

## 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"

**BULLETIN OF February 15, 2015**

**1915 – 2015 CELEBRATING OUR 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

### SUNDAY/FEBRUARY 15

#### Meat-Fare Sunday

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy  
Church School and Teen Class

### MONDAY/FEBRUARY 16

#### Cheese-Fare Monday

With this day we abstain from all meats  
until Holy Pascha, April 12

### SATURDAY/FEBRUARY 21

9:30a.m. Akathist to Our Lord; Confessions  
5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

### SUNDAY/FEBRUARY 22

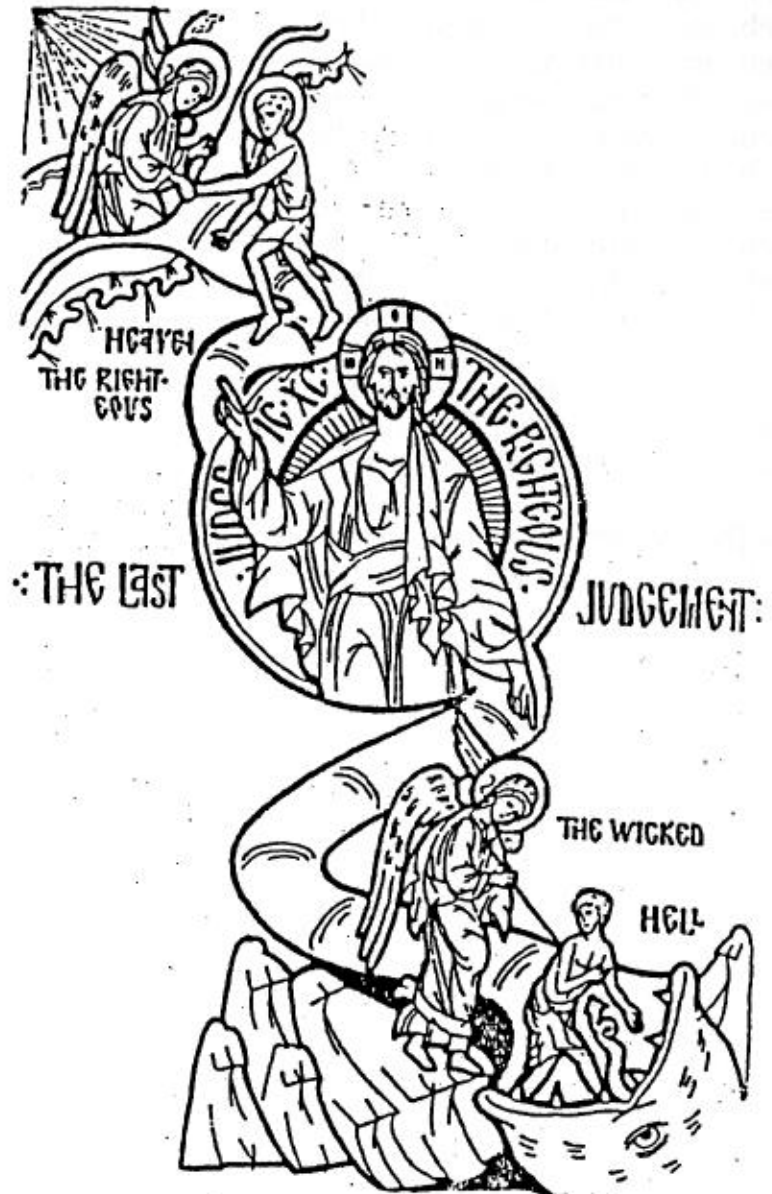
#### Cheese-Fare Sunday

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy  
Coffee Hour  
12:00p.m. Vespers Rite of Forgiveness  
(*First Lenten Service*)

### MONDAY/FEBRUARY 23

#### Pure Monday

With this day we abstain from all dairy  
products until Holy Pascha, April 12  
First of the 40 Days of the Great Lent  
7:00p.m. Canon of St. Andrew of Crete



### **Offerings Week of February 15**

Olive Oil: in memory of Michael, Rosalia, Justina Anastasia, Anna; in memory of Vaschen and Emilia; for the health and protection of John and Vera; for the health of Wendy; for a safe journey.

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

Feb. 15, 1929 Moses Korenchik  
Feb. 15, 1998 Helen Russo  
Feb. 15, 1999 Zollie Pituch  
Feb. 16, 1928 Athanasius Barna  
Feb. 16, 1954 Abraham Yashuk  
Feb. 17, 2003 Anna Peschek  
Feb. 18, 1952 Gregory Holovach  
Feb. 18, 1963 Magdalena Padla  
Feb. 18, 1993 Josephine Fedchin  
Feb. 19, 1963 Gregory Klimchuk  
Feb. 20, 1918 Jacob Shevchuk  
Feb. 20, 1953 Theodosia Zuboff  
Feb. 20, 1981 Anna Lisowski  
Feb. 21, 1939 John Cherkan  
Feb. 21, 1963 Steven Piscadlo  
Feb. 21, 1976 Anna Sharshon  
Feb. 21, 2011 Ludmila Tjaden

### **Coffee Hour Hosts**

Feb. 15 Kita, Nevitt, Keller & Turri  
Feb. 22 (meat fast) Inga, Eka, Marina & Nona  
Mar. 01 (fast) Motoviloff, Torrisi, Kachek & Stone

### **Usher Schedule**

Feb. 15 Dennis F. & Charles D.  
Feb. 22 Edward S., Adrian M. & Kahka K.  
Mar. 01 Timothy S. & Peter B.

### **Winter Weather Conditions**

Due to weather it may be necessary to make changes in the parish schedule of services, meetings and events. Changes are posted on website, Face Book and the Parish E-Mail. Please share any changes with other parishioners who may not be engaged in these communication forms.

### **Entrance Into Great Lent**

The 40 Day Great and Holy Fast begins Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The first and important service is the Vespers and Rite of Forgiveness, to be held at 12:00p.m. Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> (after the Coffee

Hour). Hopefully all of our parishioners will participate in this holy service.

### **Sunday of Orthodoxy – March 1**

The Vespers for this Sunday will be held at our church at 2:00p.m. At 1:00p.m. a short prayer service will be held at St. Grigol Georgian Church on So. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue with a procession to Holy Ghost Church on So. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. for a short prayer service and procession to our Church. After the Vespers a reception will be held at our Parish Hall, hosted by Ss. Peter & Paul Parishioners. Please reserve the date and join in the processions and visitations to our Manville churches and help out in food preparations. The Vespers will be sung by our choir.

### **IOCC – Souper Bowl of Caring**

The Lord bless your offerings for our local charity, *Great Expectations*. The amount of \$500 has been sent to them.

### **Our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend**

October 3 and 4 will be our celebration. Please mark your calendars to reserve the dates.

### **Boiled Wheat (Kolyva) for Lenten Services**

Boiled wheat is sought for the following dates:  
Feb. 27, Fri. 6:30p.m. Pre-sanctified Liturgy & Miracle of St. Theodore the Tyro  
Mar. 7, 14, & 21 9:30a.m. for the Memorial Saturday Commemorations of the Departed.  
If you wish to provide for a particular date, please let Fr. James know in advance.

### **2015 Equal Sacrifice Model is in Effect**

Each of our 70 parishioners (100%) is asked to make an extra offering over the amount of your usual offering of \$2.87 to \$8.62 per week to cover this year's deficit. 6 of the 52 weeks have already gone by. The Lord bless your sacrifice and generosity!

### **Information, requests, suggestions etc.**

Oftentimes at Coffee Hour, people approach and ask or tell something to the priest. With all the multi-conversations taking place, (and as Father James retention is so-so), if you can make your remark on paper it would be appreciated.

## FROM THE DIARY OF A RUSSIAN PRIEST



Life is a precious and unique gift, and we squander it foolishly and carelessly, forgetful of its brevity. Either we look back with yearning on the past or else we live in the expectation of the

future in which, it seems to us, life will be better; whereas the present – that is, our life as it actually is – is wasted on these fruitless dreams and regrets.

†

Our lack of compassion, hardness of heart, and mercilessness towards others from an impenetrable curtain between ourselves and God. It is as if we had covered a plant with a black hood, and then complained because it died from lack of sunlight.

†

Sin lies in yielding to evil thoughts, not in having them. We are never free from these thoughts, for such is our nature, obscured by sin; even the saints had evil thoughts. Our voluntary yielding to evil thoughts or our struggle against them – herein lies our defeat or our victory.

*Fr. Alexander Elchaninov, one of the most gifted priests in the Russian emigration, died from a tragic illness in 1934 at the age of fifty-three.*

## THE SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT

*By Bishop Kallistos Ware*

Gospel reading: Matthew 25:31-46

The past two Sundays spoke to us of God's patience and limitless compassion, of His readiness to accept every sinner who returns to Him. On this third Sunday, we are powerfully reminded of a complementary truth: no one is so patient and so merciful as God, but even He does not forgive those who do not repent. The God of love is also a God of righteousness, and when Christ comes again in glory, He will come as our judge. "Behold the goodness and severity of God" (Romans 11:22). Such is the message of Lent to each of us: turn back while there is still time, repent before the End comes. In the words of the Great Canon:

The end draws near, my soul, the end draws near;  
Yet you do not care or make ready.  
The time grows short, rise up: the Judge is at the door.  
The days of our life pass swiftly, as a dream, as a flower.

This Sunday sets before us the "eschatological" dimension of Lent: the Great Fast is a preparation for the Second Coming of the Savior, for the eternal Passover in the Age to Come. (This is a theme that will be taken up in the first three days of Holy Week.) Nor is the judgment merely in the future. Here and now, each day and each hour, in hardening our hearts towards others and in failing to respond to the opportunities we are given to help them, we are already passing judgment on ourselves.



## ESTABLISHING GOOD HABITS

It is heartening when we in the 21st century find that contemporary experts discover, using scientific methods, what the Church has known and practiced all along. One such recent discovery is that it takes about six weeks, or forty days, to make a certain practice into a habit. The period of forty days has since Old Testament times been that amount of time necessary to prepare for something significant or purge oneself of something negative. Today, the Church invites us to a forty-day fast twice a year: once before the Nativity of our Lord and the other before our Lord's Passion and Resurrection.

Keep in mind, that when we speak of habits, we may either mean something good or something

bad. In the case of the Christian life, we are often speaking of replacing bad habits with good ones. This process is called repentance, since the bad or sinful habits lead to death and away from God, whereas the good habits or virtues lead to God and eternal life.

We often emphasize changing our ways at the beginning of the New Year or during one of the prolonged fast periods of the Church, but any time is a good time to begin forming a good habit. In fact, the best time to root out the bad and institute the good is always in the present moment. "Behold, now is the acceptable time, behold now is the day of salvation." (2 Cor. 6:2)

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### **step 1: realize the problem**

Motivation is an essential element for a person to be successful at instituting a new and virtuous habit. We must realize that not all is right in our lives; something needs to change. Once we realize what that something is then we become increasingly sensitive to it, until we become motivated enough to want to do something positive about it. This is the moment when we are most ripe for change. For example, the Prodigal Son was wasting away his life in a foreign land with his father's money, thinking everything was great. It wasn't until life got ugly and uncomfortable that this lost son began to realize something was wrong. He looked around him, seeing the mud, the husks and the swine, and he began to remember his former life with his family. His nakedness, hunger and loneliness in contrast to his former life of bliss and fulfillment brought him to his senses. He had a moment of realization that he needed to change, to get up out of the mud and return to his father with a humble, contrite and repentant heart. This is the first step toward developing a good habit.

### **step 2: firmly desire change**

The second step is to realize that change does not happen without struggle and effort. Sometimes that struggle is the adjustment of our schedule or lifestyle to incorporate whatever habit we are trying to establish. We should also realize that there are forces working against our efforts towards the good and virtuous. The holy Fathers of the Church have typically listed three such negative forces. First, we must contend against our own sinful inclinations and passions, our weaknesses of the flesh and our mortality. Secondly, we must be aware of the Evil One and his demons, who ceaselessly wage spiritual war against us and our noble purposes. Finally, we must remember that we live in a fallen world whose values oppose those of God. To forget any of these aspects of the spiritual war and not be willing and ready to struggle against them with the help of God is to not be serious in our goal of establishing a good habit.

Continually keeping our motivation fresh in our minds can help us overcome the forces against us. For example, if the habit we are trying to form is to be more diligent in saying our daily prayers, perhaps a helpful thought is to remember how beneficial these prayers are in keeping us in communication with God. As Elder Paisios of the Holy Mountain put it, it is vital for the spiritual soldier to

remain in communication with his "base." If we firmly keep our goal before us, it will help us to remain committed to our purpose.

A third principle to keep in mind in establishing a good and virtuous habit is that much force of will and effort will be necessary, especially at the beginning. This good beginning is vital to sustain our effort. St. John of Sinai, the author of *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, taught: To lag in the fight at the very outset of the struggle and thereby to furnish a token of our coming slaughter is a very hateful and dangerous thing. A firm beginning will certainly be useful for us when we later grow slack. A soul that is strong at first, but then relaxes, is spurred on by the memory of its former zeal. And in this way new wings are often obtained.

It is important to remember that we may be either fighting against momentum in the wrong direction or are faced with no momentum at all, but inertia. Either way, physics provides the principle that teaches us that much force and energy are required to move our hearts, minds and bodies in the right direction.

### **step 3: act with resolve**

Finally, the last step is to put our good intentions into action. This should go without saying, but unfortunately it is where we most often fall short. We need to actually begin the process of repentance and establish whatever virtue or good practice we are trying to make into a habit. Most people have good intentions, but not all have active prayer lives, healthy bodies, organized finances or clean homes. The first three steps are important to understand and keep in mind during the struggle, but ultimately all is naught if we do not move from contemplation to action. Furthermore, it is vitally important to remember that an action not sustained profits us nothing. How many health clubs grow rich on people who take initial action and join their clubs, but do not sustain their use of their membership for longer than a couple of weeks.

### **remember: have realistic expectations and seek god's help**

There is no substitute for self-discipline when it comes to forming good habits. Having a realistic expectation of the resistance that we will face, will help us to set up the correct routine and stick with it. If we run with patience the race that is set before us, God will give us the strength and grace to continue.

*From an anonymous source.*