### SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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### **BULLETIN OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2011**

## SUNDAY/SEPTEMBER 11 13<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST St. Silouan of Mt. Athos (Tone 4)

8:00a.m. Church Doors Open 9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour 12-2:00p.m. Church Doors Open

> TUESDAY/SEPTEMBER 13 7:00p.m. Vigil of the Holy Cross

WEDNESDAY/SEPTEMBER 14 ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS (One of "the 12 Great Feasts of the Year") Strict Fast Day: No meat, dairy or fish 9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy 7:00p.m. Compline

> THURSDAY/SEPTEMBER 15 7:00p.m. Parish Council Meeting

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

## SUNDAY/SEPTEMBER 18 14<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTEOCOST (Tone 5)

8:00a.m. Church Doors Open 9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour; Church School/Teen Class 11:45a.m. Movie: "Affectionately Yours, Screwtape: The Devil and C.S. Lewis" 12-200p.m. Church Doors Open

Post-Feast of the Holy Cross
Is celebrated thru the leave-taking, on Sept. 21st.
The tropar and kontakion are said/sung at meal times as well as with evening and morning prayers.



## Lessons in Divine & Christian Love (77)

**M**onasticism is in concept supernatural, angelic. In innumerable examples, monastics have proved themselves and demonstrated themselves in practice to be supernatural and angelic. according to the words of our Lord Himself: "All men cannot receive this save they to whom it is given" (Matthew 19:11). It is given to those in whom the vision of the heavenly kingdom has clearly been opened; whose hearts have been opened exclusively to the love of Christ; those who have lifted themselves gladly up steep spiritual cliffs to the altitude of heaven, and who have felt the call of grace and the power of God. In this way Christ encourages the monastic life: "He that is able to receive it, let him receive it" (Matthew 19:12).

Fr. Callistratus of Mileseva (Serbia)

Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Sept. 11, 1964 Michael Grenther Sept. 12, 1929 Helen Kotliarchik

Sept. 12, 1971 Pauline Kravitsky

Sept. 12, 1974 Anna Naruta Sept. 12, 1995 Anna Rudzina

Sept. 14, 1978 Stephen Keselchak

Sept. 15, 1966 Theodora Mivonuk

Sept. 16, 1980 Mary Lukasik

Sept. 17, 1960 Katherine Sedorkewicz

Sept. 17, 1988 Raymond Koslosky

Sept. 17, 2003 Mila Seidal

Offerings for the week of September 11

Olive Oil - in memory of Vaschen and Emilia; in memory of Michael and Justina; in memory of Gabriela-Antoaneta (3 months of repose). Litva Breads - for the health of Ekaterina.

On the Receiving of Holy Communion According to the canons of the Church, those of the faithful that miss the Sunday Divine Liturgy for more than 3 consecutive Sundays must again go to Confession before approaching for Communion.

Namesday Greetings – Many Years! St. Faith (Vera)/Sept: 17 - Vera Wilhousky St. Wisdom (Sophie)/Sept. 17 - Sophie Barna, Sophie Olszyk, Sophia Bakaletz

Coffee Hour Hosting

Sept. 11 - Motoviloff, Torrisi and Kachek

Sept. 18 - Combs, Mantzafos, Parsells and Sokol

Sept. 25 - Hunchar, Erkman and Turri

40th Day Memorial

For Archpriest Michael Lewis, Sept.23rd, Friday at 7:00p.m.

Latest Issue of "The Orthodox Church" Vol. 46 Spring/Summer 2011

Has been posted on the OCA website: www.oca.org This 28 page edition has all the latest news, including coverage of the repose of Archbishop Dmitri of the Diocese of the South (+Aug. 28).

The Church Open Door Ministry

This ministry consist in keeping the doors of the church open on Sundays between 12:00p.m. and 2:00p.m. Door-Keepers are sought for. A sign-up sheet is on the vestibule stand. Please speak with Reader Symeon Combs with any questions.

Movie Presentation – Sept. 18th & 20th

The feature film this month is "Affectionately Yours, Screwtape: The Devil and C.S. Lewis" This 52 minute film will be shown on Sunday at 11:45a.m. and again on Tuesday at 7:00p.m.

- Did God give each person free will?
- Who is Satan?
- Can good truly overcome evil?

Consider these questions and more as we journey into the mind of C.S. Lewis in this introductory review of one of the great Christian literary works of the 20th century. The Screwtape Letters, a thin volume of imaginative letters between two devils, has given readers insight into conquering everyday spiritual struggles. Join us as we explore the biblical, historical and cultural depictions of Satan and hell and gain a deeper understanding of the nature of temptation and redemption.

Talk by Bishop Michael - Sept. 22nd

On this Thursday evening Bishop Michael will be here for an Akathist to the Holy Cross (6:15p.m.) and a talk (7:00p.m.) entitled: "On Preserving and Proclaiming Orthodox Christianity in a Secular Society" Plan to come! Bring someone with you. Refreshments are sought, please speak with Maria Torrisi (732-545-5642).

Stone Project on Side of the Church

Is scheduled for Sept. 24th, Sat. at 9:00a.m. It is important to know how many workers we will have, please advise Austin Kachek (908-722-5281) if we can count on you. A dozen workers would be great.

Holy Baptisms

For Heather Marie Graver, Oct. 1st, Sat. 11:00a.m. For Elizabeth Myra Dao, Oct. 8th, Sat. at 11:00a.m.

## Office of Communications

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

RELEASE NUMBER 2011.31.1

## ARCHPASTORAL LETTER FOR THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

Sunday ~ September 11, 2011

Beloved in the Lord:

#### Christ is in our midst!

It is hard to believe that today is the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the tragic events that have come to be known simply by two numbers – 9/11. This date commemorates one of the darkest days in American history, alongside that of Pearl Harbor. It recalls the immeasurable loss of thousands of innocent lives at the hands of terrorist attacks and the many fallen heroes who tried to save them. It marks the first time in more than a century that anyone living in the lower 48 states could recall an invasion on American soil by a foreign power. It was indeed a day that will live in infamy.



The immense suffering caused by this tragedy has raised questions within groaning minds and broken hearts, seeking to make some sense of the horrific event. These questions echo the cries of the Psalmist and of our crucified Savior who said, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" (Psalm 21: 1, LXX; Matthew 27:46). No doubt this verse sums up what so many Americans felt, and still feel, in the face of such incredible barbarism: where was God when this happened?

But this passage of Scripture is not just a declaration of despair and abandonment; it is also an utterance tempered by faith and hope. For the Psalm ends with an affirmation of faith in the compassionate presence of God: "For the Lord did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; He did not hide His face from me, but heard me when I cried to Him" (Psalm 21:24, LXX). And, in the strength and peace that comes from above, the Psalmist goes on proclaiming in hope, "All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before Him" (Psalm 21:27, LXX).

Centuries later, the cry of Christ upon the Cross was, to be sure, a manifestation of the terrible suffering He endured as He bore the indescribable burden of our sin. But His plea also makes plain the fact that through the Son of God's act of sacrificial suffering, the limitless power of God's love was revealed – a power of love that was stronger than death, proven by the Lord's glorious Resurrection. The answer to our question is simply, God was in the same place on 9/11 that He was on Good Friday – standing over the shattered gates of Hell; trampling down death by death. For in His power, in His love, death is not the hopeless end of the story – there is the victory and the joy of the Resurrection.

Thus it is that our Christian response to the devastating tragedy of 9/11 must be grounded in our faith in the Crucified and Risen Lord. Our answer to this adversity must be revealed in words of comfort and deeds of service. Our yearnings to understand this horrible moment in history and to cope meaningfully

V. Rev. Ken James Stavrevsky Director of Communications 09/07/2011 9:30 AM Page 1 of 2 585-458-5627 ~ cell 585-770-3496 with it must find rest in the saving presence, the unfailing promises, and the loving actions of our merciful God.

This anniversary calls upon us to never forget the stern warning of Scripture, which came to pass for so many on September 11, 2001, that death comes "as a thief in the night" (I Thessalonians 5: 2). This sober remembrance should remind us to "take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is" (Mark 13:33). It should encourage us to live our lives in such a way that when we close our eyes to this world for the last time, we will indeed open them to find ourselves in the loving embrace of the loving Lord who died for our salvation.

This occasion also calls upon us to remember those who lost their lives ten years ago - not just with fond thoughts but with the power of prayer. Scripture tells us: "For if (we) were not looking for the resurrection of those fallen, it would have been utterly foolish to pray for the departed. But since (we are) looking to the reward of splendor laid up for those who repose in godliness, it is a holy and godly purpose to pray for them" (II Maccabees 12:44-45). So many within the communities served by this Diocese lost loved ones that day. The Scriptures call upon us to reach, in love, across the boundary of death, and pray that God will pour out His mercies upon those who were taken from us so suddenly.

> Finally, this anniversary calls us to continue to care for the needs of the family members who lost their loved ones. The parents, the children, the spouses of the departed remain the living victims of this tragedy.

> Whatever they require - from spiritual counseling to material support - we must help provide for their needs, salve the wounds of their hearts, and offer them faith, hope, and love in our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ amidst their doubts, their fears, and their despair. He offers the ultimate promise: "I am the Resurrection and the Life; he who believes in Me, though he may die, yet shall he live" (John 11:25). Our task is to make that promise present in the lives of those who lost loved ones on that dark day.

As we pause to mark this anniversary with solemnity, let us show the world by our faith in Him – our faith, put into action - that "neither death nor life ... nor things present, nor things to come ... nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

With my humble prayers, my archpastoral blessing, and my sincere love, I remain

Devotedly yours in His service,

#### +MICHAEL

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