

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF MAY 22, 2011

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!



Lessons in Divine & Christian Love (58)

Man restored through Christ lives with a restored nature, and a restored mind, heart and will. All these three “measures” of the soul are raised in him by the leaven of the Holy Spirit (cf. Mt. 13:33). Ultimately these three components contain within themselves the Trinitarian heavenly love which “passes understanding” (cf. Phil. 4:7). Therefore the Apostle speaks of a “new man” in the likeness of Christ, and in the same way the great Apostle: “Old things are passed away; behold things are become new” (2 Cor. 5:17).

(59)

SUNDAY/MAY 22

5th Sunday of Pascha (Tone 4)

St. Photina the Samaritan Woman

8:00a.m. Church Open

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour with Question & Answer Period
12-2 Church Doors Open

SATURDAY/MAY 28

9:30a.m. Akathist; Confessions

11:00a.m. Baptism of Antonia

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

SUNDAY/MAY 29

6th Sunday of Pascha (Tone 5)

The Blind Man

St. Luke of Crimea

8:00a.m. Church Open

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour
12-2 Church Doors Open

As the old passes away, and the new comes into being; as rusted iron turns into brilliant steel; a hill layered with dirt collapses into the abyss, so do these burdens weigh on the shoulders of humanity. For this, a power greater than man is necessitated for all creatures, even those who despise themselves. On earth, such a force does not exist, neither such love, nor such heroism. This needed to come from heaven. And it has come. For “God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believed in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (Jon 3:16). Therefore the Son of God came down from heaven, “the power of God and the wisdom of God” to revive by His love the world that was dead.

Fr. Callistratus of Mileseva (Serbia)

Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

May 22, 1939 Ephrem Demianov
May 22, 1951 Joseph Fenuck
May 23, 1925 John Korolovich
May 23, 1954 Wasyl Mlinetz
May 23, 1962 Thomas Cimpko
May 24, 1941 Semeon Kozak
May 27, 1977 Julian Sudillo
May 27, 1988 Tatiana Shvridrik
May 28, 1970 Mary Szwhala
May 29, 1942 Elizabeth Bulat
May 29, 1953 Emil Wilhousky

Offerings for the week of May 22

Olive Oil – in memory of Michael and Justina; in memory of Vaschen and Emilia; for the health and protection of Andrew.

Flowers – for the health of Sandy and in memory of Joan.

Coffee Hour Hosting

May 22 - Combs, Mantafos, Parsells, Sokol
May 29 - Hunchar, Erkman and Turri
June 05 - Visit of Bishop Michael Luncheon

Annual Parish Cemetery Envelope – Memorials received to date

In memory of Zydiak family; in memory of Jon Magoulas; in memory of Audrey Haitch; in memory of Hriniak families; in memory of Stephen, Anna and Alice Susko (as of 5/18/2011).

Namesday Greetings

St. Helen/May 21: Helen Lapchuk and Helen Perry
St. Theodosia/May 29: Tessie Nevitt;
Many Blessed Years!

“The Spirit of Orthodoxy Concert” and Reception held last Sunday

Was a wonderful event! There were 125 people in attendance and the free-will offering for Relief work in Japan came to \$846. Sincere thanks to Symeon Combs and all the members of the “Outreach Committee” for their very fine work. Thanks also to all those who donated foods and were involved in the preparation and clean-up!

Photos of the Concert and Reception should appear on our website this week. Take a look.

The Calendar

June 2/Thurs. Ascension Day (40th Day of Pascha)

June 4&5/Sat. & Sun. Visitation of Bishop Michael to our Parish

June 12/Pentecost Sun. Memorial at Cemetery at 4:00p.m.

June 19/Sun. Recognition of Graduates Sunday

June 19/Sun & June 21 Movie Presentation: “Glory to God: The Life of Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)”

June 20thru 28 Ss. Peter & Paul Lent

June 25/Sat. Parish Council Workshop in Trenton

June 29/Wed. Ss. Peter & Paul Feast Day

Church Open Door Ministry

In May and June month the Church Doors are left “open” from 12-2p.m. Door-Keepers are sought.

Graduates Spring 2011

On Sunday, June 19th, we will recognize our parish graduates. Please submit names to Father James as soon as possible.

Visitation of Bishop Michael to our Parish

Please reserve the weekend of June 4th, Saturday and June 5th, Sunday for the visit of Bishop Michael to our parish.

Sayings

Read the Bible daily, it prevents Truth decay. Faith makes this possible, not easy. The Empty Tomb proves Christianity. The Empty Church denies it. Many want to serve God but only as advisors.

And unto us He has given eternal life, let us worship His Resurrection on the Third Day!

A TESTAMENT OF ORTHODOX FAITH

Lazarus Saturday, the day Jesus brings his friend from the dead back to Life. For me, it felt like I was brought back from the dead to a new life. I was Chrismated on 4/16/11 by Father James at SS Peter and Paul Church in Manville, NJ. What a beautiful experience to feel the love of Jesus on that day.

My journey began back in 2006 when I met my wife. I was Catholic, she was Orthodox. During the early years of our relationship, we kept to our own church schedules. I would complete my half-hour of religious renewal each Sunday while she would be away for at least one and a half hours. I would tease her that 'her church' spoke too slowly and repeated itself while 'my church' spoke quickly and only had to say it once. This teasing went on for awhile but did lead to some interesting conversations about our religious beliefs. Although we both have a strong faith, there were many things I did not know. Being the older of the two, I was embarrassed at times that I did not know my own faith. I found myself attending religious services with my wife at her church. I would come away with more and more questions about why they do what they do. After about 3 ½ years, I decided that it was time to convert. Although the reasons are many, I have to say my conversion to Orthodox feels like a personal connection to God. Looking back, although I was a devoted Catholic, I think I went through the motions. Watching and learning from other Orthodox members, has made me realize what it is to have a deep, personal faith and belief in God, Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Father James at SS Peter and Paul Church in Manville has become an inspiring teacher through this process. We have scheduled meetings to discuss various Orthodox topics. I have been challenged on my faith and beliefs but I am renewed in knowing I found something that brings me closer to God. I now have prayer corners throughout my house. These are a reminder of what is and who is important in my life. I wear a prayer bracelet (gift from my step-daughter) and a beautiful Orthodox cross necklace (chrismation gift from my wife) that are literally a constant reminder of who I now am. Although I do have my daily struggles in a world full of sin, I am Blessed to be part of a loving and caring Orthodox family.

Thanks
Jerry



Russian Priest Helps Prostitutes Mend Their Ways



May 17, 2011
Interfax

Hegumen Yevstafy (Zhakov), rector of Nativity of John the Baptist Church in the Oreshek Fortress of Shlisselburg, in the Leningrad Region, takes care of streetwalkers.

He met one girl in the street. She stopped the priest's car and offered her services. In return, Father Yevstafy offered her his help, *Moskovsky Komsomolets* newspaper reports Tuesday.

At the beginning, he gives the girls weekly pocket money of 5-7 thousand rubles so that they could buy themselves food and even some decent clothes. Then he tries to develop their good taste and take them out to socialize.

"It is very important; otherwise a girl who thinks she is fallen and disgraced is unable to raise her self-esteem. When she feels that she is treated with respect, as a normal person, she starts hoping for a better life," Father Yevstafy explained.

He takes the girls out to art-cafes, exhibitions, and museums and even to opera shows and helps them to start an education.

He helped one girl to buy an apartment room which she eventually sold and moved to an apartment in Gatchina, in the Leningrad Region. Now she is working as a shop assistant and has a family. He also helped another girl to enter St. Petersburg State University of Technology and Design. Upon graduation, she was successfully married and gave birth to a son.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE VIRTUES

by James B. Stenson

As children grow from infancy to adulthood, they need to acquire certain character strengths: sound judgment, a sense of responsibility, personal courage, and self-mastery. These habits of mind and will and heart have traditionally been called the virtues: prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance. Children internalize these lifelong habits in three ways, and in this order:

example: what they witness in the lives of parents and other adults whom they respect (and thus unconsciously imitate).

directed practice: what they are repeatedly led to do, or made to do, by parents and other respected adults.

word: what they hear from parents and other respected adults as explanation for what they witness and are led to do.

Prudence or Sound Judgment

Respect for learning and intellectual accomplishment - "culture." Understanding of human nature and life-experience: motivation, values and priorities of life. Habit of considering the past causes and future implications of present events and circumstances. Ability to recognize the good, the true, and the beautiful; and to discern what is evil, false and sordid.

Powers of moral and intellectual discernment - ability to distinguish:

drudgery (pointless effort) / sacrifice (purposeful effort)

immature egoism / responsible spirit of service

acquaintance, accomplice / true friend

heroes / celebrities

personal rule / rule of law

person in office / the office itself (i.e. President)

feelings / conscience

feelings - reasoned opinions

eroticism / love

sordid, squalid / noble, beautiful

cynicism / healthy skepticism, shrewdness

hypothesis, assumption / proven fact, certain knowledge

mean-spirited ridicule / humor, wit

hubristic pride / healthy self-respect

pragmatism / integrity

self-indulgence / self-mastery

impulsiveness - calculated risk-taking

boorishness / courtesy, good manners

ruthless ambition / honorable competition

selfish individualism / team collaboration

Justice or Responsibility

Acknowledging and respecting the rights of others - the basis for our duties and obligations. Habit of doing our duties, whether we feel like it or not. (Includes the notion of professionalism: ability to perform at our best no matter how we "feel.")

Respect for rightful authority. (Authority means, among other things, the right to be obeyed.) Living with the consequences of our decisions and mistakes, including neglect. Refusal to see oneself as a victim. Habit of honoring our promises and commitments even when this involves sacrifice. Habit of minding our business, staying out of matters that do not concern us.

Refraining from gossip, detraction, and rash judgment; giving people benefit of doubt and respecting others right to presumption of innocence.

Fortitude or Personal Courage

Acquired ability to overcome or endure difficulties: pain, inconvenience, disappointment, setbacks, worry, tedium. Habit of overcoming anxiety through purposeful, honorable action. Attitude of seeing escape as something unworthy, even dishonorable. Realization that "anticipation" is usually worse than "reality." Projected problems are generally lighter and easier than we expect them to be. Confidence in problem-solving abilities, built through lifetime practice in solving problems. Determination to overcome personal shortcomings. If we are shy, we learn to be friendly and a "good listener." If we are impulsive, we practice restraint and reflection about consequences. If we are lazy, we strive toward purposeful action. If we do not understand something, we make effort to study.

Temperance or Self-Mastery

Acquired ability to say "no" to ourselves and our lower inclinations. Habit of waiting for rewards and earning them. Enjoying pleasures and goods in moderation: food, drink, entertainment, even work itself. Lifelong habit of saying (and meaning): please, thank you, I'm sorry, and I give my word.. Habit of living courtesy and good manners toward everyone, without exception, and doing this even in the face of rudeness or provocation. In a word, "class": self-restraint, etiquette, healthy self-respect, active concern for the dignity and needs of all around us, an active spirit of service.

Some "Life Lessons" Young People Need To Learn

A shot-cut to personal happiness: forget about your ego and give yourself generously to serving the needs of those around you, starting with your family.

Love is not just sweet sentiments. It is really the willingness and ability to undergo sacrificial difficulties for the sake of the welfare and happiness of others. In a sense, love is sacrifice.

Hard work without some ideal is just drudgery; hard work with some ideal becomes noble, adventurous sacrifice.

Popularity is not so important as respect. If you strive too hard to have people like you, they probably won't. But if you strive to win their respect, then they will both like and respect you. (All respect comes from some perception of strength.)

If you have self-respect, you will win the respect of others.

Nobody respects a liar, a gossip, a cynic, or a whiner. if you act like one, people may temporarily find you amusing; but they will mistrust you and hold you without honor.

Never make promises lightly, but if you make them, you must keep your word. If you read a lot, and discerningly, people come to value your judgment.

Sometimes it requires more wisdom to take good advice than to give it.

Character is what you have left over if you ever go broke.

The real riches in life are family, friends, health and a good conscience. Everything else is gravy.

