

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

BULLETIN OF NOVEMBER 29, 2015



SUNDAY/NOVEMBER 29

26th Sunday After Pentecost

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour and Question & Answer Period

MONDAY/NOVEMBER 30

6:15p.m. Funeral for Zinaida Neudachin
7:00p.m. Vespers

TUESDAY/DECEMBER 1

St. Philaret the Merciful

9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
7:00p.m. Compline & Akathist to St. Porphyrius of Athos (Dec. 2)

THURSDAY/DECEMBER 3

7:00p.m. Compline & Akathist to St. Barbara (Dec. 4)

SATURDAY/DECEMBER 5

St. Sabbas the Sanctified

9:30a.m. Akathist to St. Sabbas; Confession
5:30p.m. Vigil; Confession

SUNDAY/DECEMBER 6

27th Sunday After Pentecost

St. Nicholas the Wonderworker of Myra

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour
12:15p.m. Presentation of the 100th Anniversary DVD

Offerings Week of November 29

Olive Oil: in memory of Michael, John, Rosalia, and Anastasia; in memory of Vachsen and Emilia; for the health of Basil Kulick (birthday) in memory of Richard Nevitt; in memory of John

Wine: for health, salvation and protection of Andrea (names day); in memory of Nicholas.

The Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Dec. 31 40th Day Zinaida Neudachin

Nov. 29, 1921 Alexander Khvechin

Nov. 29, 1934 Fr. Peter Shemashko

Nov. 29, 1981 Mary Fetchina

Nov. 30, 1930 Athanasius Klebanovich

Dec. 05, 1941 Anastasia Rilik

Dec. 05, 1978 Stefan Syubiak

Dec. 06, 1997 John Suseck Jr.

Dec. 06, 2010 John Chabra

Dec. 06, 2011 Howard Bozinta

Coffee Hour Hosts

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

Nov. 29 Motoviloff, Torrisi, Kachek & Stone

Dec. 06 Mantzafos, Sokol, Arpastean, Staina
Nasledysheva & Sarchisian

Dec. 13 Dunaenko, Wypych, Chirnoaga,
Moldoveanu & Nemes

Usher Schedule

Nov. 29 Edward S. & Kahka K.

Dec. 06 Timothy S. & Peter B.

Dec. 13 Jerome S. & Adrian M.

Counters

Nov. 29 Lisa K. & Daniel T.

Dec. 06 Rebecca O. & Edward S.

Dec. 13 Lisa K. & Daniel T.

Names Day Greetings

St. Andrew/Nov. 30: Andrew Keller, Robert
Andrew Erkman, Andrea Hunchar, Andrea
Arpastean

St. Barbara/Dec. 04: Barbara Kulick and
Barbara Erkman

St. Sabbas/Dec. 05: Saba Kalishvili

Many Blessed Years!

Nativity Lent – Daily Prayer for Peace

Let us be faithful in this daily prayer.

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.

Lenten Charities Expressions

The Food Baskets every Sunday / Winter Coat Collection / Christmas Greeting Card for the benefit of St. Philaret Charities / Poor Basket by Icon, "Joy of All That Sorrow"

Christmas Cookie Walk – Sign Up Sheet for Bakers

The annual Christmas Cookie Walk will take place on Sunday, Dec. 13th at 11:30a.m. Bakers are sought. Please sign-up at the vestibule stand. For more information please contact Jill at 908-541-9586/jap2002@optonline.net.

The 100th Anniversary Video – Dec. 6th

The presentation of the 100th Anniversary Video (80 minutes) will take place on Sunday, Dec. 6th at 12:15a.m. Invite your friends for Liturgy that day (St. Nicholas Day) and the Coffee Hour and Film to follow.

Memory Eternal!

To the newly-departed Zinaida Neudachin (Nov. 23rd +) The Funeral will be Monday, Nov. 30 at 6:15p.m. in the church (burial has already taken place).

Next Adult Study Evening

Dec. 10th, Thursday 7-8:30p.m.

General Church Cleaning

Dec. 12th, Saturday 10:30a.m.

The Mysteries of Confession & Communion

The Lenten Season is the appropriate time for receiving the Holy Mysteries. Those that receive Holy Communion on Sundays, be sure you have gone to Confession in this Lenten Time – Nov. 15-Dec. 24. Those that do not ordinarily receive the Holy Gifts, every week, are encouraged to benefit from these Holy Mysteries in this Lenten period.

**FROM THE ADDRESS OF ARCHBISHOP MICHAL TO
THE DIOCESE ON NOVEMBER 12, 2015
ON STEWARDSHIP**

To make our church, our diocese and our parishes are stronger requires good stewardship of our treasure, talent and time. Some of our parishes continue to struggle on a dues based model of giving in which offerings do not match the rising costs to simply maintain what we have.

We need to be sure in following the legacy of our forefathers and ask ourselves if am I coming to church as much as our founders; am I using my talents in the same measure they did; am I contributing as much as I can, remembering that they founded our churches with meager immigrant wages and gave abundantly of the little they had. If in all honesty I am not giving in time talent and treasure, in the same measure, than I need to strengthen my stewardship.

Stewardship is not simply about money, but more importantly about love. How much do I love my parish church, Orthodox faith and our Lord and Savior. The answer to those questions measure the strength of our giving in time, talent and treasure.

In first offerings – we need to be more faithful, more loving and more generous.

Three Kinds of Giving

The three kinds of giving: grudge, duty and thanksgiving.

Grudge giving says, “I have to.”

Duty giving says, “I ought to.”

Thanksgiving says, “I want to.”

Grudge giving comes from constraint. Duty giving comes from obligation.

Thanksgiving comes from a full heart. Thanksgiving is an open gate to the love of God, it is the “Amen” of giving.

St. Porphyrios of Mt. Athos

(+1991)

Tropar Tone 1

The son of Evia, the Elder of Pious People / the initiate of Divine Vision
And True Friend of Christ / let us the faithful all praise Porphyrios /
Who from childhood was filled with divine gifts /
The demonized are redeemed and the sick are healed who cry out: /
Glory to Him who has given you strength! /
Glory to Him who has crowned you! /
Glory to Him, who through you grants healings to all!

St. Porphyrios: You don't become holy . . .



"You don't become holy by fighting evil. Let evil be. Look towards Christ and that will save you. What makes a person saintly is love."

— St. Porphyrios

St. Porphyrios: The soul is sanctified and purified through the study of the Fathers, . . .



"Our religion is perfectly and profoundly conceived. What is simple is also what is most precious. Accordingly, in your spiritual life engage in your daily contest simply, easily, and without force. The soul is sanctified and purified through the study of the Fathers, through the memorization of the psalms and of portions of Scripture, through the signing of hymns and through the repetition of the Jesus Prayer.

Devote your efforts, therefore, to these spiritual things and ignore all the other things."

St. Porphyrios: . . . A person can become a saint anywhere. . . .



"It is a great art to succeed in having your soul sanctified. A person can become a saint anywhere. He can become a saint in Omonia Square*, if he wants. At your work, whatever it may be, you can become a saint through meekness, patience, and love. Make a new start every day, with new resolution, with enthusiasm and love, prayer and silence — not with anxiety so that you get a pain in the chest."

— St. Porphyrios, *Wounded by Love*

* Omonia Square: the commercial center of Athens, also synonymous with vice and corruption

Attracting, Reaching, and Connecting: How Do We Get New People to Come to Our Church?

“Orthodoxy: America’s Best-Kept Secret!”

Have you seen this bumper sticker, or heard people say or claim this?

It’s nonsense.

While there are those who may not wish to communicate the Faith or their parish’s presence to the wider community, or simply do not know how and feel overwhelmed in attempting to do so. Still, countless clergy and lay persons across the country are trying valiantly, heroically and certainly creatively to retire this saying once and for all.

It is not as difficult as many would think to bring the Faith and the Church to the wider attention of the non-Orthodox community. Our “Ancient Faith” and devotion and adherence to the teachings of the “Early Church” are getting the attention of growing numbers outside of the Orthodox Church.

While there are many methods and ways in which people come to church, we can isolate here **three strategies** that are employed by parishes, whether they recognize them or not or are deliberately using them or not, that can connect the parish with “outsiders”:

Attracting...Reaching...Connecting

What is meant by “strategies” is not some man-made, artificial methods designed to capture market share and herd people toward the Church; we do not, here, discount in any way, shape or form the power and effectual operation of the Holy Spirit in bringing people to our parishes. Rather, what we mean here is a deliberate, well-thought-out plan to engage people with the Gospel and the Orthodox Faith, an approach we see as far back as Acts 15. In this issue of *Beyond the Plateau* we will take some time to explore the first of these three strategies.

Attracting

Attracting means getting the attention of people, whether you are deliberately trying to reach them or not.

Festivals are an obvious example of this, as are Christmas concerts, iconography exhibitions or classes, guest speakers and retreats. Advertise these not only in parish bulletins and internet sites, but in the mainstream local media. Probably a segment of

your local town or community will be interested in what you are doing for various reasons. They may like the food, they may be interested in the discussion topics, but whatever the reason, your event has brought your parish to the attention of the wider area.

If Orthodoxy is “the best kept secret in America”, and if somehow we’ve been keeping it that way, then this is very easily changed, and the impact can be enormous.

Attracting: Some Basic Principles to Build On

Don't only see the harvest, become the harvest

The Lord Jesus *wants* to grow His Church! To attract people to our church, the first task is to become better disciples ourselves – and encourage the other people in our parish to grow in their faith. This is ecclesiastical “Gene Therapy” – creating a culture where parishioners are excited about their faith and parish life, and want to share that joyfully with others. Why else would you want anyone to come to your church?

Network with our friends and associates

While there are millions of people who are no longer attending church at all (according to some studies, less than 20% of the American population is attending a religious service on a Sunday morning), there is just one thing that would bring them to your church, according to these people in their own words:

→ *a simple invitation from you*

Friends inviting friends (and, better yet, picking them up on a Sunday morning) is the most powerful way to get new people to your church. This is church networking on a broader level within the neighborhood or community: bowling leagues, civic groups, PTAs, fraternal organizations, special interests. That's where we meet unchurched people, and our networks with them can open doors to discussions centered on faith, belief, God and Church.

Plan “Taste and See” Events

Our Faith has much to offer: beautiful traditions in choral music and iconography; teaching on the spiritual life; commentary on modern social and moral themes. People are tired of the “milk” being fed to them in other churches; give them the “meat” our Faith has!

→ *For Discussion: What have we done recently to bring our parish to the attention of the wider community? How were those efforts viewed, and was any post-event analysis done?*

Action Points

- What “attraction” events can we plan over the next 12 to 18 months that would best highlight parish life, our best parish assets and the treasures of the Faith?
- What kinds of events will help our people bring their friends, neighbors and families?
- Who do we know that have stopped attending church, but might enjoy coming here to our parish?

Polls on Americans' satisfaction with their church's worship has revealed a surprising statistic: **70%** of those currently attending church have NOT felt the presence of God in their worship services!

~ **70%** ~

If one is going to church and not feeling that God is there, why go at all? Is it therefore any wonder that many denominations across the country are losing members?

This is what is meant by **creating a culture where parishioners are excited about their faith and parish life**: Such excitement can be absolutely contagious to those hungry and thirsting for exactly that!