

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF NOVEMBER 10, 2013

SUNDAY/NOVEMBER 10

20th Sunday After Pentecost

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

TUESDAY/NOVEMBER 12

NY-NJ Diocesan Assembly in
Yonkers, New York

WEDNESDAY/NOVEMBER 13

St. John Chrysostom

NY-NJ Clergy Conference in
Yonkers, New York

THURSDAY/NOVEMBER 14

6:30p.m. Memorial Service for
Vaschen and Emilia Sarchisian
7:00p.m. Parish Council Meeting

FRIDAY/NOVEMBER 15

St. Paisius of Moldavia

Beginning of the 40 Day Nativity Lent

7:00p.m. Compline and Akathist
to St. Matthew; Confessions

SATURDAY/NOVEMBER 16

St. Matthew

9:30a.m. Parish Work Shop II
5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

SUNDAY/NOVEMBER 17

21st Sunday After Pentecost

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour; Church School/Teen Class



Many hundreds of years ago a very holy old man lived in a desert. One day people came to him and said: "Father, teach us, how can we come closer to God while we live in this world?" The old man drew a circle in the sand at his feet. "This circle is the world," he said "and here in the center of it is God. Each one of us lives in the world," and he made dots around the edge of the circle. "As we try to come closer to God, we draw closer to each other and this is the only way in which we can come closer to God. Remember it."

Offerings Week of November 10

Olive Oil: in memory of Vaschen and Emilia; in memory of Michael, Justina and Rosalia; for the health of Gabriel, Daniel and David; in memory of Elizabeth; for the health of Derek (birthday); for the health of Vera and John.

Flowers: for the health of Antoniou

Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Nov. 10, 1918 Maria Ishchuk
Nov. 10, 1921 Julia Bushinsky
Nov. 10, 1960 Alexandria Kulina
Nov. 10, 1969 John Buday
Nov. 12, 1916 Peter Kliaga
Nov. 12, 2004 Olga Skopak
Nov. 13, 1963 Peter Chabra
Nov. 15, 1929 Fr. Nikita Borisoff
(rector 1920-1922)
Nov. 16, 1960 Francis Romanofsky
Nov. 16, 1965 Anastasia Kuzmiak
Nov. 16, 1977 Michael Putyrske
Nov. 16, 2009 Mary Romanak

Coffee Hour Hosting

Nov. 10 Inga, Eka, Marina and Nona
Nov. 17 (fast) Motovlioff, Torrisi, Kachek and Stone
Nov. 24 (fast) Combs, Mantzafos, Parsells and Sokol

Ushers Schedule

Nov. 10 T. Gorbatuk & J. Stone
Nov. 17 D. Fedechko & C. Dunaenko
Nov. 24 E. Sarchisian & A. Moldoveanu

Javier Available – Work Projects

Javier does part-time work at our cemetery. He is available for work projects you may have, To make arrangements call Fr. James.

Our Parish Website: www.ssppoc.org

Our appreciation is expressed to Fr. John Parsells for this major make-over of our website. If you have any suggestions about the site, please speak with Fr. James or Jerry Stone.

Names Day Greeting: Many Years!

St. Matthew/Nov. 16: Matthew Todd Peterson and Matthew Erade

To Mark On Your Calendars

- Church Cleaning/Nov. 30 & Dec. 7
- Annual Christmas Cookie Walk/Dec. 8
- Christmas Yolka/Jan. 12

Study Classes, Nov. 19, 26 & Dec. 3 (Tuesdays) Conference Room 7-8:30p.m.

“Guarding the Mind and the Heart,” by Saint Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain

This will be a four part study of basic Patristic teachings on what is the Mind and Heart and how we care for and cultivate these holy vessels..

Concerning the Antidorn (Blessed Bread)

Those receiving Holy Communion partake of the blessed bread and cup of wine immediately after communion. Those who have received the Holy Gifts ought to receive the blessed bread only after they venerate the Holy Cross. The “custom” of sharing the blessed bread with others after communion is not in good order – however well meant.

Annual Cookie Sale/December 8th

On this date, we will have our Cookie Sale! This very successful event over the years has drawn many people, due to the incredible selection of delicious homemade cookies. A sign-up sheet for “bakers” is on the vestibule stand. Please make a double batch of each cookie that you contribute. If you can, please sign-up as soon as possible so that we can better plan for the Sale. If you would like to participate in our “group baking,” indicate this on the sign-up sheet. This is a lot of fun and you will enjoy the camaraderie! Contact Jill 973-945-0302 or email at jap2002@optonline.net with any questions.

Nativity Lent: Nov. 15- Dec. 24

This 40 Day Lent is observed to prepare us for the Nativity of our Lord Feast, Dec. 25th. A Fast is observed from meat, dairy, fish, wine and oil. On certain days, we are permitted fish, or wine or oil. You Parish Wall Calendar and the Monthly Bulletin indicates this mitigation. The Nativity Lent is not “an option,” but part of the expected discipline we adhere to. Questions or concerns you have ought to be addressed to your spiritual father.



Why fast before the Nativity?

Question

I was wondering why we fast before Nativity. The Lenten fast seems more obvious. Also, from what foods do we normally fast from during the Nativity fast?

Answer

We fast before the Great Feast of the Nativity in order to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Our Lord's birth. As in the case of Great Lent, the Nativity Fast is one of preparation, during which we focus on the coming of the Savior by fasting, prayer, and almsgiving.

By fasting, we "shift our focus" from ourselves to others, spending less time worrying about what to eat, when to eat, how much to eat, and so on in order to use our time in increased prayer and caring for the poor. We learn through fasting that we can gain control over things which we sometimes allow to control us—and for many people, food is a controlling factor.

[We live in the only society in which an entire TV network is devoted to food!] While fasting from food, however, we are also challenged to fast from sin, from gossip, from jealousy, from anger, and from those other things which, while well within our control, we all too often allow to control us.

Just as we would refrain from eating a lot before going to an expensive restaurant for dinner—if we "ruin our appetite" we will enjoy the restaurant less—so too we fast before the Nativity in order to more fully feast and celebrate on the Nativity itself.

During the Nativity Fast, we are called upon to refrain from meat, dairy, fish, wine, and olive oil. At the same time, we are challenged, within this framework, to fast to the best of our ability, and to do so consistently.

If we must modify the extent to which we fast within this framework, it is of course possible, but in every instance our fasting should be consistent and regular, for Christ does not see fasting as an option, but as a "must."

In Matthew Christ says, "WHEN you fast, do not be like the hypocrites," not "IF you fast" or "IF YOU CHOOSE to fast."

Finally, it seems quite odd that in our society—a society in which people gladly and freely spend huge sums of money for diets, most of which recommend that one refrain from red meats and dairy products—fasting is not more widely embraced. How odd that a Jenny Craig consultant or diet guru or physician will tell us to refrain from eating meat or cheese or butter and we will gladly embrace—and pay large sums of money for—his or her advice, while when the Church offers the same advice [at "no cost"] we tend to balk, as if we were being asked to do the impossible.

Whose Gift List?

Preparations for the "holiday season" are already in full swing. And some of the colorful newspaper inserts suggest that, even though Thanksgiving is a few weeks away, the holiday gift-giving pressure's on!

A study from ten years ago reported that the average person maintains some 200 relationships. That's a substantial number including various circles of relationships—family, religious, social and professional groups, volunteer organizations, service providers, etc. Perhaps our holiday stress is due to the sheer number of people in our circles we want to remember through our gift-giving.

But the implications of this relationship study are more far-reaching. Obviously, because it's a secular study, there's no consideration of one's relationship to God. As people of faith who presumably strive to keep the commandment to love the Lord with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, every other relationship should be seen through the prism of our relationship to Our God. And we have the capacity to personally share this faith with about 200 souls!

There's more. When this relationship study was published a decade ago, its purpose was to illustrate the increasingly detrimental effect various social media have on the depth of human relationships. The study's conclusion was, with all our advanced technology, our relationships are becoming increasingly "superficial, non-substantial and inconsequential."

This is a sobering indictment! In all our twitters, texts and tweets, there's little if any substance, quality, or "soul" in a majority of human relationships. They're deteriorating into "virtual" relationships, void of personal, human interaction and maintained largely by words; that, in case we need to be reminded, makes up roughly seven-percent of effective communications. If we don't know the circumstances and struggles of the person behind the words, can't hear the intensity of their voice or read the body language that accompanies their words or are unaware of the "heart" from whence they emanate, words are just bits (or bytes) of data that show little if any respect to "personhood."

In Christian theology, the relationship between the Persons of the Holy Trinity is profound and instructive. "In the beginning," God's will regarding relationships is clearly revealed after the creation of Adam: "It's not good that man should be alone." The coming of Jesus Christ into the world is literally the "personification" of God's will: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). The Gospels essentially document the myriad ways Jesus connected with people on the most intimate level and repeatedly note such connections were inspired by divine and redemptive love. "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). There's absolutely nothing superficial, non-substantial or inconsequential in this relationship!

There's little argument that gift-giving is synonymous with Christmas. But are we concerned enough, caring enough, loving enough of the 200 or so souls precious to God among our circles of relationships to give them more than a crockpot, computer game or scented candle?

It's through real, deep, substantial human relationships that we move toward heaven and eternal joy: to the extent we acknowledge upon Whose gift-list WE are listed as beloved children of God. May we share the gift of some refreshing, cool water with someone today; to help satisfy their thirst for a truly meaningful relationship with the Living God.