

## 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)

Face book: Friends of Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

### 2014 – 99<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Manville

#### SUNDAY/JANUARY 19

30th Sunday After Pentecost

St. Mark of Ephesus

“Patronal Feast of Altar Servers”

“Sanctity of Life Sunday”

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

#### WEDNESDAY/JANUARY 22

Sanctity of Life March in Washington, DC  
with Metropolitan Tikhon and Bishop Michael  
leading Orthodox marchers

#### THURSDAY/JANUARY 23

7:00p.m. Parish Council Meeting

#### SATURDAY/JANUARY 25

Icon, “Unexpected Joy”

9:30a.m. Akathist to Icon, “Unexpected Joy”  
Confessions

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

#### SUNDAY/JANUARY 26

31<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy  
Coffee Hour and Question & Answer Period



### **Offerings Week of January 19**

**Olive Oil:** in memory of Michael, Justina, Rosalia, Anna, Anastasia and Pavel; in memory of Vaschen and Emilia; for the health of Amanda Sarah (birthday); for the health of Jill Ann Peterson (birthday); for the health of Timothy (Name Day).

**Wine:** in thanksgiving to God for Stefan's recuperation.

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

The Parish Synodicon is the listing of those who have fallen-asleep, for whom a funeral service was held here at Ss. Peter & Paul Church. There are those buried in our parish cemetery that had a funeral elsewhere and are not listed in this Parish Synodicon. A complete list for the entire year may be found on the parish website under: "cemetery – parish synodicon."

Jan. 20, 1960 Nazar Pasechnik  
Jan. 20, 1963 Charels Chabala  
Jan. 21, 1971 Andrew Zorella  
Jan. 22, 1923 Tarasius Lasin  
Jan. 23, 1936 Paul Dzioba  
Jan. 24, 1960 John Lapa  
Jan. 24, 1963 Fr. Stephen Podlusk  
Jan. 24, 1976 Jacob Mogilevsky  
Jan. 24, 1985 Anna Putyrsk

### **Coffee Hour Hosting**

Jan. 19 Peterson, Bakaletz, & Mattei  
Jan. 26 Kita, Nevitt, & Keller  
Feb. 02 Inga, Eka, Marina & Nonna

### **Ushers Schedule**

Jan. 19 D. Fedechko & C. Dunaenko  
Jan. 26 E. Sarchisian & A. Moldoveanu  
Feb. 02 T. Smith & P. Bakaletz

### **Photos of the Christmas Yolka/Jan. 12**

Are posted on the parish website.

### **Old Icon Prints**

From Christmas cards and calendars may be deposited in the designated box on the vestibule stand.

**Holy Pascha 2014** April 20  
**Western Easter 2014** April 20

### **Names Day Greetings**

St. Anthony/Jan. 17: Antoniu Chirnoaga  
St. Timothy/Jan. 22: T. Smith & T. Gorbatuk  
St. Xenia/Jan. 24: Xenia Bodenchuk  
St. Maria/Jan. 26: Maria Torrisi  
Many Blessed Years!

### **The Blessing of Homes: Jan. 7 – Feb. 9**

The season of blessing of homes is shorter this year (2014) due to the earlier date of Pascha. You are asked to arrange for your home blessing asap.

Phone: 908-686-1452

E-Mail: [frjames@ssppoc.org](mailto:frjames@ssppoc.org)

In person: At Sunday Coffee Hours

On Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> (after the Yolka) home blessing will take place only in Manville (2-7p.m.). Manville homes may of course, be blessed at any other time as well.

### **The Calendar**

Jan. 22 Sanctity of Life March, Washington, DC  
Jan. 23 Parish Council Meeting  
Jan. 26 Distinguished Diocesan Donors Dinner  
Jan. 30 Feast of the Three Hierarchs  
Jan. 30 Annual Meeting Reports Due  
Feb. 02 Meeting of our Lord (Blsg. of candles)  
Feb. 02 Distribution of Annual Mtg. Reports  
Feb. 02 Super Bowl of Caring (food pantry & \$1)  
Feb. 07 Winter Teen Retreat, Dalton, PA.  
Feb. 09 Annual Parish Meeting  
Feb. 09 Last Day For Blessing of Homes  
Feb. 09 Beginning of Pre-Lent Season (3 weeks)  
Feb. 12 & 14 Fast-Free, Wednesday and Friday  
Feb. 14-16 Diocesan Altar Servers Retreat  
Feb. 22 Parish Workshop on Church Growth  
12:30 Lunch, 1:00-5:00 Program  
Mar. 02 Beginning of 40 Day Great & Holy Fast  
Mar. 09 Sun. of Orthodoxy Vespers in Manville  
At Holy Ghost Church  
Mar. 16 New Parish Council Installation  
Mar. 16 Presentation on Orthodox Summer Camp

**Winter Weather Alert: If Changes are necessary, check out the following one hour before scheduled service or event:**

- Face Book, "Friends of Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church"
- Parish website calendar
- Parish e-mail list

January 19, 2014

To the Venerable Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America:

Dearly beloved,

I greet each of you with the love offered us by our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ on this Sunday dedicated to the sanctity of life. Having just celebrated the glorious feasts of the Nativity and the Theophany of Christ, we have been given a unique perspective from which to reflect on the meaning of our life as baptized Orthodox Christians, and on what it means to be a human being striving to live a Christ-like life. As Saint Athanasius tells us, "by the Word made Man, death has been destroyed and life raised up anew." And it is in this spirit that we celebrate today the sanctity of our renewed life.

Saint Irenaeus of Lyons reminds us that "the glory of God is a living human being." Today, as we celebrate the sanctity of life given by and lived in Christ, we are called to remember that all life is an expression and reflection of the glory of God. Life is a sacred gift from God -- a gift that is given at the very moment of conception.

Proclaiming and upholding the sanctity and miracle of life is a sacred calling, one that lies at the heart of who we are as Orthodox Christians. Indeed, it is our ability to feed, clothe, visit, and minister to all of human life which will provide our defense at the dreadful and awesome second coming of our Lord. It is a calling that involves obligations and responsibilities for the common good of all mankind, beginning with the lowest, least and weakest amongst us. And, at the very heart of this calling is the challenge to share, in "truth and love," the reality that human beings -- in the womb, beyond the tomb, and at every point in between -- reflect the glory of God. Hence, we strive not only to work to change laws that are contrary to the teaching of our Lord, or that treat life as just another "expendable commodity," but to purify hearts and minds to embrace the God Who is Love, Life and Existence Itself and Who invites us to become partakers of His divine nature.

Dear brothers and sisters! It is our prophetic task to call a divided and polarized world to live in Christ, to live lives worthy of the glory of God, and to discern His presence and image in all with whom He shares His life and for whom He gave His life. Please join me in remembering, not only today but every day, that the God-given gift of life is the very reflection of His presence in our midst, and that all human life is called to embrace the sanctification and glory of our Creator!

With love in the Lord,



†Tikhon  
Archbishop of Washington  
Metropolitan of All America and Canada



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# SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

(Malachi 4:2)



## Introduction:

"For the Lord God is a sun and shield" (Ps. 84:11). The Lord is compared to the Sun and more specifically, Jesus Christ is called the day - spring (Lk. 1:78). The sun that shines in the sky, some 93 million miles from the earth, is full of types of the triune Godhead. We will observe several demonstrations of these types.

## I. THE TRINITY

### A. The components of the sun

About three-fourths of the sun's mass consists of hydrogen, the lightest known element. Almost a fourth of the sun's mass consists of helium. Because the sun is made up entirely of gas it is invisible, yet it is visible. God obviously has both characteristics as (1 Tim. 3:16 and Jn. 1:18) reveal to us.

### B. The rays of the sun

Since the Godhead can be clearly seen (Rom. 1:20) and Jesus Christ is likened to the "sun," we may conclude that He is the source of all spiritual life, all spiritual warmth, all spiritual growth, and all spiritual sight in this world. The sun has alpha, beta, and gamma rays (rays which can be seen, but not felt; felt, but not seen; and rays which can be neither felt nor seen!)

## II. THE LOVE OF GOD

Since God is love (1 Jn. 4:16), it is reasonable to conclude that all blessings come from Him (Jam. 1:17). It is universally recognized that without the sun, like as we know it, would not exist on the earth.

### A. The sun provides our food

All living things - both plants and animals - are part of a process called the food chain. The food chain starts with green plants. These plants make their own food through the process of photosynthesis.

During photosynthesis, plants combine energy from sunlight with carbon dioxide from the air, and water from the soil, to make food. In the process, the plants give off oxygen. Some plants are eaten by animals, which in turn are eaten by larger animals, Man eats both animals and plants. Man and animals breathe the oxygen that the plants release during photosynthesis. They exhale the carbon dioxide that, in turn, is used by plants (Phil. 4:19).

### B. The sun provides our energy

Plants use sunlight for photosynthesis. Animals eat the plants, and man uses both plants and animals for food, clothing, and shelter.

Even the artificial light we use comes from the sun, for that is manufactured by power



plants that use fossil fuels; coal, oil, and natural gas. These fuels come from plants and animals that lived long ago.

In addition, man uses sunlight for power in other ways. For example, the effects of sunlight cause wind, which man uses to power windmills. Sunlight also evaporates water which falls as rain and snow,

The water forms rivers. Hydroelectric power plants on the rivers use the power of moving water to generate electricity. Solar energy is also becoming more and more popular. In the plainest possible words - energy is power, that we cannot live without, (Matt. 28:18).

### C. The sun regulates our weather

Sunlight has a great influence on the earth's weather. For example, it evaporates water from rivers, lakes, and oceans, and this water later falls as rain or snow.

When the water is suspended in the atmosphere clouds appear. They reflect sunlight back into space. Sunlight also comes to the earth at various angles during different seasons. Clouds, and the angle at which sunlight reaches the earth, result in uneven heating of the earth's atmosphere. This uneven heating causes differences in air pressure. Air moves from high pressure areas to low pressure areas, causing wind and changes in weather.

Weather can be a blessing, (Deut. 28:12) or a curse, (Deut. 28:24) depending upon our obedience to God. (See Job 37:22 and 1 Kings 17:1)

## III. THE GLORY OF GOD

The glory of God is demonstrated through the sun several ways:

### A. Its vastness

The diameter of the sun is about 865,000 miles, about 109 times the diameter of the earth. The sun is 740 times more massive than its nine major planets together. These figures remind us of the insignificance of man in the light of God's attributes. (See Jer. 23:23,24; Hab. 3:3; Ps. 139:7-12; Ps. 19:1; Job 25:3, 22:12; Ps. 113:4)

### B. Its colors

According to "World Book" encyclopedia, "The sunlight given off by the sun's surface is made up of many colors. These colors are not all equally bright. Various elements in the photosphere absorb some of the colors and prevent the sun from giving off those colors. Scientist can see what colors are absorbed by passing sunlight through a glass prism to form a spectrum." Various colors have always been used to describe the glory of God. (See Eze. 1:26-28; Rev. 4:3; 10:1)

A prism, be it natural (rainbow) or man made allows us to see a small part of the color of the sun.

The part that we can actually see is so small - "For now we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face:" (1 Cor. 13:12) that we can have little appreciation for all that will someday be made available. The earth only receives about one two billionth of the sun's light and heat. The prism that God has given us to get a better picture is **HIS WORD**.