

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF DECEMBER 19, 2010

SUNDAY/DECEMBER 19

Holy Ancestors of the Lord (Tone 4)

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

Coffee Hour; Church School

11:00a.m. Christmas Cookie Walk

6:30p.m. Compline and anointing with oil from

tomb of **St. John of Kronstadt (Dec. 20)**

Confessions

MONDAY/DECEMBER 20

Pre-Feast of Nativity

3:30p.m. Confessions

7:00p.m. Compline; Confessions

TUESDAY/DECEMBER 21

Pre-Feast of Nativity

3:30p.m. Confessions

7:00p.m. Compline; Confessions

WEDNESDAY/DECEMBER 22

Pre-Feast of Nativity

7:00p.m. Compline; Confessions

THURSDAY/DECEMBER 23

Pre-Feast of Nativity

6:15p.m. Confessions; 7:00p.m. Royal Hours

FRIDAY/DECEMBER 24

Eve of the Nativity

4:30p.m. Vigil Service

SATURDAY/DECEMBER 25

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

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

Coffee Hour

5:30p.m. Compline

SUNDAY/DECEMBER 26

Sunday After Nativity (Tone 5)

Synaxis of the Theotokos

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

Coffee Hour and Christmas Carols



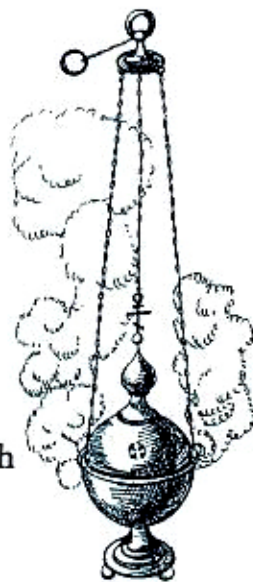
Lessons in Divine & Christian Love (38)

A face does not reflect itself in troubled waters. Neither did Eve see God in the mirror of her troubled soul. She was looking at the tree, full of mixed fruit – good and bad. Looking with her confused soul, she no longer saw God as higher than herself. She abandoned God. God and the devil did not remain in their true categories. There was then no other woman to support her against Satan and his carnal viewpoint. And with these eyes and this new sight, she saw the forbidden fruit as good to eat, pleasant to look at and giving much knowledge. Oh, knowledge not only of good but also of evil! But the outcome of a mixture of good and evil is evil. In place of love all is filled with three desires: lust for bodily pleasure, desire for possessions and desire for knowledge. Having lost God, she had begun to look for support in things. But the emptiness, caused by draining the abandoned God, from the soul, all the world cannot fill.

- Archimandrite Callistratus of Mileseva

Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Jan. 14	40 th Day	John Chabra
Dec. 20,	1962	Michael Popko
Dec. 20,	1980	Anna Martin
Dec. 21,	1946	Helen Semoskovich
Dec. 21,	1997	Nadia Marchuk
Dec. 21,	2006	Nicholas Chabra
Dec. 23,	1950	Gregory Persurance
Dec. 23,	1989	Peter Kozura
Dec. 23,	1991	Olga Barna
Dec. 24,	1946	Steven Holovach
Dec. 24,	1947	Catherine Hriniaik
Dec. 24,	1961	Sophie O'Connell
Dec. 24,	1978	Anna Martinchuk
Dec. 25,	1990	Alexander Kuntzevich
Dec. 25,	1991	Helen Wislosky



Coffee Hour Hosting Teams

- Dec. 19 - Peterson, Mattei and Bakaletz
- Dec. 26 - Kita, Nevitt and Keller

The Nativity Fast: Nov. 15-Dec. 25

A fast is held from all meat, dairy, fish and wine products. Certain days allow for a relaxation of the rule, as here indicated.

- Dec. 19 Sun. - Fast (fish, wine & oil)
- Dec. 20 Mon. - Fast
- Dec. 21 Tues. - Fast (wine & oil)
- Dec. 22 Wed. - Fast
- Dec. 23 Thur. - Fast (wine & oil)
- Dec. 24 Fri. - Strict Fast
- Dec. 25 Sat. - 40 Day Fast ends after the Divine Liturgy

Offerings for the week of December 19

Olive Oil – in memory of Michael and Justina; in memory of Vaschen and Emilia; for the health of John (birthday); in memory of Anna and Michael; for the health of Cornelia; in memory of Joan; in memory of Florin

Wine: in memory of Floarea, Gheorghe, Elena, Elena, Petre, Anastasia, Aurelia, Sasinca, Alexandru and Maria.

Flowers: in honor of the Nativity of our Lord; for health and repose of Chabra family members.

Namesday Greetings: Many Blessed Years!

St. Anastasia/Dec. 22: Anastasia Kita, Anastasia Mickel, Meredith Hansen;
St. Eugenia/Dec. 24: Joan Bongiorno

Those That Are Home Bound

The Holy Mysteries of Confession and Communion will be brought to the homes of those that cannot make it to church. If you have not already done so, please make arrangements with Father James.

The Mysteries of Confession and Communion

In the period of this Nativity Fast, all the faithful ought to prepare for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord (Dec. 25th), by making a heartfelt Confession and receiving the Holy Gifts of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. In a very real sense, our fasting, prayers, charitable works and cultivation of a spirit of repentance (spiritual change) culminates in the receiving of these grace-filled Mysteries. This is the most perfect way to celebrate the Nativity of Christ. Let us make due preparation for these Holy Gifts.

Winter Weather Conditions

May necessitate a change in the schedule, please check the parish website for up-dates. Any necessary changes will be posted at least 1 hour before the scheduled event.

Fast-free Period: Dec. 25 – Jan. 4

In this festal period we do not fast, nor kneel or make prostrations. In keeping with the festal character of these days, the Mystery of Marriage may not be performed nor Memorial Services held (except for those who may repose in this period).

The Parish Website: www.ssppoc.org

Has posted – “schedule of services” – the parish calendar of services, events, adult studies, church school, meetings and deanery and diocesan events thru June of 2011. Check it out and plan your own calendar accordingly.



TWO QUESTIONS WE NEED TO ASK ABOUT THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

By St. John of Kronstadt

Why did God become Man While Remaining God?

The answer to this may be found in the words of the Archangel to Joseph, the betrothed of the Holy Virgin: God became man to save "His people from their sin" (Matthew 1:21). For this reason He is called Jesus, which means "Saviour." And so, it was for our salvation that the Lord came to earth and became man, for the regeneration in us of the image of God which had fallen. The Son of God became the Son of Man in order to make us sons of God who were called the children of wrath and eternal damnation. In the words of the Apostle John the Theologian: that we should be called the sons of God (1 John 3:1); "Now God became man, that He may make Adam a god" (Stichera for the praises of the Annunciation).

And so, my brethren, the Feast of the Nativity of Christ reminds us that we are born of God, that we are sons of God, that we have been saved from sin and that we must live for God and not for sin; not for flesh and blood, not for the world which lies in evil (1 John 5:19), not for earthly corruption, but for an inheritance incorruptible reserved in heaven.

What does God's Incarnation require of us?

As we prepare for the feast of the Nativity of Christ, you must ask yourself:

Have you preserved the spiritual birth from God which we each received in Baptism?

Are you always heedful to the divine sonship and the sacred treasure of the Spirit which you acquired in Baptism?

Have you loved one another as befits the children of God?

Have you grown closer to God through faith and love, like His beloved children?

Have you despised evil and all-destructive sin?

Have you loved truth and every virtue?

Have you loved immortal and eternal life prepared in a land which will not pass away and to which we are called by Him Who now has come to our corrupt earth?

These are the questions we must ask ourselves now and decide; not only with our minds, but above all, with our hearts and our very deeds. The Nativity of Christ requires of us to remember and hold in sacred honor the fact that we are born of God; and if we have sullied and trampled upon this birthright with our sins; we must restore it by washing it with tears of repentance.



Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah for the Nativity of Christ 2010

Posted 12/14

To the Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

"Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men" [Luke 2:14].

The angelic proclamation at the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the good news of the restoration of all things. In Christ, all things are made new, God is made man, and the order of nature is restored. All things are filled with His glory. All creation itself sings with joy, radiating the glory of God, while the angelic hosts join in praise of the One Who has been made manifest to us.

There is no separation between God and us, because God has taken our flesh and been born of the Virgin. He has emptied Himself in order to fill us with Himself. He has drawn us to Himself that He might fulfill every aspect of our lives with His joy, His presence, and His righteousness.

In light of this great mystery, how are we to respond to God?

Our spiritual life involves our every breath -- how we live in this world and conduct ourselves in our neighborhoods, at work and in school, in the midst of our families and communities and parishes. It involves bringing the remembrance of God into every aspect of our lives. During the Nativity Fast, as we prepared ourselves for the coming of the Savior, we were offered the opportunity to repent, to seek renewal, and to recommit ourselves to Christ and His Church. We discerned those areas of our lives in which we turned away from God, once again opening ourselves to His radiant presence, that He might heal and raise us up. Even when things seem dark and dismal, when we struggle to find the light at the end of the proverbial tunnel, we can regain our spiritual focus -- that focus which is once again restored to us through the Incarnation of the One Who, as the "Light of the world," leads us.



Too often, we allow ourselves to be blinded to the light of God's presence. We become preoccupied with anger and pride, lusts and the desire for material things, and -- even worse -- gossip, slander, judgment, criticism, and condemnation of those whom we should accept as our brothers and sisters. These sins must be confronted, confessed, and stopped. It is only by repentance that we can accept Christ back into our lives when we have banished Him by our sins. It is only by forgiving those who have offended us that we can be freed from slavery to the demons of anger and bitterness. And, indeed, it is only through repentance and forgiveness that we come to remembrance of Him as the One Who has come to set us free.

God comes and reveals Himself in the midst of our lives -- if we let Him -- just as He came to the obscurity of a cave in Bethlehem. He exposed the envy and hatred of Herod. He was intuitively known to the simple shepherds -- the "pure of heart" -- but those immersed in the bitterness of sin "knew Him not." His Mother was slandered and condemned by those around her; how, then, can we slander? He was adored by the Wise Men of Persia, but those who, in their pride thought they were wise, could not understand.

Giving thanks to God for our healing and salvation, let us join with the angels and the shepherds, and all creation in the song of praise. "Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, good will to men!"

With love in the Newborn Lord,

+JONAH
Archbishop of Washington



FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN. UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN.

The Parish family of Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church of Manville, NJ , extends to all of our parishioners, friends and benefactors, the joy and blessings of the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ!

May the Prince of Peace bless, protect and guide you.

Archpriest James Parsells, & Nectarios
 Father Deacon Paul, Diakonissa Patricia & Zachary Sokol
 Mattei, Frank, Larissa & Nicholas
 Kaliashvili, Kakha, Ekaterine, Anna & Saba
 Ghriniashvili, -Janiashvili, Zurabi, Nona
 George & Joseph
 Mickel, Anastasia & Laverne
 Josifovich, Freda & Diane
 Magoulas, Fotini
 Zahodnick, John
 Terebey, Alexandra, Maureen, David, Raisa, John
 George, Helen, Monica, Maureen, Haley, Jeffrey
 Jason, Danielle, Stacie, Amanda, John, Patrick & Pam
 Napylov, Andrey, Lyubov, Shevchuk
 Bell, Robert & Sandra
 Mock, Mildred
 Ploof, Margaret
 Ratzkovich, Natalie
 Gorbunov, Valentin, Valentina, Vladimir, Larisa
 Eugene, Anne, Tania, Gennadiy
 Anne, Tania,
 Nevitt, Tess
 Kachek, Stephanie
 Kavchok, Irene
 Combs, Theodora, Mary, & Symeon
 Kita, Amanda & Scott Nagele
 Motoviloff, Kathryn
 Arpastean, Andrea Lucian & Liliana
 Kita, Robert, Stacey, Matt & Nicky
 Turri, Marie & Bob
 Torrisi, Daniel, Maria, Alexander & Nicholas

Cresina, Julia
 Kulick, Basil & Barbara
 Riegler, Daria, Doug, & Daniel
 Michalski, Dorothy
 Smith, Timothy & Robert
 Gurgeridze, Natia & Luka Stepanashvili
 Tsiwtsiwadze, Ekaterina & Michael
 Trofimiuk, Leonarda & Jerzy
 Galida, Julia
 Filippini, Sandy
 Darchiashvili, Mamuka
 Gamsakhurdashvili, Inga
 Davidovich, family
 Gorbatuk, Peter & Susan
 Parsells, Peter & Heather Graver
 Phillips, Nancy & Andrew
 Krapcho, John & Martha
 Bongiorno, Frank & Joan
 Vajda, Mariana, Stefan & Family
 Rosocha, Mary
 Bodenчук, Xenia & Sally
 Ward, Stephanie
 Lapchuk, Helen
 Sarchisian, Edward
 Filippini, Teresa
 Peterson, Jill, Todd, David & Todd
 Mantzafos, Katherine
 Zamerovskiy, Eileen
 Olszyk, Sophie