

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

BULLETIN OF NOVEMBER 15, 2015



SUNDAY/NOVEMBER 15

24th Sunday After Pentecost

St. Paisios of Moldavia

Beginning of the 40 Day Nativity Lent

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

Coffee Hour; Church School and Teen Class

MONDAY/NOVEMBER 16

6:30p.m. Compline

7-8:30p.m. Adult Study Class: "The 40 Day Fast – What, Why and How"

WEDNESDAY/NOVEMBER 18

7:00p.m. 100th and 101st Anniversary Review & Preparation

Join us in continuing our celebration and work!

THURSDAY/NOVEMBER 19

7:00p.m. Parish Council Meeting

FRIDAY/NOVEMBER 20

7:00p.m. Vigil; Confessions

SATURDAY/NOVEMBER 21

Entrance of the Theotokos Into the Temple

(One of the "12 Great Feasts of the Year")

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

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

SUNDAY/NOVEMBER 22

25th Sunday After Pentecost

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

Coffee Hour; Church School

Offerings Week of November 15

Olive Oil: in memory of Michael, John, Rosalia, and Anastasia; for the health of Christopher; in memory of Emilia; for the health of Serek (birthday); for the health of Mark & Libbe (anniversary).

Wine: in memory of Vaschen; in memory of Wendy (40th day).

Flowers: in memory of Richard and Ralph; for the health of Sarah (birthday).

The Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Nov. 16, 1950 Francis Romanofsky
Nov. 16, 1965 Anastasia Kuzmiak
Nov. 16, 1977 Michael Putyrsk
Nov. 16, 1009 Mary Romanak
Nov. 17, 1951 Vladimir Pasechnik
Nov. 17, 1977 Stanley Bozinta
Nov. 19, 1941 Mary Skwarla
Nov. 19, 1959 Andrew Panacek
Nov. 19, 1978 Mary Suseck
Nov. 19, 2007 Archbishop Peter
Nov. 19, 2007 Vera Somoluk
Nov. 20, 1977 Mary Kachorsky
Nov. 20, 2002 Raymond Bolash
Nov. 21, 1997 George Zvonchenko
Nov. 21, 2004 Ann Zeban

Coffee Hour Hosts

(Fasting Foods: Nov. 15 thru Dec. 24th)

Nov. 15 Kita, Nevitt, Keller & Turri
Nov. 22 Inga, Eka, Marina & Nona
Nov. 29 Motoviloff, Torrisi, Kachek & Stone

Usher Schedule

Nov. 15 Dennis F. & Peter B.
Nov. 22 Edward S. & Kahka K.
Nov. 29 Edward S. & Kahka K.

Counters

Nov. 15 Inga G. & Peter B.
Nov. 22 Ekaterini M. & Ciprian C.
Nov. 29 Lisa K. & Daniel T.

Names Day Greetings

St. Matthew/Nov. 16: Matthew Peterson, Matei Moldoveanu & Matthew Erzdze. Many Years!

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. The average increase for the last 8 months was a base of only \$1.61. This is far short of the need.

A Reminder About Prayers for Travelling

If you are travelling and wish a prayer for a safe journey, it is the custom to offer this prayer after the Divine Liturgy. When venerating the Cross, let Fr. James know you wish this prayer and wait at the Icon, "Joy of All That Sorrow." Once the Post-Communion Prayers are finished, this short prayer with the sprinkling of holy water takes place.

Food Pantry Basket During Nativity Lent

For the duration of Nativity Lent (Nov. 15 – Dec. 20) baskets will be in the church vestibule to collect staple food items for the local Food Pantry.

The 3 Growth Seeds for November Month

First, on each of the 5 Sundays make it a point to learn the name of a parishioner you do not know. Second, make a resolution to learn something from the Sunday Bulletin and share it in discussion with your spouse and children. Third, be sure to venerate an icon in your home with a kiss at least once a day.

Nativity Lent Fasting Norms

A fast is observed from meat, dairy, fish, wine and oil products. There are days permitting fish, wine and oil. These days are indicated on your Parish Wall Calendar, the November Printed Calendar and the Calendar on the Parish Website.

The Calendar

- Nov. 26/Thurs. – Thanksgiving Day and Akathist – "Glory to God For All Things."
- Dec. 06/Sun. – Feast of St. Nicholas with Festal Luncheon and Showing of Film, "100th Anniversary of Ss. Peter & Paul" (Film 1 hour and 20 minutes).
- Dec. 12/Sat. 10:30a.m. Church Cleaning
- Dec. 13/Sun. Christmas Cookie Walk



Why fast before the Nativity?

Question

I was wondering why we fast before Nativity. The Lenten fast seems more obvious. Also, from what foods do we normally fast from during the Nativity fast?

Answer

We fast before the Great Feast of the Nativity in order to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Our Lord's birth. As in the case of Great Lent, the Nativity Fast is one of preparation, during which we focus on the coming of the Savior by fasting, prayer, and almsgiving.

By fasting, we "shift our focus" from ourselves to others, spending less time worrying about what to eat, when to eat, how much to eat, and so on in order to use our time in increased prayer and caring for the poor. We learn through fasting that we can gain control over things which we sometimes allow to control us—and for many people, food is a controlling factor.

[We live in the only society in which an entire TV network is devoted to food!] While fasting from food, however, we are also challenged to fast from sin, from gossip, from jealousy, from anger, and from those other things which, while well within our control, we all too often allow to control us.

Just as we would refrain from eating a lot before going to an expensive restaurant for dinner—if we "ruin our appetite" we will enjoy the restaurant less—so too we fast before the Nativity in order to more fully feast and celebrate on the Nativity itself.

During the Nativity Fast, we are called upon to refrain from meat, dairy, fish, wine, and olive oil. At the same time, we are challenged, within this framework, to fast to the best of our ability, and to do so consistently.

If we must modify the extent to which we fast within this framework, it is of course possible, but in every instance our fasting should be consistent and regular, for Christ does not see fasting as an option, but as a "must."

In Matthew Christ says, "WHEN you fast, do not be like the hypocrites," not "IF you fast" or "IF YOU CHOOSE to fast."

Finally, it seems quite odd that in our society—a society in which people gladly and freely spend huge sums of money for diets, most of which recommend that one refrain from red meats and dairy products—fasting is not more widely embraced. How odd that a Jenny Craig consultant or diet guru or physician will tell us to refrain from eating meat or cheese or butter and we will gladly embrace—and pay large sums of money for—his or her advice, while when the Church offers the same advice [at "no cost"] we tend to balk, as if we were being asked to do the impossible.

FOR CONSIDERATION

From the Prologue of Ochrid by St. Nikolai Velimirovich

When a man clearly senses God's mercy toward him, he is startled, as from a dull and senseless dream, and becomes ashamed of his long blindness to God's unceasing compassion. In the time of Emperor Justinian, the chief imperial tax collector in Africa was a certain Peter, a very wealthy but very hard and merciless man. The beggars grumbled among themselves, that not one of them had ever received alms from Peter. Then, one of them bet that he would succeed in getting alms from Peter. He persistently begged alms of the miser until Peter, in a rage, hit him with a loaf of bread, since he had nothing else close at hand. Joyfully the beggar took the bread and fled. Immediately after this Peter became seriously ill and had this vision: He was being interrogated by demons in the other world. There was a scale, and on one side of it, the demons heaped Peter's sins, making that side extremely heavy. On the other side—which was empty—angels stood, sorrowing that they had not even one good deed in Peter's life to help balance the scale. One of them said: "We have nothing to place on the scale except one loaf of bread, with which he struck a beggar the day before yesterday."



The angels placed this one loaf of bread on the empty side of the scale, and that loaf of bread outweighed the other side of the scale, laden with all of Peter's sins. When the vision was over Peter said to himself: "Indeed, this was not an apparition but the living truth, for I saw all my sins from my youth. And when I can be helped so much by one loaf of bread that I threw at a beggar, how much help would I receive from many deeds of almsgiving, performed from the heart and with humility?" And from that time, Peter became the most compassionate man in his town. He distributed all of his possessions to the poor, and when he had finished distributing his possessions, he sold himself into slavery for thirty gold pieces and distributed even his own price as a slave to the poor as alms in the name of Christ. He was, thereafter, called Peter the Merciful.

DIVINE AND MEDICAL AID

A Counsel of the Elder Epiphanius of Athens (+1989)

"When we have a certain problem with our health, is it sufficient for us to call upon divine aid or can we take refuge in medical science as well?"

To this the Elder replied: "God accepts both. Give the physician his place, for the Lord created him, let him not leave you, for there is need of him. There is a time when success lies in the hands of physicians, for they too will pray to the Lord that he should grant them success in diagnosis and in healing, for the sake of preserving life... healing is from the Highest... the Lord created medicines from the earth, a wise man does not reject them."

"Taking the benefits offered by medical science does not preclude calling upon divine help. That is, the Christians, without rejecting medical aid, must pray that God enlighten the doctors to make the correct diagnosis, to proceed to the necessary tests and to determine the appropriate therapy. They should ask God to enlighten them to cooperate with the doctor, to strengthen them in patience so that they come out gaining profit of soul from their trial, and if it is His will and for the advantage of their soul, to deliver them from sickness."

