### SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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#### **BULLETIN OF JULY 3, 2011**

# SUNDAY/JULY 3 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Tone 2) New-Martyrs of the Turkish Yoke

8:00a.m. Church Doors Open 9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour 11:45a.m. Movie: "Great Souls: Alexander Solzhenitsyn"

## MONDAY/JULY 4

6:30p.m. Memorial Service for Justina Sokol

#### TUESDAY/JULY 5 St. Elizabeth of Moscow

6:00p.m. Compline and Akathist to St. Elizabeth 7:00p.m. Movie: "Great Souls: Alexander Solzhenitsyn"

#### WEDNESDAY/JULY 6

6:30p.m. Memorial Service for Kulick & Sokol Families 7:00-8:00p.m. Lemonade and Informal Conversations at the Rectory

#### SATURDAY/JULY 9

9:00a.m. Memorial Service for Tatiana Onuschak (1 year anniversary) 9:30a.m. Akathist; Confessions 5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

#### SUNDAY/JULY 10 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Tone 3)

8:00a.m. Church Doors Open 9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour 2:00p.m. Marriage of Amanda Kita and Scott Nagele





#### Lessons in Divine & Christian Love (67)

The Lord Jesus has repeated again and again the reminder to men, that they should not worry about food and drink and clothing. Those are the main cares of the pagans, but not of His followers. It is not worthy of the sons of God, that those concerns which are uppermost in animals should also be the main concerns of men. The one who has called us as His guests in this world knows our needs and attends to them for us. Or do we think that God is a poorer householder than a human householder? God forbid. Despite all our worries for the body we cannot be saved from old age, sickness, death and decay. Nevertheless we know that the Almighty has clothed our souls in this mysteriously woven tapestry, this body, fashioned from earthly materials. We consider it precious but Him we deem secondary, who will clothe us after death in an incomparably beautiful body, immortal and incorruptible, which will not suffer nor age. That is promised to us by the One who created us out of pure love, and who reserves His love as response to our love.

Fr. Callistrațus of Mileseva (Serbia)

Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

July 05, 1925 Athanasius Demchuk

July 05, 1970 Alexis Fedchin

July 07, 1984 Anna Cohen

July 09, 1971 Kuzma Savich

July 09, 2010 Tatiana Onuschak

July 10, 1951 Vassily Fetchina

Offerings for the week of July 3

Olive Oil – in memory of Michael and Justina; in memory of Vaschen and Emilia; for the health of Ekaterina Lewis (birthday); for the health of Larissa Kulick (birthday); for the health of Mark and Barbara Kulick (anniversary).

Wine - in thanksgiving to God; for the health of

Atopere and in memory of Joan.

<u>Flowers</u> – for the health of Maria Torrisi (birthday); for Mrs. Galadi

Annual Parish Cemetery Envelope – Memorials received to date – 7th Up-Date

In memory of Michael and Anna Tacak; in memory of Zahodnick, Kapusniak and Murzda families.

Vacation planning & Church Locations

The website Orthodoxy in America: www.orthodoxyinamerica enables you to find any Orthodox Church in USA and Canada. Vacation planning should always include our participation at the Divine Liturgy on every Sunday.

# Parish Council Meeting

July 14th, Thursday at 7:00p.m.

#### The Calendar

- July Wed. Nights: 7-8p.m. "Lemonade & Informal Conversations at Rectory"
- July 10 Marriage of Amanda Kita and Scott Nagele
- July 17 Marriage of Catherine Gorbatuk & Christopher Brooks
- July 24 Blessing of Autos, Bikes, Wagons, and other things that "make us move"
- · Aug. 21- Parish Picnic
- Aug. 27-28 Visit of Bishop Michael to St. Nino Mission in Staten Island
- Aug. 28 Prayers for Students & Teachers

A Prayer for Safe Travel

Is available after Sunday Divine Liturgy – request it when you venerate the Holy Cross.

Summer Offerings – Be Attentive

Please make your offerings to cover the time you may be away this Summer. Your regular support is needed and appreciated.

#### Thanks

To all for the contribution of foods for our parish patronal feast as well as for the preparation and clean-up. Photos of Ss. Peter & Paul Day (81) are on the parish website: www.ssppoc.org

Wednesdays of July - Lemonade & Informal Conversations 7-8p.m.

On these evenings for an hour we meet at the parish rectory for a cold glass of lemonade and engage in conversations about matters of life, with a focus on the spiritual and moral aspects. All are invited to converse, listen, question, share, or just have a cold drink. Come to the front door. Non-parishioners are also invited.

Remember in Prayer

Atopere (Sandy) Filippini.

A Custodian is sought

We are presently looking for someone to do custodial care for the lower hall. There is a recompense for this work. For details, speak with our Junior Warden, Austin Kachek.

NY-NJ Diocesan Youth Day - Aug. 18th

The Diocese is sponsoring a Youth Day at Great Adventure on Thursday, August 18th. All our young people are invited. For more information please go to the Diocesan Youth Day Website: www.dioceanyouthday.webs.com

Summer Reading

In the summer, things take on a slower pace. Our Parish Library has a great selection of books for your edification. Church history, Lives of the Saints, Theological topics, Iconography, Architecture, etc. etc. When at the Coffee Hour, make a turn into the Library.

# Office of Communications

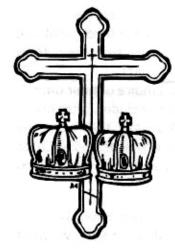
# Orthodox Church in America Diocese of New York and New Jersey

RELEASE NUMBER 2011.27.1

# Archpastoral Letter of His Grace, Bishop Michael, RE-AFFIRMING THE SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE

June 24, 2011

Feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist



Beloved Fathers and Mothers, Brothers and Sisters in the Lord:

#### Christ is in our midst! - He is and ever shall be!

On this very day, we have witnessed the successful efforts of public officials in the State of New York to legally re-define the meaning of marriage to include unions between two persons of the same gender. It is important for us, as Christians of the Orthodox Church, preserving the Tradition of teaching the truth handed down by the Lord Himself, "the faith which was once for all delivered to the Saints" (Jude 3), to re-affirm the meaning of marriage given to us in His Sacred Scripture.

In the document, Affirmations on Marriage, Family, Sexuality, and the Sanctity of Life, written and adopted by the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America in 1992, we read (in part) the following summary of the teaching of our Faith on this matter:

- 1) God wills that men and women marry, becoming husbands and wives. He commands them to increase and multiply in the procreation of children, being joined into "one flesh" by His divine grace and love. He wills that human beings live within families (Genesis 1:27; 2:21-24; Orthodox Marriage Service).
- 2) The Lord went even further to declare that people who look at others to lust after them in their hearts have "committed adultery" (cf. Matthew 5:27-30).
- 3) Christ's apostles repeat the teachings of their Master, likening the unique marriage between one man and one woman to the union between Christ and His Church which they experience as the Lord's very body and His bride (Ephesians 5:21-33; 2 Corinthians 11:2).
- 4) Marriage and family life are to be defended and protected against every open and subtle attack and ridicule.
- 5) Sexual intercourse is to be protected as a sacred expression of love within the community of heterosexual monogamous marriage in which alone it can be that for which God has given it to human beings for their sanctification.

As children of God, we are called to conform our sexual behavior to the commandments of Christ. As Christians, whether single or married, we are called to a life of chastity, pleasing to the Lord. This means struggling against those passions that incline us to "fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23) – fornication, homosexual activity, or adultery. One person may have to overcome his or her inclination toward partners of the opposite sex outside of the blessed union of marriage; another person may have to overcome his or her inclination toward others of the same sex. We are all called to live our lives according to the will of God and thereby partake of the way of salvation.

No matter what the prevailing pressure of the culture or the legislation of the state may proclaim, the timeless teaching of the Church echoes the rule of marriage revealed to us by the Lord, written in the Scripture, and reaffirmed by the wisdom and examples of the Saints. Gay marriage or any other unblessed sexual activity is not the love that the Lord extols. Because "we have the mind of Christ" (1 Cor. 2:16), no matter what the government or society may say, like St. Peter and the Apostles, "we must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). We need not be afraid to stand in opposition to prevailing trends, as the earliest followers of Our Lord stood bravely and boldly, upholding the ideal of Christian marriage in the non-Christian empire of their time. Having said this, we must never forget the Lord's greatest commandment of love, which includes, after loving God above all else, the imperative, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31). This means we must never condemn anyone, but reach out to everyone with the living, healing, saving love of God in Christ Jesus. It means to walk in truth toward all, to do what is right for all, and to affirm what is good and holy on behalf of all.

Let us bear witness to the truth taught by Our Lord, and lived by His Saints, in our daily conversations with our families, our fellow Christians, our neighbors and co-workers. Let us teach the Orthodox Christian vision of marriage, as a path to salvation shared by husband and wife, to our children, godchildren, and all those who come under our care as parents, godparents, pastors, and Christian educators.

Let us join in prayer that the people of faith across the states of New York and New Jersey will continue to stand fast in the divinely revealed truth of what marriage means. And let us by our example witness to the life of chastity to which every human person, made in the image and likeness of God, is called.

With my humble prayers and love in Christ, I remain

Devotedly yours in His service,



+ MICHAEL Bishop of New York and the Diocese of New York and New Jersey