

## SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

### BULLETIN OF MAY 10, 2015

## CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

### 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF PASCHA/MAY 10

#### The Samaritan Woman

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

### SATURDAY/MAY 16

9:30a.m. Akathist to Risen Jesus; Confessions  
5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

### 6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF PASCHA/MAY 17

#### The Blind Man

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

### TUESDAY/MAY 19

7:00p.m. Paschal Matins

### WEDNESDAY/MAY 20

#### Leave-Taking of Pascha

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

### THURSDAY/MAY 21

#### ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

(40<sup>th</sup> Day of Pascha)

"One of the 12 Great Feasts"

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy  
7:00p.m. Vespers for Ss. Constantine &  
Helen (May 22 – transfer due to the  
Feast of the Ascension)



*And unite all of us to one another who become partakers of the one Bread and Cup in the communion of the Holy Spirit. Grant that none of us may partake of the holy Body and Blood of Thy Christ for judgment or condemnation. Instead, may we find mercy and grace with all the saints who through the ages have been well-pleasing to Thee: ancestors, fathers, patriarchs, prophets, apostles, preachers, evangelists, martyrs, confessors, teachers, and every righteous spirit made perfect in faith.*

### **Offerings Week of May 10**

**Olive Oil:** in memory of Michael, Rosalia, Justina Anastasia; in memory of Vaschen and Emilia; health of June and Stephanie (birthday).

**Wine:** protection and travel of Mariana & Stefan.

**Flowers:** for Barbra, Kyra, Larissa and all mothers of the Parish.

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

May 11, 1962 Olga Kluchnik  
May 11, 1999 Peter Grenther  
May 12, 1990 John Yalsh  
May 13, 1933 Maria Yaskovsky  
May 13, 1958 Jacob Popko  
May 14, 1933 Peter Chromoho  
May 14, 1953 Della Marchisin  
May 14, 1956 Pelagia Carko  
May 14, 1965 Metropolitan Leonty  
May 15, 1925 Maria Barna  
May 15, 2005 Olga Shemansky  
May 16, 1953 Michael Hobora  
May 16, 1962 Theodore Janushenko

### **Coffee Hour Hosts**

May 10 Wypych, Chirnoaga, Moldoveanu & Nemes  
May 17 Peterson, Bakaletz, Mattei & Erkman  
May 24 Kita, Nevitt, Keller & Turri

### **Usher Schedule**

May 10 Jerome S. & Adrian M.  
May 17 Dennis F. & Peter B.  
May 24 Edward S. & Kahka K.

### **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. This is based on 12 months, with 2 months already over. The Lord bless your sacrifice and generosity! If absent, please mail your offerings in.

### **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Ads**

Presently are being solicited. Forms (pink sheets) are on the vestibule table as well as posted on the Bulletin Board in the Hall. Please return by **May 31<sup>st</sup>**.

### **The Cemetery Care Appeal – May Month**

Every May Month we make an appeal for cemetery care. This appeal is of great importance for us to properly maintain the grounds. Thank you!

### **On the Receiving of the Holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ**

- You must be an Orthodox Christian;
- A recent Confession is in order, at least made in the time of this past Great Lent;
- Fasting from all foods and drinks from midnight;
- Medications may and ought to be taken and do not break the Fast;
- Pre-Communion Prayers on the day of or the evening before receiving;
- Participation at the Evening Service the day before;
- Being at peace with everyone;
- Free from any grievous sin;
- Not having been absent from Sunday church services for more than 3 weeks in a row – if absent, Confession is necessary to return to the cycle of regular Communion;
- Be sure the priest knows who you are “before” the Divine Liturgy.

### **The Memorial Service Held at the Cemetery will take place Sat. Morning not on Pentecost Sun. Afternoon**

The General Memorial Service at the Cemetery will be held on May 30<sup>th</sup> (Memorial Saturday for the Departed) at 9:30a.m. Please pass this information along. There will be no Pentecost Sunday afternoon service at the cemetery.

### **Viewing of the New “Antimension”**

Presently through the last Sunday of this month you may view this holy object on the table by the Icon, “Joy of All That Sorrow. An explanation sheet (yellow) is in the vestibule for a detailed explanation of what the “Antimension” is.

### **Congratulations on Mother's Day!**

To all Mothers, Grandmothers, Godmothers, and Mother's in Law – Many Blessed Years!

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## LIVING AS A CHRISTIAN

As Christians we are called to live in the light of the great gifts we have received. We enjoy the gift of life from the hand of God our Creator and the gift of eternal life in Christ:

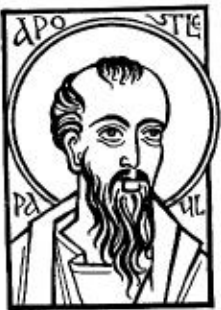
***“Out of nothing You brought us into being, and when we had fallen, You raised us up again. You have not ceased doing everything until You graciously gave us Your future Kingdom”***  
(Liturgy of St John Chrysostom).

**Three elements interact** at the heart of our Christian life: grace, faith, and works.

- **Grace:** The source and basis of our life in Christ is God’s gracious concern for us, the sheer gift of His love for mankind, which He gives to us unearned.
- **Faith** is our saying “yes,” our enabling God to grace us, our accepting of God’s gift, allowing Him to be generous to us.
- Our **good works** do not merit God’s love for us, or even earn more of it. They are our response in gratitude for what He does for us. Having been adopted into God’s family, we are responsible for managing what we have been given.

**Synergy is the interplay of these three elements:** God’s initiative for loving us, our acceptance in faith, and our responsible management through works. God does not force His love on us: He offers it. We must accept His love openly to receive it, and then care for it responsibly to keep it. No one of these elements without the other defines the Christian life. All three together produce the fullness of God’s life in us.

**God’s Free Gift:** God gifts us with His life despite our weaknesses and failings. Though spiritually dead, we have been raised in Christ and exalted in glory with Him:



***“God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved – and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”***

(Ephesians 2:4-7)

### **Our Active Response:**

- We **believe** that God is calling us to be *divinized* in Christ, by being united with Him through the Holy Mysteries.
- We **respond** in a “*public life*” of worship, fellowship and service in the Church and in a “*secret life*” of prayer, fasting and sharing in the depths of our hearts.
- All the while engaging in a “*spiritual warfare*”: the life of **repentance**.

***“For we are what He has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.”*** (Ephesians 2:10)

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**ABOUT BEING A PARISHIONER OF  
SS. PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH  
MANVILLE, NEW JERSEY**

Following the Tradition of the Church, the purpose of membership in the Parish is to seek the knowledge of God and union with Him through Jesus Christ by the grace of the Holy Spirit, and to express that unity with God in Christ in all religious, moral, family and social activities. Generally, this expression consists of an enlightened obedience to the teachings of the Orthodox Faith, and is manifested in regular attendance at the divine services of the Parish, in frequent reception of the Holy Gifts of the Body and Blood of Christ, in care for the Parish property and buildings, in regular contributions in fulfillment of the financial commitment, and in doing all that is possible to promote the Christian spirit of love, unity and brotherly concern among members of the parish and witnessing to our Faith commitment to those outside the Parish.

A church member must:

- a. Have been sacramentally received into the Orthodox Church and consciously uphold and profess the Orthodox Faith and Moral Teachings;
- b. Be eighteen years of age or older;
- c. Be a regular communicant, that is, participant in the Holy Mysteries of Confession and Communion;
- d. Fulfill the stewardship obligations established by the Parish:
  1. *Treasure*: All members of the Parish are urged to make a commitment to the Parish, using the envelope system, rendering back to the Lord a first portion of what God has entrusted to us.
  2. *Time*: All members of the Parish are urged to set aside the first portion of their time for worship, fellowship, charitable service, and education;
  3. *Talent*: All members of the Parish are urged to offer their talents in service to the Church, remembering that each member of the Body of Christ has been entrusted with gifts of the Holy Spirit for the ministry of the Gospel (1 Corinthians 12).
- e. Must be officially registered by the parish priest to be part of the Parish Census.

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THREE KINDS OF BELIEVING....

- 1) To believe God
- 2) To believe that God is
- 3) To believe in God

Truly it is not all the same when it comes to the matter of belief. The first kind of belief is to believe that things that God speaks are true. Many, even the wicked, are able to believe that the things God speaks are true; they believe that they are true and do not wish to make them their own because they are too lazy to do anything about them. The second kind of belief is to believe that God exists. Even the demons are able to believe however, that He is God. (James 2:19). The demons even believe that Jesus is the Son of God (Luke 4:41). The third kind of belief is to rightly believe in God and are Christians not only in name but also in action and way of life. Without love faith is empty; with love it is the faith of a Christian, without love the faith of a demon.

- Venerable Bede (+735)

BE SLOW TO ANGER...

The maturity of wisdom is only acquired with a quiet mind. For it has been written, "Because anger abides in the bosom of a fool." (Wis. 7:10) He does not forbid the swiftness of anger in such a way that he approves its slowness, but he is rather advising that even at a time of agitation and quarreling we avoid letting anger creep in, or if by chance it does creep in that we restrain its violence behind the barrier of our mouth, and when the hour of crises has passed, we more freely cleanse it entirely from our hearts gradually. Or at least he has commanded us to be slow to anger that we might not change the calmness of our face into harshness for just any reason except for a definite one.

- Venerable Bede (+735)



ANGER AND CALMNESS...

If we perceive that those around us, particularly those who have been entrusted to us, are not otherwise able to be corrected, we may show towards them harshness of word or even of a more severe judgment, provided that the condition of our mind remain calm, as far as human nature allows. I believe that Phinehas, Samuel, Elias and Peter, were slow to anger (Nb. 25:6-8; 1 Sam. 13:7-14; 2 Kings 1:3-4 & Jn 18:10), and yet they destroyed sinners by the sword or by a word. But even Moses, though he was a very mild man, went forth from Pharaoh, whom he saw was incorrigible, exceedingly angry (Ex. 11:8), after having threatened him with a punishment that he also eventually brought down on him.

- Venerable Bede (+735)

LITTLE CHILDREN, LET US LOVE NOT IN WORD OR WITH TONGUE BUT IN DEED AND TRUTH.

1 John 3:18

To love in deed, namely that when our brother or sister are naked and need daily food we may give them the things necessary for their bodies; likewise when we behold them in need of spiritual gifts we may provide for their necessity as far as we can; in truth, however, that we may bestow these benefits on them with a simple intention and not for the sake of human praise, not through vainglory, not to the prejudice of others who, though endowed with greater means, do not do anything of this sort. For the purity of truth cannot dwell in any mind tainted like this with flaws, although it appears to perform the deeds of love for its neighbours.

The truth is more safely heard than preached.

The fire of sin is extinguished as if by the water of mercy.

The harmful disease of sadness of heart is driven away by the frequent sweetness of singing the psalms.

- Venerable Bede (+735)

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## LIVING IN THE BODY

*Going to church* for worship is one element in living as a Christian. *Being church* means making an active contribution to the Church's life, being a vital organ in a living body.

The first step in being church is being connected to others in our parish by:

- **Cultivating community** in the "fellowship of the Holy Spirit." Get to know one another in a more than casual way.
- **Treating others as brothers and sisters in the family** of God in Christ. Give others the time and attention we would give to our blood relatives.
- "Above all, **clothing yourselves with love**, which binds everything together in perfect harmony" (Colossians 3:14).



We nurture the relationships in the parish or the eparchy when we:

- ✘ **Share our lives** – Authentic fellowship calls for more than coffee-hour courtesies. Grow to the stage when you can share your troubles as well.
  - ✘ **Learn together** - Take part in adult formation, retreats, or workshops to encourage others as well as to improve our own spiritual life.
  - ✘ **Work together** - Join in parish projects or committees to support the work of others as well as to make our own contribution. "*So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith*" (Galatians 6:10).
  - ✘ **Encourage each other** – by supporting their efforts, praying for their concerns and building them up in the eyes of others. "*Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor*" (Romans 12:10).
  - ✘ **Bear one another's burdens** – Be accepting of the weaker community members. There is no "perfect" church: every parish is made up of "saints" who are sinners, each with their own weaknesses and infirmities. "*Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ*" (Galatians 6:2).
  - ✘ **Admonish one another** – Do not shrink from confronting "family members" who are hurting others by promoting conflicts, pettiness, or legalism. "*My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted*" (Galatians 6:1).
  - ✘ **Protect the unity of the church** – by avoiding gossip or cliques, and speaking ill of others.
  - ✘ **Restore broken relationships** – when they occur by admitting our faults. No project or program is worth harming the family's inner life. "*If anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive*" (Colossians 3:13).
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