

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF MAY 25, 2014

6TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA/MAY 25

The Blind Man

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

MONDAY/MAY 26 (Memorial Day)

Pilgrimage to the Monastery of St. Tikhon
6:30p.m. Compline and Akathist to
St. Luke of Crimea (May 27)

TUESDAY/MAY 27

7:00p.m. Paschal Matins

WEDNESDAY/MAY 28

Leave-Taking of Pascha

9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
7:00p.m. Vigil for Ascension

THURSDAY/MAY 28

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION (One of "the 12 Great Feasts")

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

SATURDAY/MAY 31

9:30a.m. Akathist to the Ascension;
Confessions

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA/JUNE 1

Fathers of the First Council St. Justin (Popovich) of Serbia

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



The Ascension of Our Lord

Celebrated on the Fortieth day after Pascha

TROPARIUM OF THE FEAST

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit, having become confident of the blessing. Verily, Thou art the Son of God, the Deliverer of the world!

GOSPEL OF THE FESTAL LITURGY:

Luke 24: 36 to the end

THE ICON:

Christ – the central figure; as He ascends into Heaven He bestows a blessing upon the world and promises to send the Comforter, the Holy Spirit; He is clothed in white to signify the brilliant Light of His divinity.

The Theotokos – the figure below Christ.

The Disciples – two groups on either side of the Theotokos; although Saint Matthias was not officially elected to replace Judas Iscariot the Betrayer until after the Ascension, he is always depicted as being present at the Ascension.

Offerings Week of May 25

Olive Oil: in memory of Michael, Justina, Rosalia, and Anastasia; in memory of Vaschen and Emilia; health of Matthew (birthday); for the health of Basil & Barbara Kulick (54th anniversary).

Wine: for the health of Carol; in memory of Joan and Sandy.

Flowers: in thanksgiving; for the health of Rachael (birthday).

Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

May 27, 1977 Julian Sudillo
May 27, 1988 Tatiana Shvridrik
May 28, 1970 Mary Szwhala
May 29, 1942 Elizabeth Bulat
May 29, 1953 Emil Wilhousky
May 30, 1939 Dominick Stokolovsky
May 30, 1949 Anna Kuchner
May 30, 1963 William marchision
May 31, 1963 Michael Dziga

Coffee Hour Hosts

May 25 Sarchisian, Dunaenko and Wypych
June 01 Peterson, Bakaletz and Mattei
June 08 Kita, Nevitt and Keller

Usher Schedule

May 25 Edward S. Adrian M. & Kakha K.
June 01 Timothy S. & Peter B.
June 08 Timothy G. & Jerome S.

Altar Server Schedule

June 01: Nicholas T, George J, Nicholas M,
Matthew P, Andre & Mattei M.
June 08: Zachary S, George J, Nicholas M,
Matthew P, Antoniu & Alexandr C.

Adult Study Classes: "On the Mystery of Death: Wednesdays 7-8:30p.m.

June 04: Death Before and After Christ

Face Book: Friends of Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church – 193 Members

On this page you will find a wealth of photos, church news, lives of saints, spiritual and moral content and a whole world of food for the mind and soul. You are invited to join!

The Parish Website: New!

A 360 virtual tour of our Church is now available on our parish website. Share this information with your relatives and friends. Also, 91 Photos of the Feast of Pascha are posted.

The 50 Days of Pascha: April 20 – June 8

- We do not kneel or make prostrations in church or in our homes
- We greet each other with the Paschal Greeting, "Christ is Risen!" (till May 28)
- The Prayer "O Heavenly King" is omitted until Pentecost Sunday.
- On Wed. and Fri., while remaining fast days, wine and oil are permitted.
- We read from the Gospel of St. John and The Acts of the Apostles.

The Calendar Forth-Coming

June 07 Memorial Saturday 9:30a.m.
June 08 Pentecost (50th Day of Pascha)
June 08 Cemetery Memorial at 4:00p.m.
June 09 Holy Spirit Day – Liturgy 10:00am. At Holy Ghost Church in Manville
June 11 & 13 Fast Free Wed. and Fri.
June 15 Recognition of Graduates Sunday
June 15 Father's Day (Civil Holiday)
June 16-28 Ss. Peter & Paul Lent
June 28 Parish Council Workshop in So. River
June 29 (Sunday) Ss. Peter & Paul Feast Day and Parish Picnic at Kita Residence after Services

Namesday Greetings: Many Years!

St. Theodosia/May 29: Tessie Nevitt

Our Coffee Hour on Sundays

- Are always well attended and our thanks to our hosts for fine foods and preparation.
- If you do not come to Coffee Hour, please accept the invitation, a wonderful chance to break bread with others and develop and enrich friendships.
- Additional hosts are always welcome, please speak with Jill Peterson.
- Something special taking place? Graduation, birthday, anniversary, names day, etc. – feel free to bring a cake or some goodies and share your joy.



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD INTO HEAVEN

When the day of the Jewish Pentecost drew near, the disciples of Christ returned from Galilee to Jerusalem. On the fortieth day after the resurrection of Jesus Christ they were all together in one house. Jesus Christ appeared to them and spoke with them saying, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation. He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs shall accompany those who believe: in My name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Then the Savior said to the disciples that soon the Holy Spirit would come upon them, and until that time He charged them not to depart from Jerusalem. He said, "I send the promise of My Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high; for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Conversing with the disciples, the Savior led them out of the city as far as Bethany, to the Mount of Olives. The disciples, overjoyed with the words of the Savior, surrounded Him and started to ask, "Lord will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" The Savior said to them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons which the Father has fixed by His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

When He had said this, Jesus Christ lifted up His hands and blessed His disciples. While He blessed them, He parted from them and He was lifted up to Heaven, and soon a cloud took Him out of their sight. Thus our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ ascended in His physical body to Heaven and sat down at the right Hand of God the Father. His

human soul and body took on the indivisible glory with His divinity. In His divinity, He always is and will be in Heaven and everywhere.

The disciples worshipped the ascended Lord and for a long time continued to stand and gaze into Heaven after Him. Then two angels in white robes appeared before them and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into Heaven? This Jesus, Who was taken up from you into Heaven, will come to earth in the same way (that is, in the flesh), as you saw Him go into heaven."

After this the disciples of Jesus Christ returned to Jerusalem with great joy and stayed there together, awaiting the descent of the Holy Spirit. All of them, together in soul, spent the time in prayer and were continually in the Temple of God, praising and thanking God. With them were several women and Mary, the Most-holy Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ, with their relatives. In those days the apostles, prayerfully, by casting lots, chose from among the other disciples of Christ the twelfth apostle, Matthias, to take the place of Judas the betrayer, who perished.

Ascended into Heaven, Jesus Christ, according to His own promise, invisibly always comes to earth among those who believe in Him and will come again to earth in visible form to judge the living and the dead, who will then rise from the dead. After this will begin the life of the next age, another, eternal life which for true believers and pious people will be completely blessed, but for disbelievers and sinners will be a time of great torment.

Troparion

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, granting joy to Thy disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through the blessing they were assured that Thou art the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world!

Kontakion

When Thou didst fulfill the dispensation for our sake and unite earth to heaven, Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, not being parted from those who love Thee, but remaining with them and crying, "I am with you and no one will be against you!"

Free Time and Information Overload

Source: Gladsome Light Dialogues <<http://dialogues.stjohndfw.info/2014/05/free-time-and-information-overload/>>

Our Christian forefathers have survived the Turks and the communists and everything else that stood against them not because they knew everything about God and their faith, but because they took the time to apply what they already knew in every moment of their lives.

PROTOBRESBYTER VASILE TUDORA <http://www.pravmir.com/author/user_1289841304/> | 14 MAY 2014

Most probably the inventors of the internet, which modestly started as a small information sharing network, did not hope, even in their wildest dreams, that in less than 50 years their invention will evolve into what is today the greatest information exchange that ever existed. The library of Alexandria? Child play! Think about all that goes through the internet today: websites, e-mail, news, TV, social networks, entertainment, financials, do-it-yourself, phone calls, video calls, encyclopedias, e-books, maps and we're just scratching the surface. All you want is there waiting to be found at the literal touch of a finger. Nobody asks anyone anything before they "google" the information.

With an internet connection at hand one feels like a kid in a toy store, always ready to engage and discover. You wake up in the morning and the first thing you do is check your phone. Did I miss anything while I was asleep? How is the stock market doing? Any emergencies at work? How are my friends on Facebook, any silly selfies? Did anyone like my Instagram? How many likes did I get? We walk like zombies with our eyes glued to our smartphones even before we had the chance to get a cup of coffees. And who invented the rule that you can't text and drive? Was it not enough that you can't drink and drive? Lucky enough there are the red lights, where everyone checks what happened in the last three minutes from the previous red light. You don't believe me? Look around next time you're at a red light, that is if you're not on your phone.

This avalanche of information about everything and anything has turned all of us into information junkies. We constantly check our phones waiting for the next piece of news or conversation to pop out. We live and breathe information. There is only one downside to this addiction, we start having less and less time. Paradoxically, when we can find anything quicker than ever, we end up having less time than ever. Work doesn't get finished, conversations, unless virtual, are on the brink of extinction, human interactions are a bare because they take you away from the urge to know everything right now!

Where does this knowledge lead us to? One may say that if we search for the right information it is a good thing. Say one is interested in God; using just a smartphone one can find all the translations of the Bible ever imagined, all the writings of the Fathers, one can ask for spiritual advice online or even virtually attend a streamed Sunday service. Many times however we remain at the level of the search. Mesmerized of the information about the faith we don't have time anymore to actually live the faith. With so many virtual prayers books available we find no time to pray.

Having knowledge about God however does not mean one knows God. God is not in the information about Him. To know God is to be with Him, to experience the unmediated communion with Him. Knowledge is good only if it leads to action, knowledge without action is useless or even plain dangerous. Adam and Eve knew that they would die if they ate from the tree, yet they got tempted with the promise of even more knowledge. They knew enough to keep them in communion with God, to live forever in bliss without lacking anything, yet they wanted more and in that temptation they lost paradise. Sometimes knowing more, especially before time, can lead us astray from practicing what we already do know. Our Christian forefathers have survived the Turks and the communists and everything else that stood against them not because they knew everything about God and their faith, but because they took the time to apply what they already knew in every moment of their lives.

We should not understand all this as a rebellion against knowledge and an invitation to obscurantism, but as a warning against the mirage of "knowing it all" that can be all consuming. Taking time for personal prayer, to physically be in church, to visit a friend in the hospital, to feed the hungry where they live, will help us more in discovering God than accessing raw information about Him. Knowing the Scriptures and the theology is fine, but God is not a theoretical Being, He is a real Trinity of Divine Persons that interact with each other and with us. From this interaction we learn Who He is and who we are; by doing, by loving, by being together, now and into eternity.

A story from the monks of Egypt speaks about three brothers that were occasionally visiting an elder. Two of them always took advantage of the visits and had many questions to ask. The third one always just sat with them, asking nothing. After a few visits the elder asked him directly 'Don't you have any questions? Don't you want to know more?' The brother answered 'For me is enough to be in your presence'. In the era of free but overwhelming information, we should consider taking the advice of the wise brother and, maybe, from time to time, just break free from the internet and acknowledge the presence of God around us. Share a cup of tea with a friend, watch a child at play, listen to a bird's song, and, by taking this time to think about God, you might be able to hear God knocking at the door of your heart.