

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

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### **BULLETIN OF AUGUST 25, 2013**

#### **SUNDAY/AUGUST 25**

##### **9th Sunday After Pentecost**

##### **Apostle Titus**

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy  
With Prayers for New Academic Year;  
Coffee Hour

2:00-6:00p.m. Parish Picnic at Kita Home  
312 No. 10<sup>th</sup> Ave., Manville  
(All Are Invited – Take A Swim)

#### **WEDNESDAY/AUGUST 28**

7:00p.m. Vespers

#### **THURSDAY/AUGUST 29**

##### **Beheading of St. John the Baptist (Strict Fast Day Today)**

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

#### **SATURDAY/AUGUST 31**

##### **Cincture of the Holy Theotokos**

9:30a.m. Akathist to Theotokos;  
Confessions

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

#### **SUNDAY/SEPTEMBER 1**

##### **Church New Year**

##### **10th Sunday After Pentecost**

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



#### **The Church New Year – September 1<sup>st</sup>**

Every time we enter upon another year whether it be civil or ecclesiastical we have the opportunity to reflect upon the past and make changes for a better future. Let us ask ourselves: What practical changes can I make which will allow the Lord to act more in my life? Can I

do more in my spiritual life – prayer, study, almsgiving, stewardship? Can we do more as a community – outreach, charity, evangelism? How can I personally and we collectively play a part in making this coming year better than the previous year?

### **Offerings Week of August 25**

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

**Wine** – for the health of Natalie and Julia; for the well-being of our Coptic Orthodox believers suffering in Egypt.

**Flowers** – in thanksgiving.

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

Aug. 25, 1977 Tekla Barna  
Aug. 26, 1962 Anna Persurance  
Aug. 26, 1965 John Harchin  
Aug. 26, 2001 John Wassel  
Aug. 27, 1934 John Poklitar  
Aug. 27, 1970 Luke Vozny  
Aug. 28, 1958 Daniel Zydiak  
Aug. 30, 1952 Terry Beth Koles  
Aug. 31, 1927 Jacob Kava  
Aug. 31, 1972 Julia Marchuk  
Aug. 31, 1975 John Kluchnik  
Aug. 31, 1988 Fr. Nicholas Kiryluk  
(rector 1946-1953)

### **Coffee Hour Hosting**

Aug. 25 Motoviloff, Torrisi, Kachek & Stone  
Sept. 01 Combs, Mantafos, Parsells & Sokol  
Sept. 08 Sarchisian, Dunaenko, Moldoveanu & Chirnoaga

### **Ushers Schedule**

Aug. 25 E. Sarchisian, Luka, K & N. Popa  
Sept. 01 Smith, P. Bakaletz & A. Moldoveanu  
Sept. 08 T. Gorbatuk & J. Stone

### **A Word To Those Who Frequent the Holy Gifts – Communion Every Sunday**

If you regularly receive Holy Communion, and you have not been to Holy Confession after Pascha (May 5<sup>th</sup>), in order to continue receiving the Holy Gifts, please go to Confession before the end of the month of August.

### **Namesday Greetings – Many Years!**

St. Natalie/Aug. 26: Natalie Ratzkovich, Natalie Gripp and Natalie Garcia  
St. Symeon/Sept. 1: Reader Symeon Combs  
St. Edward/Sept. 2: Edward Sarchisian

### **Church School Classes Resume**

This September Month, our classes resume. They are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. The Teen Class meets once a month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday.

### **Fall Adult Study Classes Will Resume**

Weekly classes for October and November months are being planned. There will be a series of topics and perhaps differing days of the week and times offered. Maybe a Saturday morning class? Your input is sought. What day of the week? Time? Topics? Typically we meet from 7-8:30p.m.. Please speak/email/inform/ Fr. James of your comments.

### **NJ Orthodox Youth Gathering on Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> in Jersey City**

This gathering begins at 9:30a.m. at St. Peter's College Recreation Center and is open to all youth from ages 16 and up, including college and post-graduate students. For more information and registration go to [www.oneorthodox.com](http://www.oneorthodox.com) or contact John Malek at 917-737-3904. The event is sponsored by the Coptic Church in America and Bishop Michael encourages all of our youth to participate.

### **Friends of Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church – Facebook**

In the last few months our membership has doubled. There are posted a variety of news, lives of saints, miracles, humor, church events, teachings, many photos, etc. You all are invited to utilize this "tool" for spiritual edification, fellowship and sharing.

### **Special Anniversary?**

Prayers and a Blessing may be imparted on the occasion of a wedding anniversary. Speak with Fr. James.

### **An Opportunity for Special Offerings**

- Priest White Sticherion (\$75)
- A newly-planted Red Twig (Argenteo-marginata) tree in the cemetery (\$125.00)
- Text Books for Church School Children (\$150 total or \$15 a piece).

## HOW DOES YOUR PARISH RATE?

A reporter recently visited 18 different churches on successive Sundays to find out what each community was really like. In every instance, he dressed neatly and stood near the front. After services, he walked slow to the rear of the church, then returned to the front, and then went back to the foyer, using another aisle. He smiled at everyone and asked others for directions to specific places – the parish hall, the office, the rest rooms, etc. He remained for coffee, if served.

Using the following scale, the reporter awarded points to each community on the following basis:

- ✓ **10 points** for a smile from a worshipper.
- ✓ **10 points** for a greeting from someone nearby.
- ✓ **100 points** for an exchange of names.
- ✓ **200 points** for an invitation to have coffee.
- ✓ **300 points** for an invitation to return.
- ✓ **1,000 points** for an introduction to another worshipper.
- ✓ **2,000 points** for an invitation to meet the pastor.

The reporter discovered that, using this scale, 11 of the 18 churches visited earned *less than 100 points!* Five actually received *less than 20 points!* The conclusion: The doctrine may be sound, the singing inspirational, and the sermon uplifting – *but*, when a visitor finds nobody who cares whether he or she is there, he or she is *not* likely to return!

## DID YOU KNOW?

- ❖ One sixth of all of the words of Jesus Christ are concerned with the relationship of a person and his material possessions.
- ❖ One third of Christ's parables are devoted to man's preoccupation with money.

## FOR CONSIDERATION

Jesus says in Matthew 6:21, "Where your treasure is there shall your heart be also." What a person does with his money, how he thinks about it, where he spends it, what he will do to earn it, and the things to which he will give it are some of the real clues to who he is inside, to what is essentially important to him, to what is really in his heart.



Evil is bound to find a justification for itself, must appear disguised as good – often the highest good. Evil strives to present its positive aspect as a jewel so precious that all means are justified to attain it. Yet, good is not attained by evil means and the end does not justify the means. Good not obtained by good means is not good. This is the testament we have received from the Apostles and holy Fathers.

- Elder Sophrony on the teaching of Saint Silouan

As the moon waxes and wanes, it illustrates the condition of man. Sometimes he does what is right, sometimes he sins, and then through repentance returns to a holy life. The intellect of one who sins is not destroyed, just as the physical size of the moon does not diminish, but only its light. Through repentance, a man regains his true splendor, just as the moon clothes itself once more in its full light after a period of waning.

- Saint John of Karpathos

A holy man named Pambo asked Anthony, "What ought I to do to live a righteous and spiritual life?" Anthony replied, "Do not trust in your own righteousness, do not worry about the past, but control your tongue and your stomach."

- From the life of Saint Anthony the Great

# ***The Darkened Mind and Hardened Heart***

***by St. Nikolai of Zicha (+1956)***

*"The gentiles walk in the vanity of their mind, having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart" (Ephesians 4:17-18).*

What is vanity, my brethren? All that is seen outside God, cut off from God and done without the fear of God.

What is vanity of the mind, my brethren? To live and interpret life, not by God's law but rather by one's own passing thoughts and desires.

Whence, my brethren, does this evil come to men? From hardness of heart and from inner ignorance.

What does hardness of heart mean, brethren? It means a heart empty of love for God and fear of God, and filled with lustfulness and fear of everything for the body's sake.

Brethren, what is born of hardness of heart? Ignorance - complete ignorance of divine things, divine ways and divine laws; a heart completely dulled to spiritual life and spiritual thought.

What is the final consequence, brethren, of hardness of heart and ignorance of divine truth? A darkened understanding and alienation from the Living God.

Darkened understanding occurs when the mind of man becomes as darkened as the body, and the light that is in man becomes darkness. Oh, such a darkness! A darkened understanding is a darkened mind. A darkened mind knows the meaning of nothing, or denies the meaning of everything. In such a condition, a man is alienated from the life of God, and he withers and dies like a body part cut off from the body. Such are the pagans, such are the godless, and such are those of little faith or false Christians. But even dry wood, when it is watered with the life-creating water of Christ, comes to life and bursts forth in greenery. Even the dried-up pagan world was raised up and brought to life by Christ the Lord. How much more so would it be for repentant Christian sinners!

Let us look at ourselves, my brethren. Let us do so every day. Let us ask ourselves every day whether we have become darkened and alienated from the life of God because of our vanity. Soon there will be death, the end and judgment. The dry wood will be cast into the unquenchable fire.

O Lord Jesus, our Mind and our Life, help us to think with Thee, and to live with Thee. To Thee be glory and praise forever. Amen.