

## SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

605 Washington Avenue, Manville, New Jersey 08835-1856

Voice: 908-685-1452 / fax: 908-685-1074 Email: [frjames@ssppoc.org](mailto:frjames@ssppoc.org)

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"

### BULLETIN OF OCTOBER 12, 2014

#### SUNDAY/OCTOBER 12

##### Sunday of the 7<sup>th</sup> Council

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

#### MONDAY/OCTOBER 13

#### TUESDAY/OCTOBER 14

Pirohi Making in Hall 9:00a.m. to  
1:00p.m. and 5:00p.m. to 9:00p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY/OCTOBER 15

Pirohi Making in Hall 9:00a.m. to  
12:00p.m.

6:30p.m. Compline

7-8:30p.m. Study Class: "Theosis:  
Deification," (Part One) based on  
writings of Fr. George of Mt. Athos

#### SATURDAY/OCTOBER 18

Patronal Feast of St. Gregory Church  
(Georgian) in Manville, Bishop Sabba  
present for Divine Liturgy – you are  
Welcome!

5:00p.m. 5<sup>th</sup> Year Memorial for  
Mary Holovach (+Oct. 18, 2009)

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

#### SUNDAY/OCTOBER 19

##### 19<sup>th</sup> Sun. After Pentecost

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy  
Coffee Hour; Church School & Teen Class  
2:00p.m. Baptism of Julia M.



#### *On the Honourable Veneration of the Holy Icons*

*INQUIRER:* Some Christians wonder – why do we venerate the holy icons?

*ELDER CLEOPA:* Holy Scripture forbids the veneration of sculpted figures and deities. This prohibition refers to the veneration of idols. The law however does not forbid the veneration of certain signs and representations of God and His holy ones, since this honour does not pertain to the material from which they were constructed but rather, via the holy visage which is depicted, our thoughts ascend to God. We saw the honour that was given to the girdle and face towel of the Apostle Paul.<sup>1</sup> In the Old Testament we learn of the two sculpted Cherubim, which were placed above the Ark of the Covenant and on the tapestry of that holy place. It was before these that they lit incense and rendered repentance. Just as we are helped by the word to ascend beyond the word, so too are we lead by the icons to rise above the icons. Correspondingly, just as God wants our hearing to be made holy through spiritual discourse, so too he wants our sight to be made holy via the holy icons, so that by way of these two superior senses there enters into the soul pure thoughts.

### **Offerings Week of October 12**

**Olive Oil:** in memory of Michael, Justina, Rosalia, Anastasia; for safe travel; for the health of Mariam.

**Wine:** for the health of Proto-Deacon Paul Sokol (anniversary of ordination).

**Flowers:** in memory of Emilia and Vaschen; for the health and protection of Vera and John ((birthday)).

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

Oct. 12, 1967 Timothy Zeban

Oct. 12, 1967 Matthew Zeban

Oct. 12, 1981 Andrew Mogilevsky

Oct. 14, 1973 Anthony Bolash

Oct. 17, 1916 Yerzhy Golombus

Oct. 18, 1976 Paul Kuntzevich

Oct. 18, 2009 Mary Holovach

Oct. 19, 1951 Peter Putyrske

Oct. 19, 2002 Julia Pribish

### **Coffee Hour Hosts**

Oct. 12 Kita, Nevitt, Keller

Oct. 19 Inga, Eka, Marina & Nona

Oct. 26 Motoviloff, Torrisi, Kachek & Stone

### **Usher Schedule**

Oct. 12 Timothy G. & Jerry S.

Oct. 19 Dennis F. & Charles D.

Oct. 26 Edward S, & Arian M. & Kakha K.

### **Reliable Worker Available**

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

### **99<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Parish and International Food Festival Will Be Held on Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>**

Sign-Up Sheets on the Vestibule Stand. Please sign-up. Questions? Speak with Jill Peterson or Pam Stone.

**Sheet A-1** - Food Team - Russian, Polish, Georgian

**Sheet A-2** Food Team - Middle East/Greek, Romanian, Italian, Beverages

**Sheet B** - Advertising and Outreach; Silent Auction, Solicitation of Donations and Set-Up; Set Up on Day of Event; Ticket Sales.

**Sheet C** - Children's Choir and Ethnic Dancing

### **Cemetery Gate Closing**

Please be aware that the Cemetery Gates are locked at 4:30p.m. (now thru end of April) and are opened 9:00a.m. Please be mindful of this when pulling into the cemetery driveway.

### **Church Media - Keeping in Touch**

- Parish website: [www.ssppoc.org](http://www.ssppoc.org)
- Diocese website: [www.nynjoca.org](http://www.nynjoca.org)
- Parish Face book: Friends of Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church
- Parish e-mail: Parish Mailing List (to be on the mailing list you must subscribe from your e-mail; we cannot simply add you.)

### **Coffee Hour Team "Re-balance"**

Our team number 5 is down to two people, Katherine Manzafof and Patricia Sokol. If your team has more than 3 people and someone can transfer to team 5, that would be greatly appreciated. Or, if you are not on any team, join team number 5. Please see Jill Peterson about this.

### **Study Classes- Wednesdays 7-8:30p.m.**

October 15, 22, 29 and November 5. See posted flyer for topics.

### **Feast of St. James - Open House - Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>**

All are invited for some foods and fellowship at the parish rectory to celebrate the occasion, from 6-9p.m.

### **Sunday, November 2 - Feast of All Unmercenary Healers**

On this day we will have special prayers for all those in the medical, healing and supportive ministries.

### **Distinguished Diocesan Donors**

The Lord bless your generous response to our Diocese. The parish sent in a contribution of \$2,400 from donations received. Some parishioners sent their offerings directly to the diocese. Again, the Lord bless!

### **Friends of Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church - Face Book**

There are daily postings of spiritual, educational, social content. You are encouraged to join.

**October 18, 2014 – 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Repose  
Of Mary Holovach – Memory Eternal!**

**To love is to remember**

**The Oration at the Funeral of Mary Holovach, October 20, 2009**

**By Archpriest James Parsells**

**Today we celebrate the funeral service of Mary Holovach. A remarkable person, a life-long member of our parish. Our heartfelt sympathy is expressed to Daria, Dennis and, Zena and all their family members. Your feeling of loss is felt by all of us here at Ss. Peter & Paul Parish. It would not be an exaggeration to say that Mary had two families, one at 504 Washington and the other here at 605 Washington. Many of us knew Mary as “Tata Mary.” We loved Mary and Mary loved us. We all related to Mary in some fashion, as a good friend, auntie, sister, mother, and grandmother.**

**Someone said the other day, that “they just don’t make them like Mary anymore.” Mary was a product of a different time, being raised according to values that are rarely adhered to today, and in a religious life-style found in very few today. Our Mary was – and this is no secret and needs no embellishment – good, gracious, hospitable, caring, friendly to all, generous with her treasury. She made wise use of her talents, was a regular church-goer, well-mannered, and she loved her family, church and country. Many of her generation had the same attributes and honorable character. Mary was in good company with her generation and with all of us who were a little younger. We are mindful of the values exemplified by those of “this old school.”**

**If, Mary seems somehow to have been an extraordinary person – and she was – we need to understand how she lived and the key is not in the up-bringing and values of her generation – honorable though they were – but in her spiritual life. Mary is one to whom the hymn applies, “from your youth you have loved Christ, O blessed one.”**

*It was 605 Washington Ave that made 504 Washington Ave. a Christian home. The source of light, joy, growth, and enduring meaning that Mary experienced as a child and later adult at the house she was born in and died in was the Church up the block. Mary gave to her children what she herself received, the newness of life in Jesus Christ. It was a tremendous blessing for Mary to live physically near the church and more importantly in the church. How familiar and anticipated were the church bells. Decade and after decade, hearing their summons to worship, and countless times responding by coming to the divine services. In her last days, these very bells now being heard on her death-bed, gave her consolation.*

*It was the divine services and liturgical cycles that dictated for Mary her life-style. Everything done in the home, reflected the character of what was happening in the church. Mary was blessed to have drunk abundantly of the life-giving waters of her Faith. Her Faith experience was never nominal but continually growing. Mary was nourished by the Holy Mysteries, by the 12 great feasts and the 4 fasts, by the saints, by scripture reading, by endless learning, and by the practice of virtue and good works. Mary read and sang at the services. She baked the Litya Breads, worked on sewing vestments and liturgical coverings, acted as a greeter to visitors. If you were a new face in the church, Mary would make sure you were welcome. New parishioners were made to feel like long-time friends. New-born babies would be gifted with knit sweaters and boys with a crocheted censer. In short, Mary extended herself to fellow parishioners and visitors to children and adults.*

*Mary was always at the church services. She knew the lives of the saints and it was possible to converse with her and know which saints were her special friends and what were her favorite prayers. The Prayer of St. Ephrem was her favorite and she recited this throughout the year. Regardless of the time and type of service, Mary chose to come to worship. The image of Mary being in a wheelchair, in the pouring rain, with a portable oxygen tank, coming to yet another church service, witnesses to the epistle of St. Paul to the Romans (8:38-39) that we read in our churches on the feast days of the holy martyrs: "I am*

*persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God". There were times when Mary had to be strictly told by the priest not to come to church, because of possible harm to her health from inclement weather. One thinks of Anna the Prophetess (Luke 2:36-38) "a widow, almost 84 years old, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day."*

*Mary was like her patron saint, St. Mary Magdalen, who while it was still dark, set out to the tomb, who wanted to be with the one she loved, our Lord Jesus – that Mary whose desire it was to minister to her Lord in life and in death, - that same Mary who brought the sweet spice of godliness, as the worthy ointment.*

*Those who knew our Mary also knew of her love for the Holy Myrrh-bearing Women - those honorable ladies who sought to serve the Master. Just like Martha, the sister of Lazarus, our Mary was "active", serving the church by baking, cooking for parishioners, cleaning the temple, parish administration, translating 30 years of metrical records into English, visiting the sick and elderly, securing rides for them to church. What parish in New Jersey did she not visit? What priest did she not know? Her life was one of active service to God and man, without reservation, presumption or pretention, oblivious to any darkening of intentions, that might have been prompted by the evil one. Mary never retired from her life in Christ, even in waning health and in dying. In the final months of her life on earth, filled with physical weakness and suffering, Mary would say, "Father, there must be something you need sewn, bring it to me, please."*

*Our Mary was also just like Mary, the sister of Martha. Like her, our Mary had chosen the better part, not being burdened with what passes away, but attentive to the immortal Word of God. Our Mary grew in the stature of Christ. She desired and learned new things about our Faith all the time. She never thought that she knew enough. She was humble and wise in*

**learning. Witnessing in her lifetime the transformation and growth of our parish and of our entire Church in North America, from scattered immigrant communities into a local indigenous Orthodox Church in America, Mary stayed the course of our Faith, discerning what was good and useful for the our parish, the whole Church and for salvation. Mary served 13 different parish rectors in her lifetime. She served them with honor, respect and devotion. Mary was unique because she was well established in genuine Orthodox piety, belief and worship and not influenced by the spiritual nominalism and secularism of our time.**

**These words about Mary are not to praise her, for crowns of glory are granted only in the age to come by our Savior, who alone grants them. They are our thanks to God, for having blessed us with Mary. Her life has truly enriched the lives of those who knew her. We together with all the pastors and faithful of Ss. Peter & Paul Parish who have passed into life eternal offer thanks to God for our Mary.**

**She lived her life according to “the rule of faith”. For believers this is an ordinary thing to do, because this is what Gods asks of us. She preserved the integrity of her white baptismal garment and adorned it with a righteous life. This is her legacy to us. In season and out of season; in youth and old age; in health and sickness; in blessing and tragedy; in all things Mary was with the Lord and the Lord was with her. God was truly her Father and the Church her Mother.**

**That Mary lived among us bears witnesses to the truth that not only are there still such people as Mary in the world, but that there always will be, because what she became in her life is God’s work of salvation.**

**Glory to God for the gift of Mary in our lives! Glory to God that we are provided with a radiant example of Christian living! Glory to God for all things!**

**Forgive us and remember us Tata Mary as we forgive and will remember you. Memory Eternal!**