

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Website: www.ssppoc.org Diocese of NY-NJ: www.nynjoca.org

BULLETIN OF OCTOBER 23, 2011

The Divine Liturgy of St. James Brother of the Lord



SUNDAY/OCTOBER 23
19th Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 2)

St. James, Brother of the Lord

8:00a.m. Church Doors Open

9:30a.m. Liturgy of St. James;

Coffee Hour

SATURDAY/OCTOBER 29

9:30a.m. Akathist; Confessions

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

SUNDAY/OCTOBER 30

20th Sunday After Pentecost

St. Iotam Zedgenidze of Georgia

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

Coffee Hour; Question & Answer Period

Lessons in Divine & Christian Love (87)

The hymns of the Church chant of the “fragrant Paradise.” That aroma, emanating from the Lord, flows through the Lord and all His followers to all in whom the stench of human lust has been replaced by the blessed perfume of the love of God. But the aroma of Christ did not affect all in the same way, for “to one we are the savor of death unto death; and to the other the savor of life unto life” (2 Cor. 2:16). For some dissipate the aroma of Christ with the stench of sin, while others preserve it to the end, guarding their hearts and laboring with love, that in all things they should be pleasing to Christ, and receive within themselves “the fragrance of Paradise.”

(88)

“I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ” (2 Cor. 11:2), wrote Paul to the Corinthians, who were sunk in carnal lusts and infamy. That is the mission of the Church: namely to purify the faithful from all corruption, sin and passions, and to render their souls pure and holy like the virgins, the brides of the most chaste and holy Christ the King. St. Theognostus writes: “There is no other such great ascesis as that of chastity and virginity. Those who honorably maintain the state of chastity, provoke the admiration of angels and obtain the wreath of the martyr.” The popular Serbian folk epic chants of “the savor of the virginal soul.” That is the savor of purity and holiness.

- Fr. Callistratus of Mileseva (Serbia)

Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Nov. 10th 40th Day Evan Kalenik
Nov. 17th 40th Day Noah Kanchaveli
Oct. 24, 1924 Isidore Ubrimovich
Oct. 24, 1949 Damian Dzyban
Oct. 24, 2002 Dolores Barnosky
Oct. 25, 1961 Nicholas Harasamiuk
Oct. 25, 1966 John Lopatka
Oct. 26, 1956 Steven Max
Oct. 26, 1985 Michael Motoviloff
Oct. 27, 1960 Nikolai Roschuk
Oct. 28, 1916 Paul Kлага
Oct. 28, 1932 Nicholas Kulina
Oct. 29, 2007 Stephandia Seminuk

Offerings for the week of October 23

Olive Oil – in memory of Michael and Justina; in memory of Vaschen and Emilia; in memory of Joan and Sandy; for the health of Michael (birthday); for the health of Leigh and Libbye (birthdays).

Wine – in memory of Katusha and Buhkati; in honor of St. James.

Coffee Hour Hosting

Oct. 23 - Inga, Eka and Marina
Oct. 30 - Nana, Nona and Nino
Nov. 06 - Motoviloff, Torrisi and Kachek

Special Prayers for Those in the Healing Disciplines – Sunday, November 6th

On the first Sunday of November – the Feast of the Holy Unmercenary Healers – prayers are offered for those in the medical and healing ministries and related disciplines. These prayers will be made at the Divine Liturgy.

The Parish Website: www.ssppoc.org

Has posted under **schedule of services** the 2012 calendar for each month. Please consult it as you make your own 2012 calendar planning. Also on the parish website is **join our mailing list**. Simply provide your name and email and you will receive timely up-dates, changes in the schedule, and other needful information.

Memorial Service

For (+) Joan Filippini, Tuesday, Nov. 1st and 7:00p.m.

The Church Vestibule – Moving Along

The vestibule is the entrance area of the church where we “stop” – for candles, prosphora, religious items, etc. before we “enter” the church proper. During the services the vestibule should be empty – except for temporary usage for infants or those feeling ill.

All the faithful – adults and children – should be in the church proper, not the vestibule or coatroom.

Sympathy Is Expressed

Our prayers for the newly-departed (+ Oct. 9th), Noah Kanchaveli. Memory Eternal! Our sympathy to his daughter Nino Kanchaveli Finnegan and her family.

Change in the Calendar

Please note the change from the monthly calendar. On Tues., Oct. 25th 7:00p.m. Vespers for St. Demetrius will be held. On Thurs., Oct. 27th there is no service or adult study class.

An Important Study Paper: “The Parish Community: Our Life in Christ”

This study paper is being handed out today and extra copies will be placed in the vestibule. We ask you to read and study the paper. It defines our understanding of what exactly a parish church is and what a parishioners’ vocation is. This paper is also being sent out to a number of Orthodox Christians who we know are not members of any parish. Copies will also be sent out to Orthodox Christians wishing to return to the parish or to anyone – seeking an authentic life in Christ. Please let Father James or Reader Symeon Combs know of individuals that might profit from the Study Paper. You are welcome to take extra copies yourself and distribute them to family, friends and neighbors.

The Reading of Post-Communion Prayers After the Sunday Divine Liturgy

Anyone wishing to read a prayer or two is welcome. We especially desire to have older children and teens read, but anyone is welcome to participate. Simply see Diaconissa Patricia.

ASK FATHER: 1 QUESTION / 1 ANSWER

Question: Why did God give man free will, if He knew that man would choose evil?

Answer: We recall that God created the world good, and man very good. He also gave the commandment not to come to the knowledge of good and evil. In other words, man was commanded to know only goodness, and more than this, man was to grow in the participation of God – who alone is truly and infinitely Good. This was God's will – that man might share in everything that He Himself has as God – love, wisdom, life, light, etc.. And for this to happen, man needed to be like God, free. Man needed free will.

In His infinite foreknowledge, God knew that man would misuse this free will and choose evil. Yet, God permitted this because by so doing, man could come to understand the difference between good and evil, light and darkness, truth and falsehood, life and death. By personal experience, man was to grow in the realization that everything truly good can be found only in God, while everything truly evil can be found only in separation from and rejection of God. The Lord permitted man to misuse his free will so that he might educate himself by this experience and come to spiritual maturity.

Of course, we might say that the easier path would have been simply to trust God and to listen to His commandment not to know evil. However, since man has chosen evil, it has allowed God to show his compassion, forgiveness, mercy and love to measures beyond what man would have been able to recognize in the Garden of Eden. Man was now able to see the "love of God in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us." When Christ hung on the Cross – the Creator rejected and put to death by His creation – He revealed the Father in a way beyond imagination or comprehension. He revealed the un-

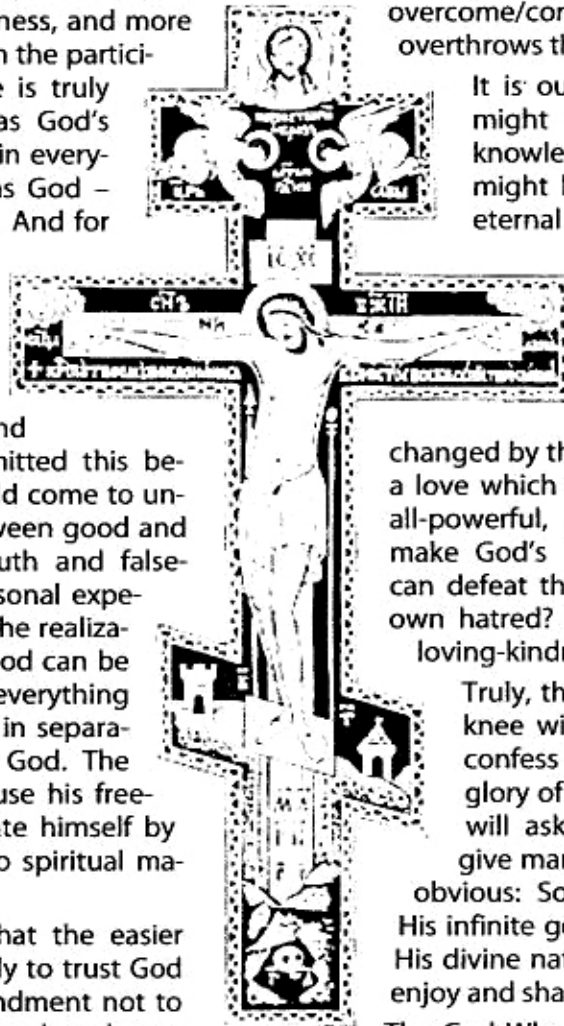
fathomable depth of God's loving-kindness. In so doing, by being lifted up on the Cross, He draws all men to Himself. Truly nothing is more beautiful or desirous than self-sacrificial, unconditional love, even for one's enemies. This is the love that conquers hatred, the light that the darkness could not overcome/comprehend, and the life that overthrows the power of death.

It is our hope as Christians, that all might be saved and come to the knowledge of the Truth – that all might have eternal life. "And this is eternal life, that they might know You, O heavenly Father, and Jesus Christ, Whom You have sent." It is our hope that even those who have sinned in the most horrid of fashions, might be

changed by this love of God in Christ Jesus – a love which is and remains unconditional, all-powerful, and eternal. What man can make God's love conditional? What man can defeat the power of God's love by his own hatred? What man can outlast God's loving-kindness and patience?

Truly, the time is coming when "every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father." Then no one will ask the question: Why did God give man free will? The answer will be obvious: So that God might better reveal His infinite goodness, and by the beauty of His divine nature might draw man to freely enjoy and share in His very being and life.

The God Who remained invisible in the Old Testament and said, "I AM Who I AM", has now show Himself visibly in the Son who redeems man from his fall through the Cross, the Holy Spirit who sanctifies man by His indwelling presence, and the Father who shares not only His kingdom with His created sons but also His very Self. This was, after all, the plan from the beginning: that man might share by grace in everything which God has by nature through the revelation of the Holy Trinity.



October 19, 2011

Prayers requested for Egypt's Coptic Christians

SYOSSET, NY [OCA]

Recent violence in Egypt resulting in the deaths of Coptic Christians has caused suffering and anxiety in the Coptic community in the United States.

On behalf of the Orthodox Church in America, Archpriest Leonid Kishkovsky, Director of External Affairs and Interchurch Relations, spoke with leaders of the Coptic Church in America, expressing the concern and solidarity of the Orthodox Church in America. He conveyed to the Coptic leaders a message of sympathy from His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah, and the Holy Synod of the OCA.

One of the Coptic leaders, His Grace, Bishop Serapion, was on the way to the airport to travel to Cairo when he spoke with Father Leonid. Bishop Serapion expressed his appreciation for the love and solidarity of the Orthodox Church in America, and promised to share his impressions of the situation upon his return from Egypt.

Dramatic events in Egypt during the year 2011 have seen the end of the rule of President Mubarak as a result of demonstrations and popular pressure. At the same time, there has been the danger of the emergence of extremist movements. In Egypt, 10% of the population is Coptic Christian, led by Pope Shenouda. In the majority Muslim population, the possible emergence of extremist political or religious groups would put the minority Christian population at risk. The largest community of Christians in the Middle East is the Coptic Church of Egypt. In Egypt, there are also small Catholic and Protestant communities, as well as the historic Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria.

Most recently, military and security forces dealt with demonstrators for democracy violently, resulting in the deaths of some twenty-five Coptic Christians. This violence has been deeply wounding to the Coptic community, and indeed to the whole of Egyptian society. Egyptians who are Muslim by faith have come forward with expressions of solidarity with the Coptic Church and the Christian minority.

It is the request of Metropolitan Jonah that the clergy and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America offer fervent prayers for the Coptic Church and for all Christian churches in Egypt and the Middle East.

