

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

BULLETIN OF DECEMBER 14, 2014

SUNDAY/DECEMBER 14

Holy Forefathers Sunday

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

11:20a.m. Christmas Cookie Walk

5:30p.m. Vigil at St. Gregory Palamas Church in Glen Gardner with Bp. Michael and deanery clergy (**St. Hilarion of Moscow – Dec. 15**)

MONDAY/DECEMBER 15

St. Hilarion of Moscow

10:00a.m. Divine Liturgy with Bishop Michael and deanery clergy at St. Gregory Palamas Church in Glen Gardner

TUESDAY/DECEMBER 16

7:00p.m. Vespers and anointing with oil from tomb of **St. Dionysius of Zakynthos**; Confession

WEDNESDAY/DECEMBER 17

St. Dionysius of Zakynthos

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

FRIDAY/DECEMBER 19

7:00p.m. Compline; Confession

SATURDAY/DECEMBER 20

Pre-Feast of Nativity

9:30a.m. Akathist; Confession

3:00p.m. Confessions

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confession

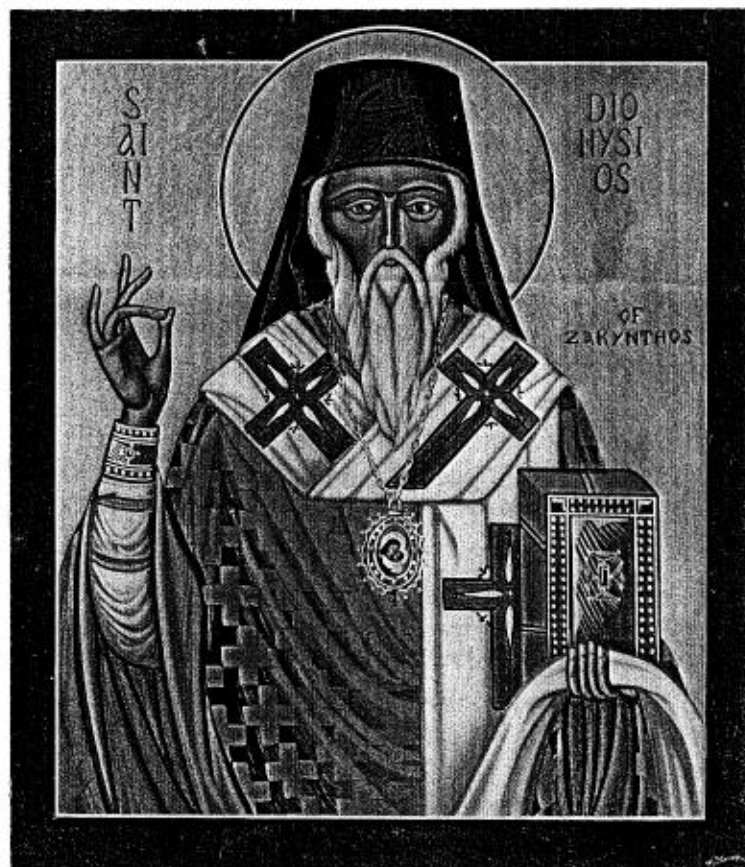
SUNDAY/DECEMBER 21

SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY

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

Coffee Hour; Church School

5:30p.m. Compline; Confession



Offerings Week of December 14

Olive Oil: in memory of Michael, Rosalia, Justina Anastasia and Anna; in memory of Vaschen and Emilia; for the health of Helen.

Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Dec. 16, 1933 Vladimir Shultz
Dec. 16, 1993 Ann Warin
Dec. 18, 1980 Joseph Pituck
Dec. 20, 1962 Michael Popko
Dec. 20, 1980 Anna Martin

Coffee Hour Hosts

Dec. 14 Mantzafos, Sokol, Arpastean & Nasledyesheva
Dec. 21 Sarchisian, Dunaenko & Wypych
Dec. 28 Peterson, Bakaletz, Mattei

Usher Schedule

Dec. 14 Timothy G. & Jerome S.
Dec. 21 Dennis F. & Charles D.
Dec. 28 Edward S., Adrian M., & Kahka K.

2015 Parish Wall Calendars

The calendars are on a table in the back of the church. Please, only 1 calendar per household.

Names Day Greetings

Many Blessed Years!

Holy Ancestors/2nd Sunday Before Nativity:
Sarah Oliver, Sarah Fedechko, Rachael Oliver,
Rebecca Oliver

2015 Home Blessing Season

The Blessing of Homes will be from January 7th thru February 20th. If you wish to have your home blessed please arrange this with Father James.

2015 Schedule of Services & Events

Our Parish website has posted the full anticipated schedule of services and events for the first six months of 2015. Please consult it when planning your own calendar.

Thanks to Our Cleaners!

We had two Saturday, General Church Clean-Up days. Thanks to all who participated and gave of their time.

The Holy Nativity Lent of 40 Days

- Began on November 15th and ends after the Divine Liturgy on December 25th.
- Your Parish Wall Calendar indicates days when the fasting is lessened by usage of fish, wine or oil. Otherwise a fast is observed from meat, dairy and fish.
- The discipline for receiving Holy Communion on the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord, December 25th, requires a **recent Confession** in the time period of November or December before December 25th.

Dec. 14/Sun	Fish, wine & oil
Dec. 15/Mon	
Dec. 16/Tue	Wine & oil
Dec. 17/Wed	
Dec. 18/Thur	Wine & oil
Dec. 19/Fri	
Dec. 20/Sat	Wine & oil
Dec. 21/Sun	Wine & oil

Some Increase Adjustments beginning in 2015

The Parish Council being mindful of the increases in purchasing costs of candles, wine, flowers and olive oil had determined new 2015 prices. Small Candle (\$3), large candle (\$4), Olive Oil (\$7) Wine (\$15) and flowers (\$25).

Winter Weather Conditions

Due to weather it may be necessary to make changes in the parish schedule of services, meetings, events, etc. Necessitated changes will be posted at least 1 hour prior to what time had been scheduled. Notifications will be found on 1) the Parish Email (subscribe on the parish website); 2) on the Parish Website Calendar; 3) on Face Book: "Friends of Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church." If you are not into "social media," please arrange with a parishioner who is, so that they can alert you.

The Parish Library Is Open Sundays

A wonderful selection of reading material is available. Spiritual Reading enriches prayer and prayer illumines our spiritual reading. Both the mind and heart are benefited. Read. Study.

SOME MIRACLES OF ST. DIONYSIUS OF ZAKYNTHOS AFTER HIS REPOSE IN THE YEAR 1622

The Saint Becomes Patron of Zakynthos

In the war of 1716 between the Turks and the Venetians, the Turkish admiral Hotza Pasha threatened to destroy Zakynthos if it did not submit to the Sultan. The Turks, however, suffered a defeat and began to withdraw. In the course of their retreat, a squadron of a hundred ships came to the Strofades Monastery [where the relics of St. Dionysios were kept prior to their transfer to Zakynthos] to rob it of the treasures which the monks, meanwhile, had hidden in a cave, together with the body of the Saint. The treasures were stolen, but the body of the Saint was left alone - with the exception of his hands, which were divided up into four parts by four Christian members of the crew. Their leader, who had witnessed the scene, took the pieces of the hands from the Christians, since he thought that they might have some value. In fact, he sold them to the Bishop of Chios, Agathangelos, and the monk Akakios. The left is preserved today in the Panachrantos Monastery of Andros. The monks who tried to resist the pillaging of the treasures were put to death by the Turks and their bodies burned.

After the looting, five monks took the body of the Saint and brought it to Zakynthos on 22 August 1717. Subsequently, the Community of Zakynthos proclaimed St. Dionysios patron of the island, in the place of St. John the Baptist. It also designated August 22 as the anniversary of the translation of the relics of the Saint. The procession which takes place today was established as a custom later, in 1901, when Dionysios Plessas was Archbishop of Zakynthos.

The Miracle of the Three Shipwrecked Sailors

Three of the sailors from a ship which had sunk called upon the Saint to save them. Whereupon the Saint appeared to them, walking on the raging waves and calming them. He led them safely to the shore and they, soaked to the skin as they were, went straight to the church to thank him. Unfortunately, the parish priest was absent and they were not able to enter to pay their devotions to the remains of the Saint. Then a creak was heard and the coffin opened of its own accord. The sailors knelt and paid their devotions to the sacred relics. Immediately afterwards the coffin closed again. The three sailors and those who had witnessed this event were untiring in proclaiming the miracle which they had seen.

The Resurrection of the Child

For ten whole years a family in the Peloponnese were unable to have children. They begged the Saint, with tears, to grant them the blessing of a child, promising him that the child would be baptized in his church on Zakynthos. Thus it came about that the wife, after the Saint had appeared to her in a dream, gave birth to a delightful baby boy. Five months later, the happy relatives and their relatives took the child to Zakynthos, to be baptized in fulfillment of their promise. Alas, on the way the child fell sick and, three miles from Zakynthos, died. The parents, inconsolable, after the ship had anchored, took the child, weeping, to the church, to offer him to the Saint, even though dead. When they arrived at the church, they put the body down near the shrine and prayed to the Saint, dedicating the child to him, even though dead. Then it was that the miracle occurred. The child started to cry. In their delight, the parents and relatives took their child, glorifying God and giving thanks to the Saint. A little later, in an atmosphere of intense devotion, the baptism took place. The child was baptized Dionysios and throughout his life he would annually attend the festival of the Saint, in thanksgiving for the great benefit accorded to him.

The Saint and the Heterodox

On 17 December 1820, as in every year, the procession with the sacred relics of the Saint took place on the island of Zakynthos. The next day the non-Orthodox of the island had planned the unveiling of a statue of the hated British Commissioner Thomas Maitland in All Saints Square. In the morning it started to snow and hail heavily. The event was called off, the non-Orthodox failed to congregate, and the Orthodox returned thanks to the Saint for saving the island once more.

The sacred relics were transferred to the Church of the Vision of the Virgin and the Orthodox hastened there to offer thanks and prayers to their patron. Among those who attended were the representative of Britain, Colonel Ross, and a British admiral. On their arrival, they gave orders that the church should be emptied and that only the church wardens should remain inside with the two of them. A little later, the church wardens saw the Colonel kneeling at the feet of the Saint, making him an offering, in deep devotion, of the gold medallion which the inhabitants of Lefkada had presented to him for the benefits which they had received from him and for the sound administration of their island. The medallion may still be seen.

The Blind and Sick Katerina Recovers

In the year 1841, Eustratios Iatrides, from Sparta, saw no hope for his daughter, who was blind as the result of a serious illness. Every day her condition grew worse and death seemed that it would not be long delayed. On December 17 the father wrapped his sick and blind daughter in a sheet and took her to the path which the procession of the Saint would follow. He then knelt and prayed fervently to the Saint for the recovery of his child. After the procession, he picked her up again and took her back home, where she remained bedridden. It was when he placed her on the bed and unwrapped her from the sheet that the miracle occurred. The blind and hunchbacked little girl recovered her sight and rapidly recovered her health.

The Saint Appears to the Abbot

At one period the monk Daniel was Abbot of the Monastery of St. Dionysios. He was a good and devout man, conscientious in the execution of his duties. He was, however, troubled by doubts about the sanctity of St. Dionysios.

"Is Dionysios, to whom so much honor is paid," he asked himself, "really in the company of the saints in heaven or not?"

One night he had a dream in which he saw the sacristan seeking his blessing to ring the bell for Matins. In a little while he awoke and believed that he really had given his permission for the monks to be summoned to Matins. He got up quickly, dressed, and went down to the church. Entering, he saw the Saint standing between two white-clad priests and two deacons. The Saint was resting his hands on their shoulders while they were robing him in his episcopal vestments. Then one of the priests addressed the Abbot, saying:

"Are you convinced now, or do you still doubt?"

The Abbot was deeply troubled by the vision and left the church in fear. Immediately afterwards, however, he repented of his hasty action and wished to look again to see if what he had seen was real. This time, going in through the door, he saw the Saint moving unaided and climbing back into his coffin.

Filled with awe, the Abbot returned to his cell, summoned the fathers of the Monastery and narrated these events to them. They all with one accord glorified God. From that day on the Abbot became a fervent preacher of the sanctity and miracles of St. Dionysios.

Ioannis Bophardios is Cured

For years Ioannis Bophardios had not been able to move. Occasionally, so that he could take a step or two, he would be supported by others and had to make use of crutches. On one occasion he managed with the help of his crutches, to go from the suburb of Pochali, where he lived, to church on the Saint's feast day. Unfortunately, in the evening he found himself unable to return and had to ask the monks if he could stay there for the night. Throughout the night he prayed to the Saint for a cure, until morning came and he heard the monks knocking at the door, to be admitted to celebrate the Divine Liturgy. He could not get up to open the door, but he heard a strange voice coming from the coffin saying to him:

"Rise and open."

Ioannis made an effort and, little by little, reached the door and opened it. That morning, after the end of the Liturgy, he decided to return to Pochali. He set out and, as he went along, he increasingly found that he could walk unaided. In a few days he made a complete recovery.

The Epileptic Sea Captain Recovers

The sea captain Nicholas Dirlis was on his way to Zakynthos in a small boat when he was seized with a fit of epilepsy. As soon as he caught sight of the church where the relics of the Saint are preserved, he called upon him to make him well. He was indeed cured and from that day forward never suffered from epilepsy again.

The English Sea Captain

An English vessel had anchored in the Bay of Keri, off the coast of Zakynthos, since there was a very high sea and it was not able to leave. The captain left the ship and saw the quarantine officer Nicholas Koutsoukalis kneeling in prayer. He questioned him and discovered that he was praying to the Saint.

"Can I too pray to him for our safety?" asked the English captain.

"Certainly", replied Koutsoukalis.

The English captain then knelt, took off his cap and called upon St. Dionysios to calm the sea. His prayer was answered and the ship was able to reach Zakynthos safely. Once there the captain went to the church and dedicated a silver lamp to St. Dionysios.

The Blind Cobbler Recovers His Sight

The Zakynthos cobbler Panagiotis Kalantzopoulos, a good but poor father of a family, went completely blind. He appealed to the Saint from the depths of his heart and the Saint heard his prayer and appeared to him in a dream on December 14.

"Be of good heart, my child", St. Dionysios said to him, "in three days you will be cured."

On December 17, the Saint's feast day, and at the very moment when the sacred relics were being carried past his house and he was kneeling in prayer, the blind man recovered his sight and gave glory to God and thanks to St. Dionysios, who had made him well.

The Sacristan and the Fire

In the year 1849 the sacristan Hilarion Garpasis dreamt of the Saint three times in the same night. Then the fourth time, since he did not wake up, the Saint pulled at him and said "Get up".

The sacristan awoke, got dressed quickly, and went down to the church. As soon as he entered he saw that the poor box had caught fire from a lamp which he had left lit. He put out the fire, gave thanks to the Saint, and returned home.