

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF JANUARY 8, 2012

SUNDAY/JANUARY 8

Sunday After Theophany

St. Isidore and Martyrs of Livonia

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

Coffee Hour; Church School

11:45a.m. Movie: "The Blind Side"

MONDAY/JANUARY 9

6:3p.m. 9th Day Memorial for Vera Wilhousky

7:00p.m. Compline and Akathist to

St. Theophan the Recluse (Jan. 10)

WEDNESDAY/JANUARY 11

7:00p.m. Compline and Akathist to

St. Sava of Serbia (Jan. 12)

SATURDAY/JANUARY 14

Leave-Taking of Theophany Feast

St. Nino, Equal-to-the-Apostles,

Enlightener of Georgia

9:30a.m. Akathist to St. Nino; Confessions

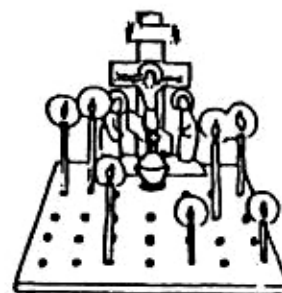
5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

SUNDAY/JANUARY 15

31st Sunday After Pentecost

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

Coffee Hour; Church School



GOLGOTHA, OR PLACE OF THE SKULL

Golgotha, means "place of the skull." It is the location at one time outside of Jerusalem where Christ was crucified. Today, this location is in the Church of the Resurrection, also called the Holy Sepulcher.

The Golgotha, has a secondary meaning and refers to the iconographic representation to be found in the church depicting Christ on the cross with the Theotokos and John the Apostle on either side. Beneath the cross is to be found a skull, said to be the skull of Adam, hence the name "place of the skull."

At the Golgotha in the church, people light candles for the departed and here, Memorial Services are held. Memorial Services are not the only services held at the Golgotha, nor do all candles offered there be only for the departed. In the Great Lent, Akathist Services to the Passion or the Lord or the Penitential Akathist based on the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete are held at this location.

Candles may be lighted at the Golgotha for

- The departed
- To honor the Passion of the Lord
- To honor the Cross of the Lord
- To honor the Theotokos and implore her intercession in time of suffering
- To thank the Lord for washing away our sins by His Blood shed on the Cross.

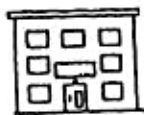
What Gets Blessed?



Cross



Icon



Business



Car



Produce



Food



House



Animals

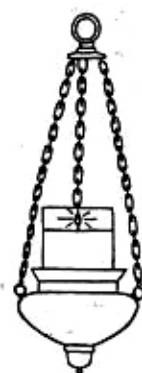
Offerings for the week of January 8

Olive Oil – in memory of Michael and Justina, in memory of Vaschen and Emilia; in memory of Joan and Sandy.

Wine – in memory of Giorgi.

Parish Synodicon

Jan. 08, 1963 Mathilda Blanchard
Jan. 08, 1967 Katherine Karpinski
Jan. 08, 1978 Eustafey Gumenuk
Jan. 09, 1995 Michael Hobora
Jan. 10, 1983 Helen Zvonchenko
Jan. 11, 1979 Vassily Koles
Jan. 12, 1965 Alex Emilianov
Jan. 12, 1976 Julia Dzyban
Jan. 12, 1982 Xenia Kalevich
Jan. 12, 2011 Margaret Lohsen
Jan. 13, 1953 Katherine Shwetz
Jan. 13, 1966 Peter Krenitsky



The Blessing of Homes – Jan. 7th -Feb. 17th

It is the custom with the Feast of the Holy Theophany, January 6th, to bring the newly-blessed waters into our homes and have our homes blessed by the priest. While the blessing of a home may take place anytime in the year, the usual and preferred time is the season of Theophany. If you wish to have your home blessed, please arrange a time with Father James.

Evenings not possible for blessings: Jan. 9,10,11,14,15,16,21,26,28,29, Feb. 1,2,4,11

Days not possible for blessings: Jan. 9,15,16,19, Feb. 2,12

Memory Eternal!

To the newly-departed Vera Wilhousky of Somerville, who reposed +January 2, 2012. In your charity, remember Vera in your prayers for this period of 40 days (Feb. 10th).

Winter Weather Alert

Due to severe winter weather it may be necessary to cancel scheduled services, meetings or events.

If this is necessary, those on the parish email will receive notification and the website will indicate these changes. All changes will be posted or emailed at least 30 minutes prior to event. Please be mindful that even if the schedule is not

changed, you must discern for yourself the traveling conditions and forecast.

Parish Council Meeting

Thursday, January 26th at 7:00p.m.

Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, February 12th at 11:45a.m. All Reports must be received no later than Wednesday, February 1st, 9:00p.m. so to be prepared for distribution on Sunday, February 5th.

Box for Icon Prints

On the vestibule stand is a box where you may deposit icon prints “that you have cut out” from your calendars and Christmas cards. This box only operates thru January 29th.

Orthodox Christians March For Life- Monday, January 23rd

This Annual March in Washington, DC is held each year as a protest against the Supreme Court decision on permitting abortion. Orthodox Christians lend their voice with many other Americans to address the “killing” of infants allowed by American Law, and the need to change the law and protect life. Bishop Michael will be participating. You are encouraged to go.

OCA & NY-NJ Diocesan Assessments

A reminder – while our parish still has an obligation in 2012 to collect and forward to the Diocese (\$40 per person) and for the OCA (\$105) per person (89 census) for a total of \$12,905 for the year; we have opted instead to forward 10% of income to the Diocese and OCA. These funds will be secured through the Sunday Envelope, there being no longer any Assessment Envelope. Your adoption of the tithe (10%) of percentage offering (any other %) will make it possible for us to be good stewards for the Church – which is not only our local parish, but the diocese and national church.

Blessed Waters

- Some pious people take a sip every day before eating or drinking anything else.
- May be best kept in a special bottle in the refrigerator.

EXPERT: TIM TEBOW OVERSHADOWING SEVERAL OF NFL'S OTHER RELIGIOUS PLAYERS

By Ben Maller from *thepostgame.com*

Tim Tebow has become the poster boy for religious devotion in the National Football League, but other stars have largely flown under the religion radar.

The managing editor at Patheos, a website devoted to religious issues, told USA Today that Tebow may not even be the most vocal Christian on the Broncos. "It is odd that there are more outspoken Christians on the Denver Broncos like Brian Dawkins. It is odd that Tebow has become this figure," Patton Dodd told the national newspaper.

Pittsburgh Steelers star Troy Polamalu is most often mentioned by fellow players for his spiritual devotion, according to Dodd, who authored

The Tebow Mystique. Polamalu, famous for his long hair and huge hits, actually prays during the action.

"I often think about Troy Polamalu, who you will hear Pittsburgh Steelers players say is the most religious athlete in football," Dodd told USA Today. "He crosses himself before every play and sometimes after. He prays during plays."

Polamalu, 30, one of the NFL's hardest hitters, has won two Super Bowls with the Steelers and has been to six Pro Bowls. Born Troy Benjamin Aumua, he legally changed his name to his mother's maiden name of Polamalu, which he had gone by for 15 years following his parents' divorce.

On a quest for religious guidance, Polamalu decided on becoming an Orthodox Christian after spending four days living with monks in a monastery on Mount Athos, a peninsula in Greece.

The Steelers star convinced his wife to convert to Orthodox Christianity in 2007, the same year he took a religious pilgrimage to Orthodox Christian locations in Greece and Turkey. Polamalu named both his children (Paisios, and Ephraim) after legendary Greek Orthodox Christian Saints.

"Football is part of my life but not life itself," Polamalu says. "Football doesn't define me. It's what I do [and] how I carry out my faith."

While Tebow, the son of missionaries, lives the evangelical Christian life, the Steelers star said in an interview that he's cautious not to push his religious beliefs onto strangers.

"It can lead to resentment, and that is not what you want," Polamalu said. "There is also a sense of arrogance sometimes when people are really hearty, evangelizers, and that is opposite of what faith is. Like, 'I know this better than you.' There are a lot of pitfalls to that."

Both Polamalu and Dawkins were named to the NFL's All-Decade Team for the 2000s.



THE FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD

The Baptism of our Lord in the Jordan River reveals wondrous salvific events:

- ❖ The Mystery of the Holy Trinity was revealed.
- ❖ Christ blessed the water, making it holy; water for our renewal and regeneration.
- ❖ A model of Baptism was established for the followers of Jesus Christ, so that they could have their sins washed away and be freed from the tyranny of demons.
- ❖ The Forerunner, St. John the Baptist was blessed by Christ.

The word **Theophany** (meaning manifestation of God) comes from the apostolic passage, "God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory" (1 Timothy 3:16).

Another name for the Feast is **Epiphany** (meaning manifestation from above), "the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men" (Titus 2:11). A third name is the "Feast of Lights", as Christ reveals Himself as the "Light of the World" (John 8:12).



The Holy Hieromartyr Isidore and the 72 Martyred with Him in Yuriev of Livonia

January 8

In the 15th century internal strife and discord reigned in the Russian land, hard hit was the region of Novgorod and Pskov. In the city of Yuriev, the inhabitants were Orthodox Christians and had a church dedicated to the Great-Martyr George. It came to pass that German Catholics began to settle in the area and with the Latin bishop of the locality and civil officials began to pressure the Orthodox Christians to convert. It was a difficult time for Orthodox believers.

On January 6, 1472, the Priest Isidore went to the River Omovzha and there performed the usual outdoor blessing of Water. Here, gathered with his flock, the Germans descended upon the pious Orthodox believers and arrested them. In jail, the Priest Isidore and his parishioners were subjected to both flattery and threats. The German bishop strongly urged them to enter into the Latin faith.

Father Isidore replied to the bishop: "Why do you seek to persuade us with false and lying words? You cannot dissuade us from the true Christian faith. Do with us as you wish, for behold we stand before you and repeat that which we have previous have said previously."

Then like serpents, consumed with rage against the Orthodox, the stern bishop and the other judges ordered all of them driven into the River Omovzha in whatever clothing they had on. Saint Isidore, still arrayed in his sacred priestly vestments, was cast into the very hole in the ice through which he had sanctified the water on Theophany. Thus did they deal with them as criminals, executing them in a cruel manner for the Orthodox faith in Christ. 73 suffered who considered Isidore their instructor. They surrendered their pious souls into the hands of the living God and were crowned with crowns that fade not away.

Months later, when the Spring came, the River Omovzha overflowed its banks and the bodies of all the confessors of Christ appeared almost 3 miles upstream from the city of Yuriev. The bodies washed up under a tree near a mountain. They were all incorrupt and lay facing the east, as though arranged by human hands. The Priest Isidore lay in their midst in all his resplendent priestly vestments. Thus did the Lord glorify His saints. Then the Orthodox merchants of the city of Yuriev took up the relics of the saints and buried them in the city, around the church of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, where they shall rest until the Second Coming of Christ.

The feast of St. Isidore and his companion martyrs was established by the decree of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church in 1897. Each year, this feast is celebrated on January 8th.

Tropar Tone 2

O blessed passion-bearers of the Lord, you preached the Orthodox Faith of Christ with boldness, and at the tribunal denounced the false doctrines of the enemy, wherefore, you were cast into the depths of the river, o holy ones, yet your souls have made their abode in the mansions of heaven, where, standing with the saints before the throne of God, the King of all, you pray to him for all Orthodox people who cherish yours struggles with honor.