

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 Website: www.ssppoc.org

BULLETIN OF AUGUST 8, 2010



THE DORMITION LENT

SUNDAY/AUGUST 8

11th Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 2)

Post-feast of the Transfiguration

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy; Coffee Hour; 11:45a.m. Movie: "Gifted Hands"

MONDAY/AUGUST 9

St. Herman of Alaska

9:30a.m. Akathist to St. Herman; Confessions

TUESDAY/AUGUST 10

6:15p.m. Compline & Akathist to

St. Spyridon (August 11)

7:30p.m. Movie: "Gifted Hands"

THURSDAY/AUGUST 12

7:00p.m. Compline & Akathist to

St. Tikhon of Voronezh (August 13)

Confessions

SATURDAY/AUGUST 14

9:30a.m. Akathist; Confessions

3:00p.m. Confessions

5:30p.m. Vigil and blessing of flowers;

Confessions

SUNDAY/AUGUST 15

12th Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 3)

Dormition of the Holy Theotokos

(One "of the 12 Great Feasts")

End of the Dormition Lent

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

The Dormition Fast, is "one of the four lents" of the year. Its observance is at least from the 5th century. The Fast is always of a two week duration, from August 1st thru 14th. It is held as a period of repentance and receiving the Holy Mysteries of Confession and Communion; in preparation for the celebration of the Dormition of the Theotokos.

The Dormition of the Theotokos is "one of the twelve great feasts," that commemorates the Falling-Asleep (Death), Burial, Resurrection and Ascension of the Mother of God. This is commonly called "The Summer Pascha."

A fast is held from meat, dairy, fish, wine and oil products. Some days allow for a relaxing of the rules on select feasts day. Your parish wall calendar indicates these modifications.

Those of the faithful that normally receive the Holy Gifts (Communion) every Sunday, must go to Confession before the Dormition Feast (Aug. 15), if they have not been to Confession any time after Pascha (April 4).

Those of the faithful who communicate less frequently should avail themselves of this blessed Lent to receive the Holy Mysteries.

The Holy Mysteries will be brought to the homes of those that are shut-in during this Lent. If you are home-bound and desire a visitation please call Father James to arrange a date and time.

Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Tatiana Onuschak	40 th Day August 17
Mary Lebedz	Aug. 08, 1945
Shelia McCloskey	Aug. 08, 1949
George Siplak	Aug. 09, 1916
Michael Sapochuk	Aug. 09, 1939
Parasceva Kulwinsky	Aug. 09, 1979
Andrew Hriniak	Aug. 11, 1967
Alexander Kozich	Aug. 11, 1974
Joseph Kulina	Aug. 11, 1987
Anna Pozgay	Aug. 11, 1995
Anna Adamchak	Aug. 11, 2003
Paul Sarko	Aug. 13, 1983
George Perun	Aug. 14, 1958

Offerings for the week of August 8

Olive Oil – in memory of Michael and Justina; in memory of Vaschen and Emilia; for the health of Mary (birthday); in memory of Jacob.

Wine – for the health of Tatiana; for the health of Vasilina.

Flowers – in memory of Pearl Kulwinsky.

Aug. 22 – Sunday Church School Meeting of Teachers and Parents

At the Coffee Hour a short meeting will take place to review and plan for the Church School. For this Fall, we are looking for a teacher for the older class.

Aug. 29 – Sunday – Fast Day

Be mindful that Sunday, Aug. 29th, the Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist is a strict fast day – no meat, dairy or fish permitted.

Advance Planning

The Parish website has scheduled the services, events, educational classes, and various meetings for the rest of 2010. Please make reference to it as you plan your own personal calendar.

Calendar Planning – Mark these dates

Prayers for New Academic Year – Aug. 29

Beginning of Church New Year – Sept. 1

Pilgrimage to St. Tikhon's Monastery – Sept. 18

Diocesan Assembly NYC – Nov. 9

Visit of Bishop Michael – Nov. 21

St. Tikhon's Monastery Pilgrimage Saturday, Sept. 18

On this day our parish is sponsoring a Bus Trip to St. Tikhon's Monastery in South Canaan, Pa. The bus leaves Manville at 8:00a.m. and returns back in Manville about 7:30p.m. Costs are adult \$30; youth from 12-21 \$20; children under 12, \$10. Lunch is included in the cost above. A sign-up sheet is on the vestibule stand. The deadline is Sunday, Sept. 5th for signing up and payment. For more information speak with Fr. James or Reader Symeon Combs. The Bus Trip is open to non-parishioners as well. Please see Symeon Combs or Inga Gamsakhurdasvili to make payment.

August Films

"Gifted Hands" Sun. Aug. 8 at 11:45a.m. and again on Tues. Aug. 10 at 7:30p.m.

As a Special Summer Classic Film Presentation:

"Quo Vadis" Part I, Tues. Aug. 24 at 7:00p.m.

"Quo Vadis" Part II, Wed. Aug. 25 at 7:00p.m.

"National Velvet" Thurs. Aug. 26 at 7:00p.m.

The Aug. 26 viewing will feature Ice Cream and Fruits. All are invited! Bring a friend. The Conference Room will be cooled by new air-conditioning!

Parish Picnic – Part Two

On Sunday, Sept. 5th, at 2:00p.m. the Parish Picnic will again get underway – interrupted by rain on July 25 – at the same location. So plan to come and continue the good fellowship. If you missed out on the July date, plan for the Sept. date.

New Jersey Deanery Open Forum

On September 14, at 7:00p.m. an Open Forum will be held at Ss. Peter & Paul Church in South River with Bishop Michael and clergy and laity. The purpose of this gathering is to discuss the OCA Strategic Plan (see www.nynjoca.org)

The Plan may be found on-line. You are invited to read it and come to the meeting with your ideas and comments.

A Pilgrimage to the land of Georgia

Is being considered for mid July 2011. Up-dates will follow. For now mark your calendar.

Holy Places and Relics of Georgia

Sermon by Patriarch Ilia II of Georgia

Every nation, as well as each person, has its own treasure. Our great Saint Ilia the Righteous (Chavchavadze) preached that the Georgians protect three sacred treasures: faith, tongue and the native land.

Numerous holy places speak to the might and strength of our nation's faith, which represents Georgia's greatest single treasure.

I would like to remind you of the story of Moses the Prophet, when he delivered his people from slavery in Egypt. Before reaching Palestine, the Jews were compelled to wander through the desert for forty years. On Mount Sinai, Moses saw a blackberry bush engulfed in flames, but which

did not burn. Moses, who was exceedingly surprised, heard God's commandment: "Take off the shoes from thy feet, for the place on which thou standest is a holy ground." Moses immediately did so. Truly, this was a place where God's power dwelt and continues to dwell, the everlasting realm of Almighty, which is divine for

all Christians. As the holy fathers put it, the unburned bush represents a "pre Savior and Redeemer of humanity.

His Eminence Archbishop Constantine (Melikidze) and I have had the privilege of putting our feet on the blessed land of the Sinai Desert and seeing this bush with our own eyes. As the monks of the Saint Katherine Monastery told us, they had attempted to replant the sprouts of the bush but they could not succeed in growing it anywhere else. The given spot is the only location throughout the whole Sinai Desert where the bush grows. People from different countries of the world come in endless waves to see the holy place and the Biblical burning bush; they all desired to pick at least a small leaf from this sacred plant and therefore, the monks were obliged to build a huge protecting wall around it.



It is true that God dwells everywhere, yet there are places where the grace of the Holy Spirit and God's might are manifested in a particularly palpable way.

The same spirit is conveyed in the Psalms of the Prophet David, in which we read: "For the Lord has chosen Zion, He has desired it for His habitation" (132, 13).

We had these words inscribed on the iconostasis of the Sioni Cathedral.

Why the Georgians have called this holy cathedral "Sioni and what does "Sioni" mean? This word needs some clarification. "Sioni" is of Hebrew origin and translates as "sunny." There is a mountain in

Jerusalem of the same name that is a sacred place particularly distinguished and loved by God. David the Prophet often mentions it in his psalms and King David himself, as well as his son Solomon, are buried on that very mountain. This divine place is the spot on which the Savior held the Last Supper. Right next to the hall where the Last Supper took place,

stood the house of Saint John the Apostle, who after the crucifixion brought the Holy Virgin, Mother of God there. Jesus appeared twice before his disciples here; the Garden of Gethsemane is also nearby.

Therefore, it is after this blessed place that the Georgian people have named the holy cathedral where our kings and the Catholicos Manglisi, who by the Georgian Church has been canonized as a saint, also rests in the Sioni Cathedral. History tells us that the last King of Georgia, Giorgi XII, while ill, after touching the holy remains he recovered from his illness. The Holy Cross of Vine [given to St. Nina by the Virgin Mary], the greatest sacred object of the Georgian Church, bringing with it the blessings of the Virgin Mary, is placed here; the skull of the Apostle Saint Thomas is also kept in this church.

I am telling you all this because on entering the Cathedral we must feel the presence of all these

relics, just like Moses the Prophet was aware of it when he bared his feet thus expressing adoration for the holy place. We must make our entrance into the Cathedral with great spiritual humility and as one of the psalms commands, on entering this sanctuary we must abandon all the worldly routines outside, while inside the Cathedral we need only to contemplate on how to establish contact with the Almighty.

You have certainly noticed an inscription above the gates of the Cathedral:

“Let me enter your house, worship your holy temple with awe and reverence to you.”

Let us remember Svetitskhoveli, the most precious and holy place for our nation and our church. Here lies the robe of our Lord Jesus Christ and the mantle of Elijah the Prophet.

Lake Paravani in Javakheti is yet another place of worship for our nation. It was at this very spot that God appeared before Saint Nino and delivered to her a book, “containing ten words, like the ones on the stone tablets before” (The Chronicle of Conversion of Kartli). The virgin saint was ordered to deliver this book to the King of Kartli in Mtskheta. Saint Nino, who is equal to the Apostles, asked the shepherds the way to Mtskheta and they instructed her to follow the route along the river, which took its source from the Paravani Lake. This route, they said, would bring her to her destination. Therefore, the road from Paravani to Mtskheta, taken by Saint Nino is considered a holy road too. I am deeply convinced that our ancestors have trodden this route with prayers more than once.

The Georgians, fully imbued with the Orthodox faith, have developed a love for sacred things from ancient times. It is for this reason that even at the cost of their lives our ancestors defended and protected these spiritual treasures, which shed their divine light and God’s grace onto the whole country. In different epochs, through God’s miraculous will, more than one sacred object has been brought to Georgia, remaining with us as a true sign of a very special honor granted to Georgia, which is a country of the oldest Christian culture and traditions.



Back in the epoch of the Old Testament, in the 6th century BC, the Jews who came to Mtskheta brought with them the holy mantle of Elijah the Prophet which had been delivered by him to Elisha the Prophet, exactly at the time of the Ascension. Right after the Crucifixion, in the 1st century AD, Elioiz of Mtskheta brought the sacred robe of Jesus Christ from Jerusalem, which is also buried in Mtskheta. It is on this very spot where the holy robe is now, that one of the first Georgian Christian Cathedrals, with

the name of Sioni (or Svetitskhoveli) was erected, which is titled as the Mother Church of all other churches existing in Georgia.

The icon of the Virgin Mary, brought to Georgia by the Apostle Andrew, and the arrival of Saint Nino with the Vine Cross in her hands, was followed by the introduction of numerous other holy

objects into our country and thanks to God’s grace, this has proved to be an ongoing process for our country even at present.

In Saint Nino’s times, in order to baptize the Georgian people, Emperor Constantine sent John the Bishop and other clergy; together with the icon of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Cross of Life, they brought with them the footboard and the nails of our Savior. Later on, Georgia has become rich with other sacred objects too. Among the most significant are the robe of the Holy Mother of God, the finger of Christ’s forerunner John the Baptist, the knee bone of Saint George, the holy parts of Saint Barbara the Martyr, the skull of Saint Eugenia, the “Stone of Grace” brought from Jerusalem to Georgia by Saint Father David of Gareji and many other sacred objects including a number of unique crosses and holy icons. The graves of the Saints who met their glorious death in Georgia, the tombs of God’s Apostle Simon the Zealot, Saint Maximus the Confessor, holy kings and queens, the radiant sepulchers of Georgian martyrs and Assyrian Fathers established churches and monasteries with their holy treasure in which our nation and the church truly take pride.