

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH
605 Washington Avenue, Manville, New Jersey 08835-1856
Voice: 908-685-1452 / fax: 908-685-1074 Email: frjames@ssppoc.org
Parish Website: www.ssppoc.org Diocese of NY-NJ: www.nynjoca.org

BULLETIN OF APRIL 14, 2013

4TH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT/APRIL 14

St. John of the Ladder

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour; Church School
4:00p.m. Deanery Vespers at Ss. Peter & Paul
Church here in Manville with Bishop Michael

MONDAY/APRIL 15

6:30p.m. Memorial service for (+) Helen Gregovitch
7:00p.m. Vespers

TUESDAY/APRIL 16

7:00p.m. Vespers; Confessions

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 17

9:30a.m. Akathist to the Passion; Confessions
7:00p.m. Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

THURSDAY/APRIL 18

6:30p.m. Presanctified Liturgy

FRIDAY/APRIL 19

7:00p.m. Matins and Akathist to Theotokos;
Confessions

SATURDAY/APRIL 20

Laudation of Theotokos

9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
3:00p.m. Confessions
5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

5TH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT/APRIL 21

St. Mary of Egypt

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour; Church School & Teen Class
4:00p.m. Deanery Vespers in Glen Gardner

HEAR
MY
PRAYER
O LORD.



First Quarter Parish Fiscal Summary

- Monthly Budget Sunday Envelope \$10,000
Jan. \$7,894/Feb. \$8,078/Mar. \$10,022
Difference -\$4,028
- Sunday Envelope Income Actual Jan.-Mar.
(2012) \$31,159 (2013) \$26,693 = - \$1,466
- Diocesan Tithe (10%) of 8 Category Income
Jan. \$897/Feb. \$912/Mar. \$1,176
- Total Income Jan.-Mar. \$38,393
Total Expenses Jan.-Mar. \$44,640
Difference -\$6,246

The Church Bell Towers, Crosses and Cupolas Are Being Attended To

This past week, work began on the repair to the cross (made by Superstorm Sandy). The towers were power-washed and the blue sections were repainted. Work should be completed this week.

The St. George Gazebo

With the warm weather, the furniture has been again placed in the gazebo. While all are encouraged to use the gazebo for conversations, resting or reading – it is not a place for children to climb about. Likewise the Coffee Hour foods should not be taken into the gazebo. Parents are asked to remind their children of this.

Great and Holy Week Task Sheet

On the vestibule stand you may find this sheet which lists a number of tasks needed to be done. Please examine it and help out in what you can.

A Special Word to Parents & College Students

Due to the late date of Pascha this year, some college students might not be able to arrive home until after Pascha. If this be the case, college students should make arrangements with Father James upon their return home as soon as possible for Holy Confession.

The Vigil Watch Sheet for Great & Holy Friday and Great & Holy Saturday

There are 14 time slots that are open for you to pray and keep vigil in church on these two Great Holy Days. It would be wonderful to have all the times filled. The night watches need at least two people.



ABOUT THE LADDER OF DIVINE ASCENT

In the sixth century, a monk of Mount Sinai named John wrote a book outlining the stages of the spiritual life. He based his entire work on the image of a ladder of thirty rungs, stretching from earth to heaven. Each rung described a step in the pursuit of virtue and the spiritual life. Since it was first written, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent* has been an essential part of the formation of Orthodox monastics, and a mainstay of Orthodox ascetic spirituality. However, *The Ladder* is not just for monks and nuns because all Christians are called to make an ascent to the heights of heaven. For this reason the Church places the commemoration of Saint John and his Ladder on the 4th Sunday of the Great Fast, as the faithful continue their ascent with the Lord to Golgotha and through Golgotha to His Heavenly Kingdom.

The 30 Steps of the Ladder of Divine Ascent

- ❖ Steps 1–4: renouncement of the world and obedience to a spiritual father
- ❖ Steps 5–7: penitence and affliction as paths to true joy
- ❖ Steps 8–17: the defeat of vices and acquisition of virtue
- ❖ Steps 18–26: avoidance of the traps of asceticism (laziness, pride, mental stagnation)
- ❖ Steps 27–29: acquisition of stillness or peace of the soul, of prayer, and of dispassion
- ❖ Step 30: the union of faith, hope, and love

Offerings Week of April 14

Olive Oil – in memory of Michael, Justina, and Rosalia; in memory of Vaschen and Emilia; for the health and safety of Mary; in memory of Loretta, Clara and Mary; in memory of Gabriela, Floarea, Gheorghe, Elena, Petre, Elena, Maria, Michael, Maria, Anicuta, Parasceva, Elena, Ilie, Anastasia and Aurelia.

Wine - for the health of Anastasia (birthday); for the health of Lucian (birthday); in memory of Joan and Sandy.

Flowers - for the health and salvation of Nicholas (birthday) and thanksgiving to God on wedding anniversary of Maria and Dan.

Parish Synodicon – Memory Eternal!

May 08 40th Day Olga Romanofsky
May 15 40th Day Mildred Mock
Apr. 14, 1921 Procopius Kostik
Apr. 14, 1941 Maria Huzinec
Apr. 14, 1955 Peter Leich
Apr. 14, 1965 Miron Urichuck
Apr. 14, 2008 William Davidovich
Apr. 15, 1961 Lazar Elik
Apr. 15, 2012 Helen Gregovitch
Apr. 16, 1991 Vassily Seminuk
Apr. 17, 1957 Peter Dutko
Apr. 18, 1936 Martha Dzioba
Apr. 18, 2001 Mary Spotts
Apr. 20, 1934 Metropolitan Platon
Apr. 20, 1947 Charles Lazaruk
Apr. 21, 1919 Eva Zydiak
Apr. 21, 1935 Peter Chromoho
Apr. 22, 1986 Julia Andrews
Apr. 22, 1997 Olga Verkon
Apr. 22, 1999 Anna tacak
Apr. 23, 1959 Vladimir Hnatuk
Apr. 23, 2003 Peter Hnatuk

Coffee Hour Hosting

No meats, dairy or fish in Great Lent

Apr. 14 Motoviloff, Torrisi, Kachek and Stone
Apr. 21 Combs, Mantzafos, Parsells and Sokol
Apr. 28 Sarchisian and Dunaenko

Appreciation Is Expressed

To those that hosted and provided foods for the NJ Deanery Clergy Meeting this past week.

When Purchasing Book or Icons at the Vestibule Stand

Please place \$ in an envelope and mark the amount on the envelope and mark it "religious resale. Thanks for your co-operation.

Ushers Schedule

Apr. 14 T. Gorbatuk and J. Stone
Apr. 21 D. Fedechko and C. Dunaenko
Apr. 28 E. Sarchisian, L. Khuzaurashvili & Narcis Popa

Holy Confession in Great Lent:

- All the faithful should receive this Mystery of the Church before Holy Week (April 28).
- There is no Confession during Holy Week except for College students returning home.
- Times for Confession are expanded or you can schedule a particular time with Father.
- A blessing should be secured from the parish priest if you wish to make your Confession to another priest other than the parish rector.

The Calendar

April 21/Sun. - NJ Deanery Vespers at 4:00p.m. in Glen Gardner.

April 25/Thurs. - Mystery of Holy Unction at 7:00p.m. (Confession & Communion must be received in this Great Lent before you receive this Mystery).

April 27/Sat. – Last Day for Confessions, during Great & Holy Week, Confessions will be available for College Students- call to make time arrangements.

May 3/Great & Holy Fri. - Vespers is at 3:00p.m. (not 2:00p.m.)

May 5/Sun. – Pascha – “The Feast of Feasts”

May 6/Bright Monday – on this the 2nd day of Pascha, it is a wonderful custom to take off from work and school and celebrate the Divine Liturgy (9:30a.m.) and Festal Meal with the Parish Family.

May 8/Bright Wednesday – NJ Deanery Vespers with Bishop Michael in Paramus 7:00p.m.

May 10/Bright Friday – Ladies Evening Festal gathering at Parish Center

May 13/Monday 6:30p.m. Paschal Memorial at Parish Cemetery

INSTRUCTIONS OF ST. THEOPHAN THE RECLUSE (+1894)
BISHOP OF TAMBOV, RUSSIA

3 RULES FOR KEEPING ON THE STRAIGHT PATH AFTER CONFESSION AND HOLY COMMUNION

Our inner spiritual lives never get into the proper order all of a sudden. What is always required and what lies ahead is intensified labor over oneself, by the assimilation of good intentions and by the enabling of grace through the Holy Mysteries of Confession and Communion. This work and effort is directed towards destroying the disorder that reigns inside; in its place it establishes order and harmony, after which follows inner peace and a continual joyful mood of the heart.

Do not think, however, that for this you must re-do everything, or bind yourself to a lot of rules. Absolutely not. Two or three little rules or precautions, is all you need.

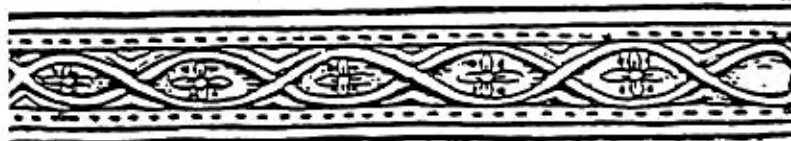
Rule One: It is necessary to get in the habit of unceasing remembrance of God, along with fear and reverence. Be with the Lord no matter what you do; and turn to Him with your whole mind, trying to conduct yourself as you would in front of a king. You will soon get into the habit, just don't give up or break off.

To make it easier to acquire the habit of remembrance of God, there is a special method for fervent Christians; that is, the unceasing repetition of a short prayer of two or three words. Most common is "Lord have mercy," or "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner." If you have never heard this, then listen, and if you have never done it, then begin doing it from this moment on. Whether you are walking, sitting, eating, going to bed, repeat over and over the prayer. From long practice of this, the words will fasten themselves to the tongue so that they will repeat themselves. Do not forget to combine this prayer with reverence.

Rule Two: Do not do anything that your conscience prohibits, and do not omit anything that it says to do, whether great or small. Follow your conscience undeviatingly, and with such perseverance that you would not allow yourself to do anything against it even if you were to die. The more decisively you act, then, the more powerful your conscience will become. The more powerful your conscience becomes, the more completely and forcefully it will inspire you with what is necessary and steer you away from what is unnecessary in words, deeds and thoughts, and the more quickly your inner being will be put in order.

Rule Three: Supplement the first two rules with this third one - be patient. You must spiritually work and not give in to pleasing yourself or the world. There will be constant opposition to any good spiritual work you have begun. You must overcome this; therefore, you must exert more force and, consequently, be patient. Clothe yourself in this all-powerful armor and never allow your spirits to fall when you encounter misfortune. Everything will come with time. Be encouraged in your patience through this hope. This this is what happens is borne out by the experiences of all people who have sought and accomplished salvation.

Three simple rules: remembrance of God with reverence; obey your conscience strictly and arm yourself with hope through patience. May the Lord bless you to be so inclined and to be in this frame of mind.



Homily on "Great Lent" -- Seven Questions, Seven Answers

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

According to the teaching of our Holy Orthodox Church, the goal of the spiritual life of each and every Christian, without exception, is "*theosis*" or deification -- becoming like God -- and union with Him in the heavenly kingdom for all eternity. The Fathers of our Church over the centuries -- great Saints such as Irenaeus of Lyons, Athanasius of Alexandria, Gregory the Theologian, Basil the Great and Gregory of Nyssa -- have summarized the meaning of God's Incarnation in this formula: "*God became man that man might become like God.*" Certainly we shall only be fully deified on the Last Day, but for each of us the process of theosis must begin here and now in the present life. While it is true that in this present life very few indeed attain full mystical union with God -- we call them saints -- every true Christian must try to love the Lord our God as the Scripture says, "with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength" (Mark 12:30), expressing that love by imitating our Savior Jesus Christ in tangible ways.

There is nothing extraordinary about the methods which we must follow in order to be deified. If someone were to ask, "How can I become like God?" the answer "is very simple." In the words of Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), "... go to Church, receive the Sacraments regularly, pray to God 'in spirit and in truth,' read the Gospels, follow the commandments. The last of these items -- 'follow the commandments' -- must never be forgotten." Furthermore, in almost simplistic terms, St. John Chrysostom instructs us that every choice that we make, everything that we do, either brings us closer to Christ or further from Him -- it makes us either more like Our Lord or less like Him.

Lent is the proper time for us to evaluate how we are doing in achieving the goal of our spiritual life -- how we are progressing in becoming more and more like our Savior. Hopefully today's video, "Seven Questions, Seven Answers on Our Spiritual Life," will help each of us to clarify this.

Question #1: Since my last confession, have I been praying more regularly, more attentively, more sincerely? Our Lord gives us the example: In the Gospel of Luke, we see Him in prayer before every event in His life.

Question #2: Over the past year, have I been reading the Scripture more frequently and more devoutly, trying to learn its meaning and live its commandments? The Bible is a "love letter to us" from the King of Heaven.

Question #3: Since my last confession, have I been attending divine services more faithfully? In the Gospels, we find Christ praying publicly, in the synagogue on every Sabbath, and in the temple on every feast day.

Question #4: Over the past year, have I received the Holy Mysteries on a regular basis? Our Lord gave His life on the Cross for the remission of our sins; we receive that forgiveness through Confession and Communion.

Question #5: This Lent and the other fasting seasons, have I abstained from meat and dairy, excess drinking and forms of entertainment as prescribed by the Church? Our Savior ate and drank nothing for 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness.

Question #6: Have I been sharing more of my time, talents and financial resources for Christ and the extension of His kingdom here on earth, through the work of the Church? He said, "to whom much has been given, much is expected."

Question #7: Since my last confession, have I been more loving, more kind, more forgiving to my family, co-workers, fellow parishioners, the least of His brethren? Have I treated others as the "image of God?"

You will notice that I have only asked 7 questions. Each of us has to answer those questions for ourselves. Only I can truly say if I have come closer to Christ by the things I have done, by the things I am doing. Hopefully all our answers are "yes."

But if they are not, there is good news. We can begin anew this very Lenten season to improve our prayer life, our reading of Scripture, our participation in divine services, our reception of Confession and Communion, our fasting discipline, our sharing of time, talents and treasure in thanksgiving to God, and our showing our love for our neighbor in tangible ways.

By doing these things, we will in fact be imitating our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, and in doing so become more and more like Him ... Who loves us more than we love ourselves. To Him be all glory, honor and worship with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Scholar says European fight against porn shows depth of problem :: Catholic News Agency (CNA)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/scholar-says-european-fight-against-porn-shows-depth-of-problem/>

April 11, 2013

Denver, Colo., Apr 11, 2013 / 04:08 am (CNA/EWTN News).— Recent public efforts to oppose pornography in two European countries reveal that porn is problem not only for religious reasons but universal human reasons, according to a professor.

"The hyper-sexualization of children, the constant exposure of children to these very sexual images...is very damaging to their image of themselves and of what their potential future relationships are supposed to be like," Dr. Susan Selner-Wright, a philosophy professor at St. John Vianney Theological Seminary in Denver, Colo., told CNA.

Her remarks come as Iceland's legislative and executive branches are considering bans on internet pornography in the country out of concerns about the effects on children of having been exposed to violent pornography.

In the U.K., the teachers' union Association of Teachers and Lecturers recently advised that students be warned of pornography's risks and its abnormal depictions of sexuality – a move Selner-Wright called "spot on."

At its annual conference in March, the union said educators need more guidance about how to deal with today's sexualized youth culture.

"We are noticing a much more explicit vocabulary emerging and types of games amongst the very young that are quite sexually explicit," Alison Sherratt told her fellow teachers at the conference, according to the BBC.

Speaker Helen Porter added that "it is crucial that youngsters develop an understanding of sex in the media and pornography, so that they can recognize the abnormal nature of these sexual expectations and appreciate the dangers of accepting the values portrayed by the sexualized media."

Iceland has banned strip clubs and forbids the printing and distribution of pornography in the nation, but it has not yet dealt with pornography on the internet.

Efforts to ban access to it stem from concerns for the civil rights of women and children, particularly focusing on children's exposure to violence in pornography.

Selner-Wright explained to CNA that while humans "have a natural tendency toward relationship with each other," a problem now is that "people have become so reductive, that they see all relationships in terms of sexual relationships."

In the media, intense relationships are presented as sexual, and intimacy has been replaced by sexuality, the professor observed.

"In film and TV, we've really lost the category of a non-sexual but really important human relationship," she reflected. But "the fact is, that most of our relationships are not meant to be sexual. It's really is a huge force for loneliness."

"If you think the only category for me to have an intense relationship is a sexual one, then that means that almost all the relationships I could have, now have to be superficial."

Selner-Wright agrees with the Association of Teachers and Lecturers that access to pornography is damaging youths' capacity for healthful relationship.

"If we buy into this idea that all intense relationships are sexual, then we'll start having sex early, often, and with a bunch of different people, and we'll ultimately lose our capacity to have a really meaningful and peculiarly sexual relationship."

Icelandic officials are acknowledging that the protection of children from easily accessible internet pornography is not a task for parents alone. An adviser to the interior minister has said it is "a task for the whole society," the Daily Mail reported.

Pornography, Selner-Wright said, "really is the objectification of whoever the images are of...it's the reduction of those women to their sexuality, it's one-dimensional: the only important thing about the woman in the image is in what way is she sexually arousing."

Speakers at the U.K.'s Association of Teachers and Lecturers conference agreed that children are being de-sensitized to the objectification of women and of themselves. "They are routinely taking sexual photographs of themselves and sending them to others," said teacher James Schlackman.

"It's radically disrespectful of the wholeness of whoever's image it is," Selner-Wright added, "and even if the person whose image it is agrees to have themselves displayed this way...they are objectifying themselves, they're disrespecting themselves."

Addressing pornography in terms of human rights, she said that human persons "have a right not to be reduced to their sexuality, and that's a right you hold even in relation to yourself. It's an inalienable right."

Iceland is concerned about pornography and strip clubs out of a concern for the rights of women and children, and is unique among European countries in pursuing a ban of pornography. Selner-Wright expressed hope that Icelandic legislators don't "lose their nerve" in their fight.

"There's a lot more to any human being than their sexual arousing-ness, and when they are reduced to that, that's a fundamental violation of their nature, which then is inevitably going to have a lot of repercussions."

"We're reaping them: in broken relationships, in the explosion of single parent households, in this real disconnect between marriage and children. All of that is fruit of that misunderstanding of (human) nature," she explained.