

**SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
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**BULLETIN OF JUNE 23, 2013**



**PENTECOST SUNDAY/JUNE 23**

**Descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles  
(One of "the 12 Great Feasts" of the Year)**

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy with Vespers and  
The Prayers for Kneeling; Coffee Hour

4:00p.m. General Memorial Service and Parish Cemetery with  
Dedication of Tree Planting in Memory of Jerry Yadlowsky

**MONDAY/JUNE 24**

**Day of the Holy Spirit and Nativity of St. John the Baptist**

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

7:00p.m. Compline and Akathist to the Holy Spirit

**WEDNESDAY/JUNE 26 (Fast-Free Day)**

**Tikhvin Icon of the Theotokos**

9:30a.m. Akathist to the Tikhvin Icon

10:00a.m. 9<sup>th</sup> Day Memorial for (+) Frank Gregovitch

7-8:00p.m. Lemonade & Informal Conversations at Rectory

**FRIDAY/JUNE 28 (Fast-free Day)**

7:00p.m. Vigil; Confessions

**SATURDAY/JUNE 29**

**Feast of Ss. Peter & Paul (Patronal Feast Day)**

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy and Procession; Luncheon

5:30p.m. Vespers and Compline; Confessions

**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY/JUNE 30**

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

Coffee Hour & Question/Answer Period

### **Offerings Week of June 23**

**Olive Oil** – in memory of Michael, Justina, and Rosalie; in memory of Vaschen and Emilia; for the health of Peter (namesday); in memory of Joan and Sandy.

**Wine** – in thanksgiving to God and for salvation on birthday of Marianna.

**Flowers** – in memory of Katusha, Bukhuti and Vasil.

**Litya Breads** – health of Ekaterina.

### **Memory Eternal!**

June 26, 2013 9<sup>th</sup> Day Frank Gregovitch  
July 27, 2013 40<sup>th</sup> Day Frank Gregovitch  
June 25, 1975 John Felice  
June 26, 1966 Mary Max  
June 26, 1984 Jacob Grenther  
June 26, 1997 Pauline Zorella  
June 26, 1999 Alex Putyrsk  
June 27, 1950 Metropolitan Theophilus  
June 28, 1935 Joachim Seminuk  
June 28, 1953 Trophim Lachtuk  
June 28, 1968 Alex Lasik  
June 28, 1973 Nicholas Dzurich  
June 28, 2003 Peter Zeban

### **Coffee Hour Hosting**

June 23 J. Peterson, P. Bakaletz & L. Mattei  
June 30 S. Kita, T. Nevitt & L. Keller  
July 07 Inga, Eka, Mariana & Nona

### **Ushers Schedule**

June 23 E. Sarchisian, Luka K. & Narcis P.  
June 30 P. Parsells, J. Stone & N. Oliver  
July 07 T. Smith, P. Bakaletz & A. Moldoveanu

### **Orthodox Summer Camps Information**

May be found on the news page of the website of the OCA: [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org) "OCA Camps Gear Up For An Exciting Season." Be mindful of our own Diocesan Camp of St. Andrew in Jewell, New York.

### **Summer Series of Lemonade & Conversations Is Underway**

In the months of June, July and August on select evenings, an opportunity is offered for parishioners and friends of the parish to gather for one hour (7-8p.m.) for informal conversations about "anything under the sun," and a cold drink.

We meet either in the St. George Gazebo or in the rectory. Check the bulletins for dates. Join us!

### **Ss. Peter & Paul Day Appeal**

Please be mindful of this very important appeal. A letter and envelope has been mailed out to you with an explanation of where the funds will be directed. The Lord bless your offering!

### **College Student Retreat – July 12-14 in Garrison, New York: "Love 2 Serve"**

This is a NY-NJ Diocesan Retreat, Bishop Michael will be present. For detailed information and on-line registration go to the diocesan website: [www.nynjoca.org](http://www.nynjoca.org)

### **Photos on the Visit of Bishop Michael to our parish June 15/16**

These photos may be viewed on our parish website: [www.ssppoc.org](http://www.ssppoc.org)

### **Namesday Greetings! Blessed Years!**

June 24/St. John the Baptist: John Zahodnick and Adrian-Ioan Chirnoaga  
June 29/St. Peter: Proto-Deacon Paul Sokol; Peter Gorbatuk, Robert Peter Keller; Peter Bakaletz  
June 29/St. Paul: Paul Kulina

### **Newly-Departed – Memory Eternal!**

Frank Gregovitch of Manville, who reposed on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Our sympathy is expressed to his family.

### **Sub-deacon Jacob Hando**

Wishes to express his thanks to everyone for their prayers on his recent medical procedure. Everything went very well.

### **Part-Time Worker Available**

Painting, yard work, pavers, power washing, gardening – Javier, does some work for us at the cemetery. He can do odd jobs for you. Speak with Father James.

### **Our FaceBook Page**

"Friends of Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church"  
Join us! Lots of things going on and we want you to be part of things!

RELEASE NUMBER 2013.15.1

ARCHPASTORAL LETTER FOR  
**The Feast of Holy Pentecost**  
Sunday, June 23, 2013

Dearly Beloved in the Lord:

*Christ is in our midst!*

As we celebrate once again the Great Feast of Pentecost, we commemorate the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and the Birth of our Holy Church. And, in celebrating this milestone event in salvation history, we do well to recall from the pages of the Scripture *what the Church is and what it means for us* to be a member of the Church.

In Saint Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians, the Apostle teaches us clearly the meaning of "the Church" and the meaning of membership in it. And, the Holy Fathers ~ Saint John Chrysostom and Saint Gregory of Nyssa ~ in their commentaries on this famous letter of Paul, explain clearly for us the patristic understanding.

First, Paul tells us that the Church established by Christ and to which the Spirit gave birth is one Church:

***"...There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism: one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."*** (Ephesians 4: 4-6)

In his commentary on this passage, Chrysostom tells us that, *"for this reason is the Spirit given, that He might unite those who are separated by race and different manners; for old and young, poor and wealthy, child and adolescent, woman and man, and every soul become in a manner one, and more entirely so than if there were one body. Now what is that one body? The faithful throughout the inhabited world, both which are, and which have been, and which shall also be."*

Saint Paul goes on to tell us that the reality of the Church is people, men and women who are energized by the Holy Spirit: *"To each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift."* (Ephesians 4:7)

What this means is that we are not all given the same gifts, but together as the Church we are equipped to do God's will. Saint John explains that *"gifts are bestowed not for the honor of one above the other, but for the work of the Church ... for the building up of the Body of Christ."*

The Apostle goes on to say that the head of the Church is none other than Christ Himself: *"...speaking the truth in love, we may grow up in all things into Him Who is the head – Christ – from whom the*





# THE HOLY SPIRIT

- is God, the third person of the Holy Trinity;
- proceeds from the Father;
- is sent into the world by Jesus Christ;
- inspires God's People to speak God's Truth and to do His will; and
- is the giver of life who upholds and sustains creation in its existence, life and growth.

Fifty days after His resurrection, Jesus Christ sent the Holy Spirit upon His disciples.



## THE DAY OF PENTECOST

*When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from the heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...*

—Acts 2:1-4

## WHAT DOES JESUS SAY ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT?

*And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Counselor, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees Him or knows Him; you know Him, for He dwells with you, and will be in you.*

—John 14:16-17

*But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*

—John 14:26

*When the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into all the Truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for He will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that He will take what is mine and declare it to you.*

—John 16:13-15

## THE HOLY SPIRIT

There is one Holy Spirit who is God and who is revealed to men through the Son. He is the Image of the Son—the Perfect of the Perfect; Life—the Cause of the Living, the Holy Fountain; Sanctity—the Dispenser of Sanctification; in whom is revealed God the Father who is above all and in all, and God the Son who is through all.

—Saint Gregory Thaumaturge

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# LIVING AS A CHRISTIAN

As Christians we are called to live in the light of the great gifts we have received. We enjoy the gift of life from the hand of God our Creator and the gift of eternal life in Christ:

***“Out of nothing You brought us into being, and when we had fallen, You raised us up again. You have not ceased doing everything until You graciously gave us Your future Kingdom”***  
(Liturgy of St John Chrysostom).

**Three elements interact** at the heart of our Christian life: grace, faith, and works.

- **Grace:** The source and basis of our life in Christ is God’s gracious concern for us, the sheer gift of His love for mankind, which He gives to us unearned.
- **Faith** is our saying “yes,” our enabling God to grace us, our accepting of God’s gift, allowing Him to be generous to us.
- Our **good works** do not merit God’s love for us, or even earn more of it. They are our response in gratitude for what He does for us. Having been adopted into God’s family, we are responsible for managing what we have been given.

**Synergy is the interplay of these three elements:** God’s initiative for loving us, our acceptance in faith, and our responsible management through works. God does not force His love on us: He offers it. We must accept His love openly to receive it, and then care for it responsibly to keep it. No one of these elements without the other defines the Christian life. All three together produce the fullness of God’s life in us.

**God’s Free Gift:** God gifts us with His life despite our weaknesses and failings. Though spiritually dead, we have been raised in Christ and exalted in glory with Him:



***“God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved – and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”***

(Ephesians 2:4-7)

## **Our Active Response:**

- We **believe** that God is calling us to be *divinized* in Christ, by being united with Him through the Holy Mysteries.
- We **respond** in a “*public life*” of worship, fellowship and service in the Church and in a “*secret life*” of prayer, fasting and sharing in the depths of our hearts.
- All the while engaging in a “*spiritual warfare*”: the life of **repentance**.

***“For we are what He has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.”*** (Ephesians 2:10)

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