

# **SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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**BULLETIN OF JANUARY 30, 2011**

## **SUNDAY/JANUARY 30**

**36<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 3)**

**Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs:**

**Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian  
and John Chrysostom**

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

## **TUESDAY/FEBRUARY 1**

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

## **WEDNESDAY/FEBRUARY 2**

**MEETING OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE**

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

7:00p.m. Compline and Akathist to

**St. Nicholas, Equal-to-the-Apostles,  
Enlightener of Japan**

## **THURSDAY/FEBRUARY 3**

7:00p.m. Visitation of the Miraculous Kursk-Root  
Icon at Christ the Saviour Church in Paramus  
with Bishop Michael presiding

## **FRIDAY/FEBRUARY 4**

7:00p.m. Visitation of the Miraculous Kursk-Root  
Icon at Holy Annunciation Church in Brick with  
Bishop Michael presiding

## **SATURDAY/FEBRUARY 5**

9:30a.m. Akathist; Confession  
5:30p.m. Vigil; Confession

## **SUNDAY/FEBRUARY 6**

**Zaccheus Sunday (Tone 4)**

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

11:45a.m. Movie: "A Pilgrim's Way: A Search in  
Sacred Romania"



*The Wonderworking Kursk Root Icon  
of the Mother of God*

## **Lessons in Divine & Christian Love (42)**

When men were stripped of the love of God, the one true love, they began to refer to their lusts and desires in terms of love. Such was the name for the desire for and enjoyment of carnal delights, for earthly riches, for inquisitive knowledge, as also lust for carnal union, for power, and gaining honors, for sport and feasting, for possessing things. All this men invest with the name of love according to the machinations of Satan, solely and exclusively so that heavenly love is forgotten: the one love that is not counterfeit. It was like a prisoner in darkness crumbling some black bread into small morsels, and giving these morsels the name of the most festive food which they had once eaten when they were free. It was through this lying illusion that it was possible to swallow the bitter bread of darkness.

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

Feb. 20 40<sup>th</sup> Day for Margaret Lohsen  
Jan. 31, 1952 Jacob Michaelleski  
Feb. 02, 1940 Michael Petro  
Feb. 02, 1949 Theodora Mahalick  
Feb. 02, 1984 Natalie Kuntzevich  
Feb. 02, 1986 Sonia Esposito  
Feb. 02, 1994 Kallioppi Alexis  
Feb. 03, 1929 Jonah Lasin  
Feb. 04, 1973 Mary Bolash  
Feb. 04, 1975 Pelagia Grishkivech  
Feb. 05, 1958 Theodore Andreosky



### **Offerings for the week of January 30**

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

Wine: in memory of Merab.

Flowers: for the Meeting of the Lord and safe journey.

Litya Breads: for the health of Ekaterina.

### **The Blessing of Homes**

The blessing of homes is taking place until Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>. Those wishing to have their homes and family members blessed should make arrangements with Father James.

### **Annual Parish Meeting**

February 13<sup>th</sup>, Sunday at 11:45a.m. All reports should be submitted no later than Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Coffee Hour Hosting**

Jan. 30 - Hunchar, Erkman and Turri  
Feb. 06 - Sarchisan, Dunaenko Hando.  
Feb. 13 - Peterson, Bakaletz and Mattei

### **Namesday Greetings: Many Blessed Years!**

**Belated:** St. Timothy/Jan. 22: Timothy Smith and Timothy Gorbatuk; St. Xenia/Jan. 24: Xenia Bodenchuk.; St. Maria/Jan. 26: Maria Torrisi.

### **This Week:**

St. Perpetua/Feb. 01: Rebecca Gorbatuk  
St. Nicholas/Feb. 03: Nicholas Torrisi

### **Sayings**

7 Days a week without prayer makes 1 weak.  
A family altar can alter a family.  
Give Satan an inch and he'll be a ruler.

### **Icon Print Collection**

Icon Prints from calendars and Christmas Cards may be deposited in the Special Collection Box in the vestibule. Please do not deposit whole calendars and cards but **cut out the prints** for deposit.

### **Pilgrimage to the Land of Georgia**

Is being planned for July 19-Aug.2. This will be for a small number of interested parishioners of our parish. Please speak with Ekaterina Margiani for more information. A determination must be made by the end of February if you wish to go on the trip.

### **Good Church Order**

- 1) To be on time for the Divine Liturgy and to break any bad habit of being perpetually late.
- 2) Once the Divine Liturgy has begun, to remain in the church until the end – making any leaving of the church only because of real necessity, not bad habit.
- 3) For Non-Sacramental Services – like Vespers or Matins, one may come and go as personal circumstances require.

### **Film Presentation: "A Pilgrim's Way: A Search in Sacred Romania"**

This 73 minute film is an account of a Canadian Romanian young man, searching for spiritual meaning in his life. He journeys to Romania, the land of his historical ancestry to discover the roots of his Christian faith. On his pilgrimage, he encounters spiritual people in the cities and in the monasteries that helps him in his quest for truth and meaning in his life. The search of the young man is personal yet at the same time the questions he poses and the answers offered are of universal character for all Orthodox Christians.

Feb. 6, Sun at 11:45a.m. / Feb. 9, Tues. 7:00p.m.  
In the Conference Room in the Lower Hall. Invite someone to come with you!

### **Openings for Parish Council**

Parishioners in good standing are sought for Parish Council Membership. Names should be submitted to Father James, Symeon Combs or Austin Kachek by February 6<sup>th</sup>.



**IOCC**

*INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES*

**WE AT SS. PETER & PAUL CHURCH WANT TO BECOME SOUPER BOWL CHAMPIONS!**

**ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6 OR 13**

- **BRING A NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM TO HELP OUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY IN BRIDGEWATER**
- **PLACE A SMALL MONETARY GIFT IN THE BASKETS IN THE VESTIBULE FOR THE BENEFIT OF "GREAT EXPECTATIONS" A RARITAN RESIDENCE THAT HELPS UNWEDDED MOTHERS IN THEIR PREGNANCY**

## 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 Zacharias, 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]. Zacharias 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

# New European Union school calendar omits Christian holidays

Strasbourg, France, Jan 14, 2011 / 02:11 pm (CNA).- A 2011-2012 school calendar published by the European Union has omitted Christian holidays, while continuing to note important Jewish and Muslim celebrations.

The European Union has printed three million copies of the calendar which will be distributed free-of-charge to students who request them.

Former French politician and government minister, Christine Boutin, wrote in her blog Jan. 11 that the calendar leaves out Christianity, "the religion practiced or recognized as forming the cultural assembly of our 'old' continent."

Boutin is a consultant for the Pontifical Council for the Family, as well as president of the Christian Democratic Party in France. She went on to lament that Christianity has "fallen into the limbo of collective ignorance."

While Christian holidays such as Christmas and Easter are missing from the calendar's pages, days commemorating "Sikh Baisakhi-Day, the Jewish Yom Kippur holiday, the Muslim holiday Aid-el-Kebir," remain in place," Boutin continued.

The Christian Democratic Party in France called the omissions "unacceptable" and has filed a petition asking that the calendars not be distributed as printed, but that students be given versions that include Christian holidays.

"The role of the Christian religion in the shaping of Europe is an undeniable historical fact" that the European Union cannot omit. To do so would be to "instruct students while denying that a particular religion has greatly contributed to the foundation and unity of Europe," the organization said.

The petition states that the Christian religion is "the first of all religions in Europe. It is therefore unthinkable that it be denied, as it has great importance for the lives of all."



# Singer Boy George returns Cypriot icon he's had for 26 years

By Patrick Dewhurst  
Published on January 20, 2011



Screen grab from the BBC shows Boy George with Bishop Porfyrios

THE LEGENDARY pop icon Boy George has returned a Cypriot church icon that he bought in the eighties, after a Bishop saw it hanging on the singer's wall on a TV show.

The discovery was made by the Cyprus Orthodox Church's representative in Brussels, Bishop Porfyrios of Neapolis while watching an interview with the former "culture club" and "Jesus Loves You" front man.

Porfyrios told the BBC's PM show "On left side of fireplace at his house during the interview we located in Boy George's living room an icon of the Jesus Christ Pantokrator"

Suspecting the icon to be one of the many stolen and sold on after 1974 invasion, Porfyrios decided to delve deeper.

He said: "Afterwards we researched the story with expert accounts, and we found it stems from Cyprus, specifically from the church of St Charalambous in the occupied village of New Chorio Kithrea"

After verifying this with the priest from St Charalambous, he contacted the singer and told him about the icon's provenance and he was happy to return it to its original owners without payment.

"He bought it from an art dealer in 1985, but did not know it came from occupied Cyprus, and it was bought in good faith... After our contact he gave it back to Cyprus with pleasure" said Porfyrios.

The singer told BBC that he was "happy the icon is going back to its original rightful home" adding

"I have always been a friend of Cyprus and have looked after the icon for 26 years...I look forward to seeing the icon on display in Cyprus for the moment and finally to the Church of St Charalambos from where it was illegally stolen."

Bishop Porfyrios spoke of his "joy and gratitude" as the singer handed over the icon at the St Anagyre church in north London saying that it "contributed to the efforts of the Church of Cyprus for the repatriation of its stolen spiritual treasures".

The icon is a 300-year-old image of Jesus, produced in the Byzantine style in the Heraclidios monastery near Nicosia, which produced icons for most of the churches in Cyprus in the 18th century.

The left side is missing due to the aging and deterioration, and the background is Gold leaf.

Asked about the monetary value of the icon, Porfyrios said: "In the Orthodox church never value our icons. We venerate them as spiritual icons for worship, and it is in his favour that he did not ask for money.

The icon will now travel back to Brussels, then to Cyprus: "We wish very soon for it to be put again in the church from where it was illegally taken" The Bishop said