

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Face Book: "Friends of Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church"

BULLETIN OF AUGUST 24, 2014

SUNDAY/AGUST 24

11TH Sunday After Pentecost

St. Dionysius of Zakynthos

St. Cosmas Aitolos

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
With Prayers for the New Academic Year;
Coffee Hour and Question/Answer Period

THURSDAY/AUGUST 28

7:00p.m. Vespers; Confession

FRIDAY/AUGUST 29 (Strict Fast)

Beheading of St. John the Baptist

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

SATURDAY/AUGUST 30

9:30a.m. Akathist; Confessions

1:00p.m. Baptism of Lukas

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confession

SUNDAY/AUGUST 31

12th Sunday After Pentecost

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

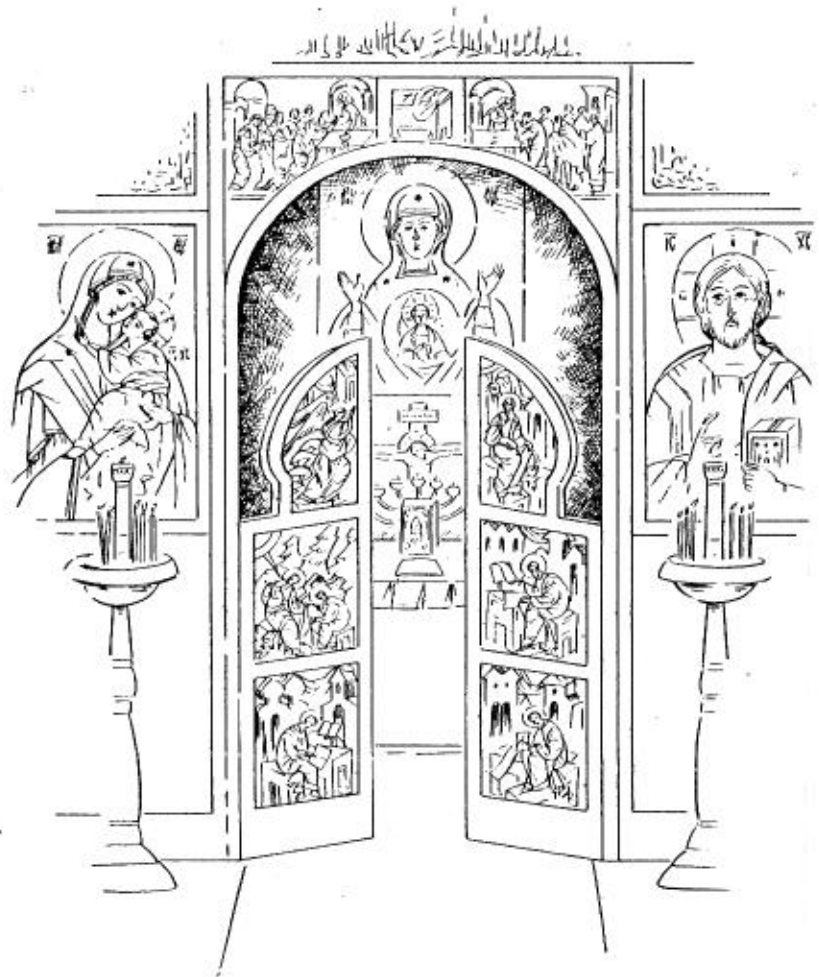
With Vespers for Church New Year

Coffee Hour

MONDAY/SEPTEMBER 1

Church New Year

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



Offerings Week of August 24

Olive Oil: in memory of Michael, Justina, Rosalia, Anastasia; health of John (birthday); blessed journey for Symeon, Theodora and Mary; in memory of Vaschen and Emilia.

Wine: for health of Julia and Natalie (birthday and names day); in thanksgiving and health of Daniel, Gabriel and Constanza.

Flowers: for Magdalena Dao and family.

Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Aug. 24, 1954 John Wasevich
Aug. 24, 1958 John Galida
Aug. 24, 1990 Michael Sudia
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

Coffee Hour Hosts

Aug. 24 Peterson, Bakaletz and Mattei
Aug. 31 Kita, Nevitt and Keller
Sept. 07 Inga, Eka, Marina and Nona

Usher Schedule

Aug. 24 Edward S., Adrian M. & Kakha K.
Aug. 31 Dennis F. & Charles D.
Sept. 07 Timothy S. & Peter B.

Church Discipline About Holy Communion

Those that regularly receive Holy Communion on Sundays if you have not been to Confession anytime after Pascha (April 20) you must go to Confession before Sunday, August 17th, to continue to receive Holy Communion. This applies to all adults as well as children of Confession age.

Reliable Worker Available

Small jobs, landscaping, painting, - Javier, contact through Fr. James.

The Calendar

Sept. 01, Mon. Church New Year Begins
Sept. 08, Mon. Nativity of the Theotokos
Sept. 14, Sun. Elevation of Cross (Fast Day)
Sept. 14, Sun. Church School Begins
Sept. 18, Thur. Parish Council Meeting

99th Anniversary Celebration of Parish

This celebration will be held on November 8th and 9th, 2014 Saturday and Sunday, as a "pre-feast" of our 100th anniversary next year. Bishop Michael will be here for both our 99th and 100th anniversaries. Please mark your calendars, spread the word and be part of our preparatory work.

Adult Study Classes Are Held on Evenings from 7-8:30p.m.

These classes will start in October for 5 weeks. The day of the week will be determined by your feedback. What evenings are best, Tues, Wed. or Thurs? Topics? Comments to Fr. James please.

Church Media – Keeping in Touch

- Parish website: www.ssppoc.org
- Diocese website: www.nynjoca.org
- Parish Face book: Friends of Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church
- Parish e-mail: Parish Mailing List (subscribe on parish website).

Our Prayers and Best Wishes!

On the leave-taking from our parish of Reader Symeon and Theodora Combs, we extend our love and gratitude for their active participation in our parish in many ways. All our love! Visit us! Many Blessed Years!

Names Day Greetings

St. Natalie/Aug. 26: Natalie Ratzovich, Natalie Gripp and Natalie Garcia;
St. Alexander/Aug. 30: Alexandru Constantine Chirnoaga.
Many Blessed Years!

THE SAINTS IN OUR LIVES

One thing that strikes Americans when they go to an Orthodox country is the nearness that the faithful of that land have with the saints. In the same vein, the thing that strikes many Orthodox Christians from other lands when they come here is the lack of closeness that we have with the saints. In countries like Greece, Russia, Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, and the Holy Land, the faithful flee to the relics and holy places of the saints regularly to venerate them, pray to them, lay their needs before them, offer them thanks for their intercessions, and just *be* with them. The faithful regularly include an akathist to the various saints of their own land and the other universal saints in their daily prayers as well.

We have this closeness to some extent with our Alaskan saints, with St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre, and St. Raphael of Brooklyn in more recent years. We need to nurture this love and devotion and sink our spiritual roots deeper into the soil from which all the saints nourish us.

The saints return that love which we show them. They walk along the path of our life with us — if we would but invite and welcome them. Of course, they are not the source of our salvation — that is Christ alone — but they so lovingly guide our steps and help us around the obstacles that the evil one places in our way.

While one is expected to always pray to his patron saint, each person can have a deep love and attachment to other saints. It is very often the fact that the other saints choose us, not we them. They see how pitiful we are, how we need some accompaniment and direction, and they at once come to our aid. Open your hearts and draw near to them as they strive to be our friends in Christ.

A friend related to us a true account of a saint working in the life of someone in Russia in our own times:

The son of a certain mother was assigned to military service in Chechnya where he was part of a small unit at the edge of the forest. There is little joy for one at war, but the soldier had a wonderful and loving reprieve one day — his mother came to visit him. The commander of the unit granted the soldier a leave of absence on that occasion to spend time with his mother, so that they could talk together and walk about in the peacefulness of the forest.

What a comfort for that soldier as he strolled through the forest with his beloved mother, speaking together and sharing memories. The war seemed so distant from him, and the horrors of combat and hatred vanished during those hours as he shared his mother's love. Finally, sunlight began to turn to dusk and the son returned to his unit. When he arrived, he found an eerie and dreadful silence laying over the barracks where before there had been the voices and banter of soldiers. What he saw remained with him the rest of his life: during his absence, there was a surprise attack on his unit and every single soldier had been atrociously killed. If it had not been for his mother's visit and their walk in the forest, he would have met the same fate.

The son was assigned to another unit to serve until the end of his military term. Finally he was released back to civilian life and re-

turned home. The joy of the mother receiving her son was overwhelming and there were endless conversations in the family, many of which centered on his experiences in the war.

"Well, Mom, if you had not come to visit me that day when my unit was attacked, we would not be sitting here together now."

"When?" the mother asked in bewilderment.

"That day when I was given leave because of your visit, when you and I walked through the forest talking together."

"What are you talking about, son?" the mother asked, giving him a look of confusion and fear, "I never left home or went on a trip to see you. I was never in Chechnya!"

No, the mother had not gone to visit him that unforgettable day, but had prayed day and night unceasingly to St. Xenia of St. Petersburg. The beloved saint, moved by the mother's tearful prayers, preserved her son from the horrible disaster that befell his unit. It was St. Xenia who visited Chechnya in the mother's image and rescued the son from certain death.

How the saints work in our lives! How they love us! How they answer our prayers!

While we need to be aware of the presence of the saints, and their actions in responding to our prayers, we must strive to maintain an attitude of humility and never think that we are worthy of their intervention, or especially of having a vision or a saint appearing to us. The Church, in fact, warns us quite sternly about this, for it is absolute sinful delusion. Yes, we have many recorded instances of saints appearing to people, very often those who became saints themselves, but we should not consider *ourselves* worthy of this. In fact, the fathers tell us that if we have a vision, we should tell it to go away! We need to remember that the evil one wants nothing more than to lead us into spiritual pride, thinking "St. N_ appeared to me," "Saint J_ told me to do this," "Saint X_ is guiding me." What we *do* say is more along the lines of "we are praying to St. Z_ to guide us in this project, unworthy as we are, because we know that we can do nothing good ourselves."

Let us turn to the saints at all times, for they are truly the friends of the Lord and have great boldness before Him in interceding for us, both in this life and as we come before God for judgment.

