. and Tuesday show at 7:30p.m. Plan to come and bring someone along!

## THE MEETING OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE

*Celebrated February 2<sup>nd</sup> – From the Prologue of Ochrid*

The fortieth day after His birth, the All-Holy Virgin brought her Divine Son into the Temple of Jerusalem, in accordance with the Law, to dedicate Him to God and to purify herself. "Consecrate to me every first-born that opens the womb among the Israelites both of man and beast, for it belongs to me" (Exodus 13:2). "Tell the Israelites: when a woman has conceived and gives birth to a boy, she shall be unclean for seven days, with the same uncleanness as at her menstrual period. On the eighth day, the flesh of the boy's foreskin shall be circumcised, and then she shall spend thirty-three days more in becoming purified of her blood; she shall not touch anything sacred nor enter the sanctuary till the days of her purification are fulfilled. If she gives birth to a girl, for fourteen days she shall be as unclean as at her menstruation, after which she shall spend sixty-six days in becoming purified of her blood. When the days of her purification for a son or for a daughter are fulfilled, she shall bring to the priest at the entrance of the meeting tent a yearling lamb for a holocaust and a pigeon or a turtledove for a sin offering. The priest shall offer them up before the Lord to make atonement for her, and thus she will be clean again after her flow of blood. Such is the law for the woman who gives birth to a boy or a girl child" (Leviticus 12:2-7). Even though neither the one nor the other was necessary, nevertheless the Lawgiver did not, in anyway, want to transgress His own Law whom He had given through Moses, His servant and prophet. At that time, the high-priest Zaccharias, the father of John the Forerunner [Precursor], was on duty in the Temple["serving as a priest before God in the order of his division" St. Luke 1:8]. Zaccharias placed the Virgin, not in the temple area reserved for women but rather in the area reserved for virgins. On this occasion, two unusual persons appeared in the Temple: the Elder Simeon and Anna, the daughter of Phanuel. The righteous Simeon took the Messiah in his arms and said: " Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel." (St. Luke 2: 29-32). Simeon also spoke the following words about the Christ-child: "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel" (St. Luke 2:34). Then Anna, who from her youth served God in the Temple by fasting and prayers, recognized the Messiah and glorified God and proclaimed to the inhabitants of Jerusalem about the coming of the long-awaited One.



### **Troparion – tone 1**

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos full of grace! From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, Enlightening those who sat in darkness! Rejoice and be glad O righteous elder, you accepted in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, Who grants us the resurrection!

### **Kontakion – tone 1**

By Thy Nativity Thou didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and didst bless Simeon's hands, O Christ God. Now Thou hast come and save us through love, grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of men!

The Pharisees present in the Temple, who having seen and heard all, became angry with Zacharias because he placed the Virgin Mary in the area reserved for virgins and reported this to King Herod. Convinced that this is the new king about whom the Magi from the east spoke, Herod immediately sent his soldiers to kill Jesus. In the meantime the Holy Family had already left the city and set out for Egypt under the guidance of an angel of God. The Feast of the Meeting of our Lord in the Temple was celebrated from earliest times but the solemn celebration of this day was established in 544 AD during the reign of Emperor Justinian.

### **Concerning the Virgin Birth**

According to the Law, "Every male child that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord." Only with Christ did this literally occur. He Himself opened the womb of the Virgin at birth, while all other wombs which have born a child have first been opened by a man.



- Blessed Theophylact



## Saint Nikolai of Japan

It is widely recognized that Hieromonk Nikolai Kasatkin was one of the founders of Japanology. In addition, several Russian scholars whom he befriended and advised eventually became prominent Japanologists in Russia, Western Europe, and America. The godfather of Nikolai's Japanology was, of course, St. Innokenty Popov-Veniaminov. His versatile genius—as linguist, ethnographer, and evangelist—was a source of inspiration to Nikolai throughout the years of his mission in Japan.

Bishop Nikolai was a gracious host, and always welcomed serious young Russian scholars to his parlor at Surugadai. Since his knowledge of Japanese history and culture was extensive and detailed, *Vladyka* Nikolai became a sort of academic advisor to the young Russians who came to him for spiritual and scholarly guidance. In a similar way, Nikolai was a cofounder of Russology in Japan, since a number of his former language students went on to distinguish themselves in Russian studies of various sorts, particularly Russian literature.

—Some Aspects of the Life and Work of St. Nikolai of Japan  
*Prof. Kennosuke Nakamura*

*...an apostle who left behind him...more than 30,000 Christians...a translator of liturgical texts who gave to Japan almost the whole Bible, almost all Orthodox liturgical texts and much theological literature...a pedagogue who founded several schools from which hundreds of Japanese graduated imbued with the Orthodox spirit...a scholar who had mastered the Japanese language...one who bore his apostolic work on his shoulders in hellish conditions of non-stop slander, persecution and suspicion...one whose every step gave to later investigators material for whole tomes—to speak of such a titan is not an easy task.... In him—in his words, actions, judgments, ideals, instructions and advice—you feel something unusual, that he was permeated by something hidden in himself for otherworldly goals. With all of this, he was a man, a man like others.*

### THE HUMILITY OF ARCHBISHOP NIKOLAI

Archbishop Nikolai seldom talked about his family or himself. When he did speak of himself, he referred only to his own failings and sins. He frequently directed seminarians that they should love everyone equally but confessed his own failure.

He never told anyone when he was promoted in the ranks of clergy or received awards. When he was elevated from Bishop to Archbishop, no one in the Japanese Orthodox Church knew it. One day, Archdeacon Dimitri learned of Bishop Nikolai's elevation when the consul congratulated Nikolai. Dimitri then came back to Nikolai-do and told everyone. Similarly, he never told anyone that he had received the Order of St. Vladimir, first rank, from Czar Nikolai II and that no one had ever before received it as a clergyman. People only found out through the newspapers. When people congratulated him about it, Nikolai said to them that he thanked the sincerity of the Czar, but frankly he thought that prizes and awards were unsuitable for clergyman and missionaries, and therefore those customs should be abandoned.

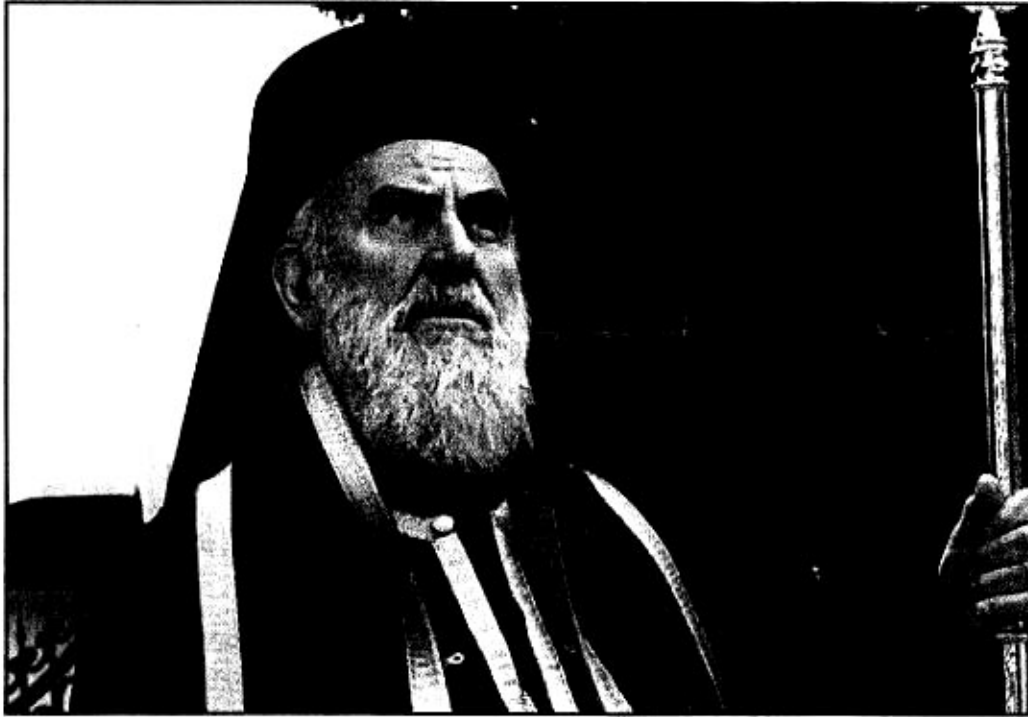
### The Simple Life of Archbishop Nikolai

Archbishop Nikolai had only two small rooms his entire 40 years in Tokyo, in contrast to the magnificent House of God, Nikolai-do. He used one room (8 by 12 meters) for reception and another room (7 by 11 meters) for the living, dining, study, and bed rooms. He always managed his complicated tasks in the two rooms, which he loved very much, and never took a vacation. His clothes were darned and patched often because he washed them many times but never threw them away. Thus, he did not spend money personally and told people to spend money for God's house and keep one's treasure in Heaven. The cook, who served Nikolai for several decades, never heard a word of discontent from him about the food. When Bishop Sergiy, a consul-general, the staff, Priest Chiba, and others checked his room three times after his death, they found absolutely nothing except his own staff and some old underwear. He magnificently and completely dedicated himself to the Japanese Orthodox Church. One can say that Archbishop Nikolai was born and died for the Japanese Orthodox Church, for the Glory of Christ.

—The Achievement of St. Nikolai Equal to the Apostles and Evangelizer of Japan, by *Anthony Ishido* (Master's Thesis, SVS, 1974, unpub.)

# Serbian Orthodox Church Elects New Patriarch

## | OBL News



Bishop Irinej of Nis

(RFE/RL) – The bells at Belgrade’s Cathedral Church rang out today to announce that Bishop Irinej of Nis had been elected patriarch of the Serbian Orthodox Church.

The 79-year-old Irinej will be the Serbian Orthodox Church’s 45th patriarch.

The veteran bishop, known to be relatively moderate, was picked at a gathering of dozens of bishops and other clergy at the Patriarchate in Belgrade.

He is expected to be enthroned on January 23 in a ceremony broadcast on television.

He will replace Patriarch Pavle, who died in November following a long illness at the age of 95. Pavle had headed the church for almost 20 years, a period that included the ethnic wars of the 1990s, which accompanied the breakup of Yugoslavia.

In a statement issued by the Belgrade patriarchate, Irinej said he would carry the “burden and all the problems of my awesome and difficult duty together with my fellow bishops.”

The new patriarch will have to face long-lasting issues such as relations with the Vatican and churches in Macedonia and Montenegro that are seeking independence.

Observers see Irinej as seeking compromise between conservatives — who are opposed to openness

to other churches and Western influences in Serbian society — and reformists, who want the church to be more open and modern.

In a recent interview, Irinej said he would not oppose a visit to Serbia by the Roman Catholic pope. The hard-liners of the church have long opposed such a visit.

Bishop Amfilohije Radovic, who is seen as an anti-Western hard-liner, has served as caretaker for much of the past two years, during Pavle's long hospitalization.

Today's election was held behind closed doors amid reports of feuding and jostling among the voters.

Under the complex system, each member of the Holy Assembly of Bishops chooses three preferred names from the list of potential candidates. Any names selected by more than half the assembly members then move to a short list limited to three candidates.

The process can be slow. For the election of Patriarch Pavle in 1990, the vote was taken nine times before a short list was achieved.

Once the list is in hand, the names of the final three candidates are put in three unmarked, sealed envelopes and placed inside a Bible.

A monk selected by the assembly then takes the three envelopes from the Bible, selects one at random, and gives it to the presiding bishop, who announces the name of the new patriarch.

The so-called apostolic vote was introduced in 1967 to prevent Yugoslavia's secular authorities from meddling in church affairs. Church leaders said it was the Holy Spirit that guided the monk in selecting an envelope, thereby eliminating human interference from the final stage of the process.

The Serbian Orthodox Church is the second-oldest Slavic Orthodox Church in the world and the westernmost Eastern church in Europe. It is believed to have between 7 million and 14 million followers, located primarily in the republics of former Yugoslavia.

## **Russian Church welcomes newly elected Patriarch Irinej, he is to be enthroned in Kosovo this spring**

Moscow, January 22, Interfax - The Russian Orthodox Church points out to the newly elected Patriarch Irinej's expertise and authority among clerics and laymen.

"Newly elected Patriarch Irinej belongs to the eldest hierarchs of the Serbian Orthodox Church, he is notable for balanced sobriety and enjoys authority among Serbian episcopate, where he has belonged for 35 years, and among believers," deputy head of the Moscow Patriarchate Department for External Church Relations Archpriest Nikolay Balashov told *Interfax-Religion* on Friday.

"He is an experienced pastor, he's been a monk for half a century, he is vigorous and active in spite of his honorable age of 79," thus Fr. Nikolay, who has long been in charge for inter-Orthodox relations in the Moscow Patriarchate, characterized the new Serbian Primate.

The priest reminded that Bishop Irinej visited Russia more than once (last time in January 2009) and "always has friendly feelings to the Russian Orthodox Church."

The interviewee of the agency further said that ceremonious enthronement of the newly elected Patriarch Irinej to the ancient patriarchal See of Pec located in the Kosovo District would allegedly take place this spring. The first patriarchal liturgy will be celebrated in the Belgrade cathedral this Sunday without representation of the local Orthodox Churches.