

## **SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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Parish Website: [www.ssppoc.org](http://www.ssppoc.org) Diocese of NY-NJ: [www.nynjoca.org](http://www.nynjoca.org)

### **BULLETIN OF JULY 14, 2013**

#### **SUNDAY/JULY 14**

**3rd Sunday after Pentecost:  
Commemoration of Martyrs of  
The Turkish Yoke**

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

12:00-2:00p.m. Open Doors Ministry

#### **TUESDAY/JULY 16**

7:00p.m. Movie: "Akeelah and the Bee"

#### **THURSDAY/JULY 18**

6:00p.m. Compline and Akathist to  
**St. Seraphim of Sarov (July 19)**

7:00p.m. Parish Council Meeting

#### **FRIDAY/JULY 19**

6:30p.m. Memorial for Sokol Family

7:00p.m. Vespers; Confessions

#### **SATURDAY/JULY 20**

**Prophet Elias the Tishbite**

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

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

#### **SUNDAY/JULY 21**

**4th Sunday After Pentecost**

**Prophet Ezekiel**

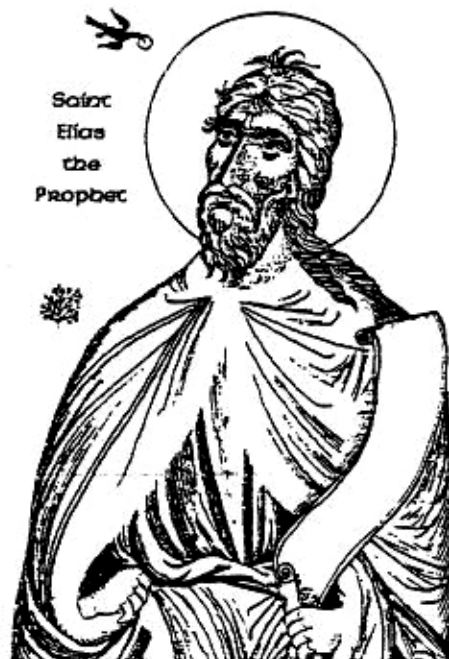
9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

Blessing "of things mobile" in parking lot

Coffee Hour



**SAINT  
SERAPHIM**  
WONDERWORKER  
OF SAROV



Saint  
Elias  
the  
Prophet

### **Offerings Week of July 14**

**Olive Oil** – in memory of Michael, Justina, and Rosalie; in memory of Vaschen and Emilia; in memory of Joan and Sandy; for the health of Ann Kristabella; in memory of Alex.

**Wine** – for the health of Lillian (birthday); for the health of Zachary (travel).

### **Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!**

July 27, 40<sup>th</sup> Day Frank Gregovitch  
July 15, 1951 Wojciech Bogusiewsky  
July 16, 1968 Pelagia Holovach  
July 16, 1982 Stephen Kulina  
July 17, 1928 Elias Kozich  
July 17, 1958 Elias Bartushak  
July 17, 2005 Barbara Tutolo  
July 18, 1960 Vladimir Fedarka  
July 19, 1989 Louise Chabra  
July 19, 2004 Ann Lebedz  
July 20, 1925 Maria Simonovich  
July 20, 2007 Ronald Kachok

### **Coffee Hour Hosting**

July 14 K. Motoviloff, M. Torrisi, A. Kachek & P. Stone  
July 21 Combs, Mantafos, Parsells & Sokol  
July 28 E. Sarchisian & C. Dunaenko

### **Ushers Schedule**

July 14 T. Gorbatuk and J. Stone  
July 21 D. Fedechko and C. Dunaenko  
July 28 E. Sarchisian, Luka K. & N. Popa

### **Lemonade & Conversations**

In 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 in the rectory on these Tuesdays: July 23/30. Join us!

### **Our FaceBook Page – Is Now in Sync with our Parish Website For Announcements!**

“Friends of Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church”  
Lots of things going on! Post and Share! We are 28 strong but certainly want you! as number 29!

### **Sync Your Smartphone**

From [ssppoc.org](http://ssppoc.org), you can now sync the parish liturgical calendar to your smart-phone, Google calendar, Outlook, iCalendar, etc. Check it out!

### **Blessing of Things Mobile**

On Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, after the Divine Liturgy, the Blessing of Things Mobile will take place in the church parking lot. Autos, bikes, skate-boards, hot-air balloons, skis, etc. Things that are mobile provide us with transportation as well as recreation. In both cases, we pray for safety.

### **About Vacationing This Summer**

- A Prayer for Travelers may be obtained after the Sunday Divine Liturgy. Just ask Father James when you come to venerate the Holy Cross.
- Be mindful of being a good steward and make your regular offerings to cover the time you will be away.
- On Sundays – even while on vacation we should be at the Sunday Divine Liturgy. Check this site for a local Orthodox Church: [www.orthodoxinamerica.org](http://www.orthodoxinamerica.org).
- The Dormition Lent is held between August 1<sup>st</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.
- If you wish to receive Holy Communion in another church, it is your responsibility to speak with the priest of that church prior to the divine service. Call, write or e-mail him.
- Daily prayers, spiritual reading and the keeping of the Wednesday and Friday fast remains in effect.

### **Namesday Greetings: Many Blessed Years**

St. Julia/July 16: Julia Cresina & Julia Galida  
St. Marina/July 17: Margaret Ploof, Marianna Vajda, Crenguta Chirnoaga  
St. Maria/July 20: Heather Parsells

### **Eagle Scout Court of Honor – July 28<sup>th</sup>**

At 1:00p.m. Zachary Sokol will be awarded the rank of Eagle Scout at our St. George Gazebo. The Sokol family invite all our parishioners to attend and share in the festivity.

## ON CONTROLLING OUR THOUGHTS

By Father Thaddeus of Vitovnica

Our life depends on the kind of thoughts we nurture. If our thoughts are peaceful, calm, meek, and kind, then that is what our life is like. If our attention is turned to the circumstances in which we live, we are drawn into a whirlpool of thoughts and can have neither peace nor tranquility.

As soon as a desire or a worldly thought enters our mind, God immediately sends a warning. Instead of coming to our senses and blocking such thoughts and desires, we nurture them and long for them, and afterwards we wonder why bad things happen to us. These signs of warning come in the form of temptations.

In our minds we conceive everything we do, say, and plan. Without this we cannot do or say anything. Everything first receives its shape and form in the mind; all of our energy is first made manifest in our thoughts. Thoughts are the power that conceives everything in the center of our being (the heart) and when we are united with the Source of life (God), everything is revealed to us and we are open to all kinds of knowledge.

This is how we must live – controlling our thoughts. It is not good to dwell on every thought that comes to us; otherwise we lose our peace. If we learn to refuse such proposals, we are quiet. We do not fantasize or create images in our mind.

thoughts  
BECOME  
words  
WHICH  
BECOME YOUR  
actions WHICH BECOME YOUR  
habits  
WHICH BECOME YOUR  
character  
WHICH BECOMES YOUR  
destiny



### ABOUT ELDER THADDEUS

Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica was one of the most renowned spiritual guides of Serbia in the twentieth century. As a novice he lived in obedience to Elder Ambrose of Miljkovo Monastery, a disciple of the Optina Elders. From him Fr. Thaddeus learned the Prayer of the Heart and the selfless love that came to characterize his whole ministry to the suffering Serbian people.

Born in 1914, Elder Thaddeus lived through all the suffering endured by Serbia in the twentieth century. Over the course of two World Wars, during the Communist takeover, and through the NATO bombings of 1999, he co-suffered with his people. He taught, counseled, and prayed for all who came to him in pain and sorrow. His words of love and hope provided spiritual balm for people from all classes of society. In 2002 Elder Thaddeus reposed, leaving behind a large collection of his teachings, preserved by his faithful spiritual children. His life, teachings, and spiritual conversations are here presented for the first time in English.

### QUOTES FROM ELDER THADDEUS

- "Until you have suffered much in your heart, you cannot learn humility."
- "One must love God first, and only then can one love one's closest of kin and neighbors. We must not be idols to one another, for such is not the will of God."
- "Our starting point is always wrong. Instead of beginning with ourselves, we always want to change others first and ourselves last. If everyone would begin first with themselves, then there would be peace all around!"



This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America. This and many other Christian Education resources are available at <http://dce.oca.org>.



On July 20 the Church honors a man who was a poet, journalist, philosopher, lawyer and Georgian nationalist.

He is Ilya Chavchavadze, or Saint Ilya the Righteous. Born in 1837, he has been called a founding father of the modern nation of Georgia, and also its uncrowned king. That is because he worked for much of his adult life, until his death in 1907, to create a stable society in his homeland. He wanted more than anything to revive the Georgian people's appreciation of their own history and ideals, which were being pushed aside by the dominant Russian Empire. As he expressed it, the Georgians had inherited three divine gifts: their motherland, their language, and their faith. It was their sacred duty to protect and live by those gifts.

Ilya's faith and patriotism were developed in childhood. His family taught him the literature and history of Georgia, and inspired him with stories of national heroes. His mother, in his very early years, prayed with him and taught him about Christ and the worship of the Georgian Church. At the age of eight he was sent to study with a devout archdeacon, whose example influenced him for the rest of his life.

Ilya's mother died when he was ten, and his father when he was fourteen. In his adult years, he wrote about his desolation at losing them, and later his brother, in a poem called "Sorrow of a Poor Man." He continued to write poetry and novels, gaining considerable popularity and renown as the years went on. Several of his writings were translated into French, English, German, Russian and other languages. He used his growing fame to lend support to such groups as the "Society for the Spreading of Literacy among Georgians" and established centers to house historical documents and records.

The early years of the twentieth century were, of course, a time of huge upheaval in Russia and all the parts of its empire. The social forces that led to the Bolshevik Revolution were increasing in strength. To the Bolsheviks and those who sided with them, Ilya Chavchavadze was a dangerously nationalistic reactionary. Their plans to overthrow the established social order certainly didn't include a Georgian state of the kind he envisioned.

On September 12, 1907, Ilya Chavchavadze was ambushed and killed by a militant gang while traveling with his wife Olga. In spite of the horror she had encountered, Olga requested the court not to impose the sentence of hanging, insisting that her husband would have done the same.

Neither she nor Ilya, who would be declared a saint by the Georgian Orthodox Church in 1987, felt any need for revenge. In the light of the Resurrection, they could forgive and accept everyone. We might say that they had absorbed a teaching in one of the Epistle verses read on this day, Romans 6: 13: "...present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness."

## **FOR CONSIDERATION: HOW MUCH CAN A SOUL BEAR?**

*St. Nikolai Velimirovich*

If the whole of your life has passed smoothly and without cares, weep for yourself. For both the Gospel and human experience assert with one voice that no one has, without great sufferings and trials, left behind any great work on earth or been glorified in heaven. If your earthly road has been bathed in sweat and tears for the attaining of righteousness and truth, rejoice and be glad, for your reward will indeed be great in heaven. Never entertain the foolish thought that God has forsaken you. God knows exactly how much you can bear, and measures your sufferings and trials accordingly. "When men know," says St. Nil Sorsky, "how much weight a horse can carry, or a donkey or a camel, and load them according to their strength; when a potter knows how long to leave the clay in the kiln for it to be neither shattered nor undercooked, how could God not know how much temptation a soul can bear to make it ready and fit for the Kingdom of Heaven?"

