

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF JANUARY 22, 2012

SUNDAY/JANUARY 22

32nd Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 7)

Sanctity of Life Sunday

Apostle Timothy of the Seventy

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

Coffee Hour with Question & Answer Period

THURSDAY/JANUARY 26

7:00p.m. Parish Council Meeting

SATURDAY/JANUARY 28

9:30a.m. Akathist; Confessions

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

SUNDAY/JANUARY 29 (Tone 8)

Zacchaeus Sunday

New-Martyrs of Russia

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

Coffee Hour



ON THE POWER OF THE BLESSED WATERS BY FR. COSMAS OF GRIGORIOU MONASTERY MISSIONARY TO ZAIRE, AFRICA (LETTER DATED FEB. 8, 1981)

...I have the following to write to you. I have provided a room in the belfry of our church to a demon-possessed woman to stay year-round. She eats, walks and is generally all right. Occasionally, she starts dancing and singing endlessly, but is otherwise fine. She is advanced in age, unbaptized, of course, and an idol-worshipper. She has nine grown children, but can't live with anyone. With us she calms down. When however, we have Baptisms or the blessing of waters, even though she is far away, the demons begin to drive her crazy. I have observed this on four different occasions. On two occasions she jumped into the baptismal font. When I asked her why she had done this, she replied that she wants to cast Satan out of her. As this happened right at the time of the sanctification of the waters, both the catechumens and the faithful observed it. So I preached to them a timely sermon on how the manifest reaction of Satan is proof that the water is made holy by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Thus, they are able to use the holy water with great assurance for the dispelling of the various kinds of witchcraft that are performed against them.



Offerings for the week of January 22

Olive Oil – in memory of Michael and Justina, in memory of Vaschen and Emilia; in memory of Howard Bozinta; for the health of Amanda (birthday).

Parish Synodicon

Feb. 10 40th Day Vera Wilhousky
Jan. 22, 1923 Tarasius Lasin
Jan. 23, 1936 Paul Dzioba
Jan. 24, 1960 John Lapa
Jan. 24, 1963 Fr. Stephen Podlusky
(rector 1917-1918)
Jan. 24, 1976 Jacob Mogilevsky
Jan. 24, 1985 Anna Putyrsk
Jan. 25, 1976 Simon Leich
Jan. 26, 1965 Fr. Constantine Suchostovsky
(1917)
Jan. 26, 1982 Joseph Wilhousky
Jan. 27, 1937 Helen Popko
Jan. 27, 1972 Mary Sandago
Jan. 27, 1987 Alexander Kulina
Jan. 28, 1995 Olga Small

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

It is the custom with the Feast of the Holy Theophany, January 6th, to bless homes. If you wish to have your home blessed, please arrange a time with Father James.

Open Days this week:

Jan. 22/Sun (2:30-5:00p.m.)
Jan. 23/Mon. (10:00a.m. – 7:00p.m.)
Jan. 25/Wed. (7:00-9:00p.m.)
Jan. 27/Fri. (3:00-9:00p.m.)
Jan. 29/Sun. (2:00-3:00p.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. **Next Sunday, Jan. 20th is the last day for this collection till next year.**

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.

Coffee Hour Hosting

Jan. 22 - Sarchisian, Dunaenko and Hando
Jan. 29 - Peterson, Bakaletz and Mattei
Feb. 05 - Kita, Nevitt, Keller

Namesday Greetings

St. Timothy/Jan. 22: Timothy Smith and Timothy Gorbaturk
St. Xenia/Jan. 24: Xenia Bodenchuk
St. Maria/Jan. 26: Maria Torissi
Many Blessed Years!

Feast of the Meeting of our Lord – Feb. 2nd

This festival, the 40th day after the Nativity of the Lord, complete the Nativity cycle that began with the Nativity Fast on November 15th. It is a custom in churches of the Slavic tradition, to bless candles to be brought home of usage. This is “one of the 12 Great Feasts” of the year. Vigil with blessing of candles on the eve (Feb. 1st) at 7:00p.m. with blessing of candles and the Divine Liturgy on the day (Feb. 2nd) with blessing of candles.

Fast-free Week

Wednesday (Feb. 8th) and Friday (Feb. 10th) are fast free days, we are permitted all foods.

Jacob's Well – Diocesan Publication

Copies of the latest issue may be picked-up at the vestibule stand. Every household is asked to secure a copy.

Reminders

Be on time for the Divine Liturgy.
Share in our fellowship, come to the Coffee Hour.
Secure Holy Water for frequent usage in your life.

Our Time, Talent, and Treasure

His Grace, Michael – Bishop of New York & the Diocese of New York and New Jersey

Over the past two years, my travels have taken me across the breadth and depth of our Diocese. Having visited our 57 communities, the focus of my concern for this new year is “building up the strength of our parish churches.” Decades ago many of your grandparents and parents founded our parishes; then they built our temples; and finally they adorned the interior beauty of those churches. Now, it falls to us, to carry on their legacy by strengthening our parishes so that they will remain beacons of Holy Orthodoxy in our communities, not only for our children and grandchildren but until Christ comes again.

Strengthening our parishes means that each one of us must use our time, our talents, and our treasure in thanksgiving to God for all the blessings He gives us each year, each week, each day ... for the building up of Christ’s Holy Church. It has been my goal as your diocesan bishop to do my share to build up the strength of our parishes. I have tried to visit each of our communities as often as I can ... not only for anniversaries, ordinations, and other special occasions ... but also for just normal weekend services. Our Diocese has provided conferences and gatherings for parish council members, choir directors and singers, altar servers, young people, and families.

Also on deck for this year are conferences for Church School curriculum and outreach efforts. We have NOT raised diocesan assessments; instead, we have tried to generate income in a new way: the Distinguished Diocesan Benefactor Program. The Diocese has urged an alternative way of funding the national Church as well. I have personally asked not to be given honoraria during my visits, and whatever gifts I have received I have returned or given to diocesan causes. All of this has been done “to strengthen our parish churches.”

But this is hardly enough; it falls upon all of us to do everything we can in gratitude to God for His countless blessings: to share our time and talent and treasure to make our parishes stronger. I urge each of you to examine your hearts and ask: Do I give worthily of the 168 hours of life God gives me each week back to Him through my time in personal prayer and my participation in Sunday Liturgies, Saturday Vespers, and weekday feasts?

Make every effort this year to come to Church more often; to bring with you elderly persons or those who cannot drive; to invite family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers who are not attending church services to participate in the beauty of worship in your parish. Make this your goal of 2012: *Each one, reach one; each one, touch one* – for Christ and our Church.

Whatever gifts God has given you – as a singer or a teacher, an accountant or a computer expert, a baker or a landscaper, an electrician or a carpenter, a lawyer or a doctor or a nurse – share your talents for the strengthening of your local church. Whatever services you can provide for the parish, do so for the glory of God and in the spirit of those founders, builders and benefactors who came before us.

Lastly, with rising costs of utilities and insurance, health care coverage and everyday expenses, it is essential that each one of us, out of love for our Savior, make sacrificial gifts to His Church that are of proportionate measure. Each of us needs to give to our parishes as much as we are able to ensure their continued, healthy operation.

What does a proportional gift of sacrificial love look like? Let’s not use the standards of the world, but the example of the Scripture. Let’s examine the very first gift of sacrificial love that God accepted in the Bible. In Genesis 4, we read that God received the offering of Adam’s younger son Abel – which was the first born of his flock of sheep. God rejected the offering of Cain – what was left over from the harvest of fruits from his farm.

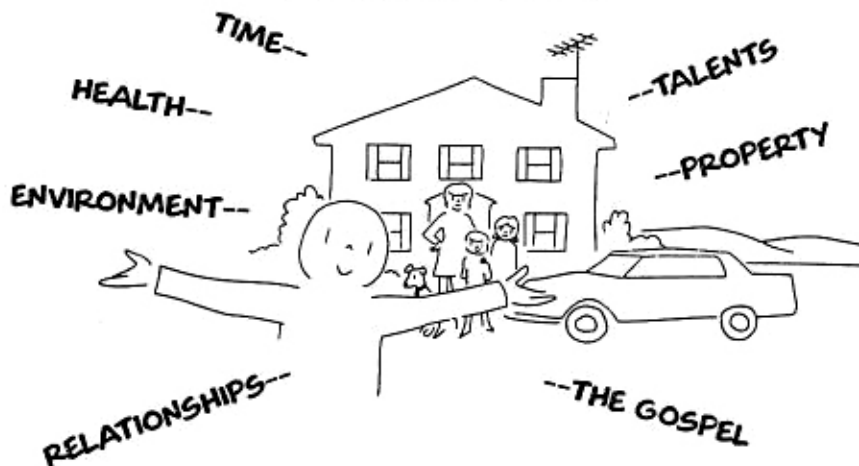
Like Abel and so many others in the Scripture after him, we too need to give our first and our best as our offering to the Lord. Let me suggest – that those of us who work, offer the first hour worth of wage each week (something known only between us and God) in thanksgiving to the Lord for all His blessings – cheerfully, lovingly, and regularly each week. The first of the harvest of our labors, every week – that is our pledge – whether we come to church that week or are on vacation – in gratitude to God Who blesses us every week, and for the benefit of His Church in our parish community. And if you are already doing this – then consider if you can do even more – if your blessing from Him has been greater.

Let us remember the words of God Himself through His prophet: “Put Me to the test, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not open for you the floodgates of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it is overflowing” (Malachi 3:10). All this I have presented might seem a great deal of giving of time and talent and treasure, but we must remember how much our God has already given to us. Besides our life, our talents, and our other blessings, “God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16) ... “Greater love than this has no one,” Jesus said, “than to lay down one’s life for his friends ... You are My friends if you do what I have commanded you” (John 15:13-14), and then He went to the Cross. We must never forget that God is the greatest Giver. No matter how much we give back to Him, we cannot out give what He gives to us.

And so, in this new year, my beloved in Christ, I urge you to open your hearts in gratitude to God for all His blessings and give ever more of your time in Church, your talents for the parish, your treasure in the name of the Lord – and in so doing strengthen your parish church. In imitation of the founders, builders, and benefactors before you ... and to the glory of the God who loves us more than we love ourselves – the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages! Amen.

EVERYTHING WE HAVE

is given to us by **GOD**:



A Christian steward serves
GOD out of love and gratitude
for these gifts knowing that it's NOT
how much we have but what
we DO with **WHAT WE HAVE**
that is important.

THE NORTH, SOUTH AND WEST WINDS

BY ST. NICHOLAS VELIMIROVICH (+1956)

WINDS THAT ARE EVIL HAVE ATTACKED YOU FROM EVERY SIDE. DO YOU FEEL THEM? DO YOU SEE THEM? DO YOU HEAR THEM? THESE WINDS WANT TO BLOW OUT THE VIGIL LIGHT OF GRACE INSIDE YOUR SOUL. THEY WANT TO SEPARATE YOU FROM THE FLOW OF HOLINESS AND STRENGTH THAT HAS BEEN DESCENDING FROM HEAVEN INTO YOUR SOUL AND HAS BEEN LIFTING YOU UP TOWARDS HEAVEN.

THESE EVIL WINDS WANT TO LEAVE YOU IN DEEPEST DARKNESS, WITHOUT THE VIGIL LIGHT AND THE DIVINE FLAME WHICH YOUR CREATOR GIVES TO YOU THROUGH THE CHURCH. THEY WANT TO ROB AND STRIP YOU, TO DEVASTATE YOUR SOUL AND RENDER IT A WASTELAND, TO MAKE YOU A HOLLOW AND EMPTY SHADOW WITHOUT EITHER OF YOUR GLORIES, WITHOUT THE EARTHLY GLORY OF YOUR FAITH YOU RECEIVED FROM YOUR FORFATHERS OR HEAVENLY GLORY.

FROM THREE SIDES THE EVIL WINDS ATTACK YOU: FROM THE NORTH, THE SOUTH AND THE WEST. THERE REMAINS FOR YOU ONLY THE EAST, WHENCE THERE IS PEACE FOR YOUR SOUL.

FROM THE EAST HAS PEACE COME TO YOUR SOUL. FROM THE EAST WAS CHRIST REVEALED TO YOU. YOUR FACE IS TURNED TOWARDS THE EAST; SO THAT WHENEVER YOU ARE IN TROUBLE, YOU MAY FALL DOWN BEFORE GOD YOUR SAVIOUR. TURN YOURSELF EVEN NOW TO THE EAST. NOW YOU ARE IN TROUBLE. THE EVIL WINDS ARE ATTACKING YOU, AND THERE IS TRIBULATION FOR YOUR SPIRIT.

THREE WINDS ARE THE WORST: ABSENCE OF FAITH, WRONGNESS OF FAITH AND LITTLENESS OF FAITH.

THE NORTH WIND - BLOWS NO FAITH. THOSE WITH NO FAITH WANT TO CHOP THE ROOT OF YOUR SOUL. CAN A TREE SURVIVE WHEN ITS ROOT IS CHOPPED? WHAT IS MORE SENSITIVE THAN THE ROOT OF A PLANT? YOU CAN SHAKE OFF ITS LEAVES; YOU CAN CUT OFF ITS BRANCHES; YOU CAN EVEN CUT RIGHT INTO ITS TRUNK - IT WILL REMAIN ALIVE. BUT IF YOU CHOP ITS ROOT, WILL IT HONESTLY REMAIN ALIVE? WILL ALL ITS JUICES NOT DRY UP, AND WILL IT EVER AGAIN BE ABLE TO PRODUCE GREENERY, BLOSSOMS OR FRUIT?

THE WEST WIND - BLOWS THE EVIL OF HERESY. THE HERETICS WANT TO FORCE ON YOU THEIR DISTORTED FAITH, WHICH HAS DISTORTED THEIR HEART AND SOUL AND CHARACTER. THEY WANT TO SEE YOU DISTORTED, JUST LIKE A FOX WITH A CUT-OFF TAIL WHO SUGGESTS TO ALL THE OTHER FOXES TO CUT OFF THEIR TAIL.

IN THE SAME WAY SOME HERETICS CUT OUT THE CELEBRATION OF SUNDAYS AND THEN TOOK ON THE JEWISH SABBATH; OTHERS CUT OUT THE FASTS; STILL OTHERS CUT OUT THE SAINTS, VIGIL LIGHTS, ICONS AND THE CROSS; OTHERS CUT OFF ALL TIES OF KINSHIP WITH OTHER PEOPLE WHEN THEY MARRY; OTHERS CUT OFF COMMUNION WITH THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, AND SO ON.



THE SOUTH WIND IS THAT OF FAINTHEARTED BELIEVERS. THEY WANT TO BE CALLED CHRISTIANS BUT DON'T WANT TO BE CHRISTIANS. THEY ARE AFRAID OF NO BELIEF AND AGAIN THEY FIND WRONG BELIEF REPULSIVE, BUT THEY DO NOT KEEP THEIR FAITH OTHER THAN ON THEIR LIPS. THEY ARE ALIVE WITH THEIR LIPS BUT DEAD IN THEIR HEART.

THEY STAND AMONG THE SONS OF ORTHODOXY, BUT DO NOT KEEP THE HOLY ORTHODOX FAITH. THEY ARE LIKE BARREN TREES IN THE MIDST OF FRUITFUL TREES OF THE SAME NAME AND IN THE SAME ORCHARD. THEY ARE LIKE A LAGGING AND EXHAUSTED DETACHMENT THAT LAZILY MEANDERS IN THE BACKGROUND BEHIND THE ZEALOUS AND RADIANT ARMY OF CHRIST.

THOSE WHO HAVE NO FAITH WANT TO SHATTER THE VIGIL LIGHT OF YOUR SOUL. THE HERETICS WANT TO FILL YOUR VIGIL LIGHT WITH WATER IN PLACE OF OIL. THE FAINTHEARTED BELIEVERS GRANT YOU THE FREEDOM TO MAINTAIN YOUR VIGIL LIGHT AS YOU WISH, BUT THEY DO NOT WISH TO SEE IT LIT.

THOSE ARE THE EVIL WINDS WHICH HAVE ATTACKED YOUR SOUL IN THESE TIMES. MAY THE ALMIGHTY BLESS YOU, THAT YOU MAY BE BLESSED AND STRONG. FOR ONLY THE BLESSED AND THE STRONG CAN BE SAVED FROM THESE THREE EVIL WINDS. BE BLESSED AND STRONG, ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN!

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**CONCERNING THE WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY FAST
REMARKS BY ST. NICHOLAS VELIMIROVICH (+1956)**

Never break the fast on Wednesdays and Fridays. This fast is ordained by the Church, and is well-attested. If, at any time in your life, you break this fast, pray for forgiveness and do not sin again. Devout people do not regard themselves as dispensed from this fast either when travelling or in sickness. St Pachomius once met some people who were carrying a corpse, and saw two angels in the funeral procession. He asked God to reveal to him the mystery of the presence of the two angels at the burial of this man. What especial good had he done that two angels should escort him to the grave? Then, by the providence of God, the two angels came across to Pachomius and explained to him: 'One of us is the angel of Wednesday, and the other the angel of Friday. As this man fasted every Wednesday and Friday right up to his death, we are giving his corpse a solemn escort. As he kept the fast up to his death, so we are here to glorify him.'