

## SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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**BULLETIN OF MAY 07,, 2017**

### **CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!**

**SUNDAY/MAY 7**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha; St. Alexis Toth**

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

Church School; Coffee Hour

Open Doors 12:00-2:00p.m.

**MONDAY/MAY 8**

7:00p.m. Compline with Akathist to  
**St. Nicholas of Myra, Translation  
of his relics (May 9)**

**TUESDAY/MAY 9**

7:00p.m. Vespers

7:30p.m. Lesser Blessing of Waters

**WEDNESDAY/May 10**

**Mid-Pentecost**

**(25<sup>th</sup> of 50 Days between Pascha  
and Pentecost)**

9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

**THURSDAY/MAY 11**

6:30p.m. Compline

7:00p.m. Study Class: *"Transmission of  
Spiritual Illnesses in Fallen Humanity"*

**SATURDAY/MAY 13**

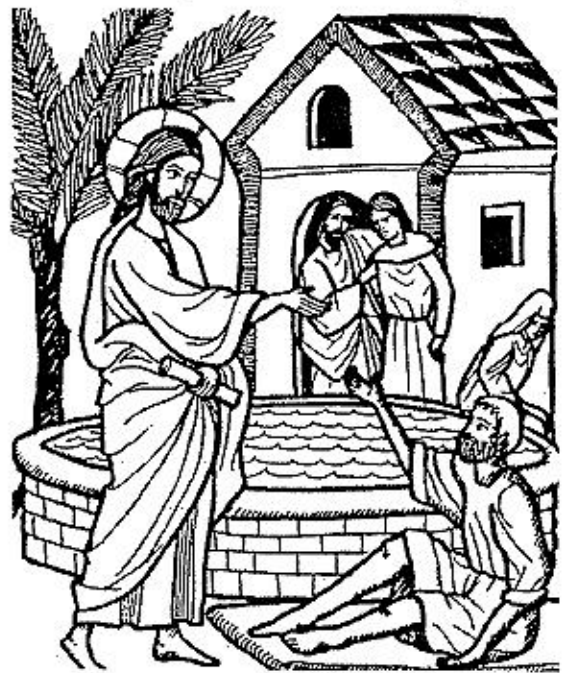
9:30a.m. Akathist to Risen Jesus; Confessions

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

**SUNDAY/MAY 14**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha**

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



By Thy divine intercession, O Lord,  
As Thou didst raise the paralytic of old,  
So raise up my soul, paralyzed by sins  
And thoughtless acts; so that being  
Saved I may sing to Thee:  
Glory to Thy majesty,  
O Bountiful Christ!

### **Offerings Week of May 7**

**Olive Oil:** in memory of Michael, Justina, Rosalia, and Anastasia; in memory of Sarchisian and Bocai families; for the health and protection of Donald, Carl and Lawrence; for protection during travel of Mariana and Stefan.

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

May 08, 1917 Demetrius Polegonsky  
May 09, 1972 Pauline Lasin  
May 10, 1984 Ignatius Chwat  
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

### **Coffee Hour Schedule**

May 07 Sokol, Nasledysheva, Staina, & Sarchisian  
May 14 Wypych, Chirnoaga, Moldoveanu,  
Vajda & Sue  
May 21 Peterson, Bakaletz, Mattei, Erkman  
& Stone

### **Counters Schedule**

May 07 Rebecca O. & Ekaterini M.  
May 14 Ciprian C. & Jill P.  
May 21 Irina S. & Lisa K.

### **Ushers Schedule**

May 07 Timothy S. & Peter B.  
May 14 Jerome S. & Adrian M.  
May 21 Dennis F. & Robert E.

### **Sunday Readers Schedule**

May 7 John Z. / May 14

### **Time for Summer Camp Registration**

St. Tikhon's Camp and/or St. Andrew's Camp  
This is a wonderful opportunity for children to meet others of their Faith and bond friendships.

### **Two Suggestions:**

Invite someone new to church; Talk to someone you haven't before at Coffee Hour.

### **Liturgical Notations for Paschal Season**

- The Paschal Season is 50 days, until the Feast of Pentecost.
- During the first 40 days, that is until the eve of Ascension Thursday (May 25); we greet each other with the Paschal Salutation: "Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!"
- We do not kneel or make prostrations at church services or in our homes until the Feast of Pentecost.
- The Paschal Troparion, "Christ is Risen from the dead..." is sung or said at the beginning and ending of all prayers until the eve of Ascension.
- The Prayer, "O Heavenly King" is omitted until Pentecost, being replaced with the Troparion of Pascha and later of Ascension.
- Wine & oil are permitted on all Wednesday and Fridays.

### **Study Class Thursday May 11 – 7-8:30p.m.**

May 11: The Transmission of Spiritual Illnesses In Humanity

### **Names Day Greetings:**

St. Emilia/May 8: Amelia Fedechko

### **The St. George Gazebo**

Is a great place to sit, talk, read, pray or rest. It is NOT a place for eating. Parents please advise your children.

### **The Holy Fire From Jerusalem**

The Holy Fire is available after any service. Ask.

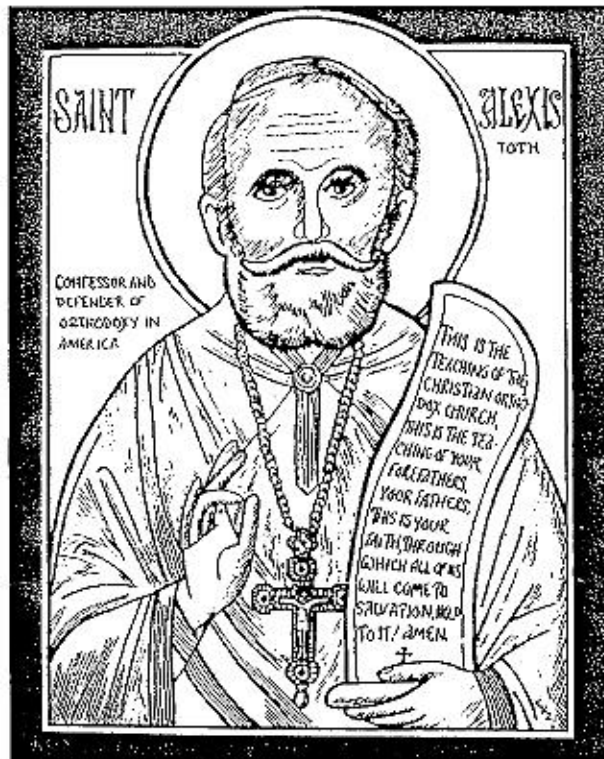
### **May Month Cemetery Care Appeal**

In this month of May, we make our annual appeal for the up-keep of our cemetery. The Lord bless your offering.

### **Recognition of Graduates 2017**

On Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, we will honor our graduates. Please be sure that Fr. James has the particulars as soon as possible

**And unto us He has Given Eternal Life, let us worship His Resurrection on the Third Day!**



## St. Alexis Toth of Wilkes-Barre Confessor and Defender of Orthodoxy

**Commemoration Date:** May 7th

Alexis Toth was born to Father George and Matushka Cecilia Georgievich on March 18, 1854 in Austria-Hungary. His father was a Greek Catholic priest and his uncle was a bishop. Alexis was very poor, but he always helped the people that needed food, clothing or shelter.

He studied very hard and graduated with a Theology degree from the University of Prague. After his marriage to Rosalie Mihaluk, Alexis was ordained to the priesthood on April 18, 1878. Following his ordination, he taught Church History and Canon Law at the Presov Seminary.

Eleven years later in 1889, he traveled to the United States to lead immigrants to the Orthodox Faith. Father Alexis served his first service in the United States on Thanksgiving Day at St. Mary's Orthodox Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. For the next year, without getting paid, he worked with the parishioners to finish building their church and bought items needed to conduct the services. On March 25, 1891, Fr. Alexis and his parishioners were received into the Orthodox Church.

In 1893 he was transferred to Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania where he served as the pastor of Holy Resurrection Cathedral and helped many people from Russia. St. Alexis received many awards, including one from St. Tikhon. He wrote a book and published other educational materials for his people so they could learn more about their Orthodox faith.

Father Alexis realized there were many children who needed a place to live. As a result, he became involved in building the orphanage on the grounds of St. Tikhon's Monastery in South Canaan, Pennsylvania.

On May 7, 1909 at the age of fifty-five, he died in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, and was buried in a grave near St. Tikhon's Monastery Church. Eighty-five years later on May 7, 1994, he was canonized a Saint at that Monastery. His burial shrine is located inside the Monastery Church where many people come each year to venerate the relics of Saint Alexis, the Defender of Orthodoxy in America.



## Your Guests Will Then Encounter...Greeters! (or they should!)

→ Greeters are at the front line of parish ministry and evangelism! They will be the first people guests and newcomers will most likely speak to and engage with. Have your Greeters been trained? Are they friendly, and welcoming? Do they know what to do?

Greeters should also be delicately aware of the sense of *fear, excitement, anticipation*, and *awe* with which new guests, especially non-Orthodox ones, approach the idea of visiting our parishes.

### Greeters should be trained to do the following:

1. Be ready with a smile and a handshake
2. Offer a copy of Sunday's bulletin
3. Offer a copy of the liturgy book
4. Invite them to sign a guestbook
5. Point out where the bathrooms are to mothers with children
6. Invite them to Coffee Hour



### The *one* thing Greeters should *not* do:

Leave them alone *after* the service is over – make sure they get connected with parishioners and make it to Coffee Hour.

### Once Inside...

- Are the candle stands polished, and excess wax buildup removed?
- Are lipstick smudges cleaned off the icons? Have walls and corners been dusted?
- Has all wax on the rugs been removed? When was the last time the rugs were cleaned?
- What about the floors? Cleaned, de-waxed and polished?
- Are vestments clean and pressed? Missing buttons replaced and sewn back on?
- When was the last time the chandeliers were dusted and cleaned?
- If the choir area is up front, is it neat, orderly and arranged?

## A word about announcements at the end of Divine Liturgy

### Do...

Make sure your guests and newcomers are welcomed *as a group* and specifically invited to Coffee Hour.

### Do NOT...

Single them out! Don't have them wear name tags, and don't call them out by name, as this has the potential to embarrass them.

## ULTIMATELY: Does Christ Make a Difference?

The unchurched want substance: an authentic, tangible and significant encounter with God.

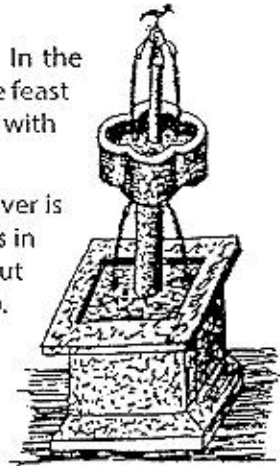
Guests and Newcomers that are looking for authentic faith, ancient teaching and wisdom from the "Early Church" will be wondering if we take "church" seriously. They'll be wondering this as they reflect on everything we do, from the way we greet to the way we sing to the way we serve to how clean we keep those things entrusted to us by God – *essentially, how we "do" church!*

## MIDFEAST OF PENTECOST

The time of Pentecost is 50 days. Indeed, the word Pentecost, means "fifty." In the middle of the feast, that is on the 25<sup>th</sup> day, always a Wednesday, we celebrate the feast known as Mid-Pentecost. The feast unites and connects Pascha (the beginning) with Pentecost (the ending).

The symbol of water provides the theme for the feast of Mid-Pentecost. "Whoever is thirsty should come to Me and drink." As the Scriptures says, "Whoever believes in Me, streams of life-giving water will pour out from his heart." Christ said this about the Spirit which those who believe in Him were going to receive (John 7:37-38). This passage is also part of the Gospel reading for the Sunday of Pentecost.

Anticipating the gift of the Holy Spirit by Christ, the Troparion and Kontakion of Mid-Pentecost express the yearning of the believer with these words:



### Troparion

In the middle of the Feast, O Savior, fill my thirsting soul with the waters of godliness, as Thou didst cry to all: If anyone thirsts let him come to Me and drink! O Christ God, Fountain of our life, glory to Thee!

### Kontakion

Christ God, the Creator and Master of all, cried to all in the midst of the feast of the law: Come and draw the water of immortality! We fall before Thee and faithfully cry: Grant us Thy bounties, for Thou art the Fountain of our life.

A Blessing of Water takes place on this feast. We may bring vessels to church the next time we come for services so as to bring the newly-blessed waters to our homes.



## THE ICON OF MID-PENTECOST

*From the Incarnate God – Volume 2*



The iconography adopted by the Church to illustrate Mid-Pentecost shows us Jesus Christ teaching in the Temple, just as in the Gospel. Christ is sitting at the center of a circle of Jewish scholars and wise men. These express their amazement at His knowledge: "How is it that this Man has learning, when He has never studied?" (John 7:15). In answer to this question, Jesus speaks of His connection to the Father, of His divine origin.

Most often, the icons of Mid-Pentecost represent Christ's first encounter in the Temple with the doctors of the Law – this is the episode described by St. Luke, when Jesus was twelve years old (Luke 2:41-50). "Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?," He says to His worried parents, thus openly declaring that He is the Son of God and that He must carry out His mission. On that day,



Christ declares His independence from Joseph and Mary, escaping their tutelage. He tells them about His unique link with God the Father. He accepts filial obedience to the end, an obedience which will lead Him all the way to the Cross. "Not My will, but Thy will be done!" (Luke 22:42).

Divine Wisdom is revealed to the doctors of the Law who admire the wisdom of the Child, revealing Jesus as the Child-Emmanuel announced by the Prophets (Isaiah 7:14). The authority of His teaching is already confirmed during His infancy, for "He is before all things," He precedes creation (Colossians 1:17 and Proverbs 8:22-30), "He is begotten, not made, of one essence with the Father" (the Creed). He is "the Wisdom, the Word, and the Power of God" (From Matins of Pascha).

**Q. My work responsibilities make it nearly impossible for me to have Saturdays off or even to be in Church on Sundays for that matter, what should I do?**

A. This is not an easy question to answer. Economic pressures and financial responsibilities weigh on us very heavily these days. Working long hours and many days a week, leaves us physically, emotionally, and spiritually spent. And ironically, we feel like we cannot take the main remedy the Lord offers for our exhaustion – the weekend. Remember, God gives us Saturday and Sunday to lay aside our heavy earthly burdens for a while so that we might be refreshed and renewed, enjoying life with Him and each other. He even cries out, "Come to Me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest!" (Matt. 11:28) Unfortunately, though, not fully responding to this invitation to godly rest can sometimes make us feel guilty, frustrated, or upset. What can be done?

For some people, it might be time to find a different job, for others there might be a way to reorganize our work schedule or perhaps take a different day off during the week to refresh ourselves, and for still others the situation might just simply need to be struggled through for a period.

But generally speaking, if we find ourselves unable to observe both days, then at the very least we should do everything possible to be present on Sunday when the community gathers to worship in the Church. This should be the most important part of not just our weekend but the entire week itself.

Finally, I would say that probably the best thing to do is to talk with your priest about your personal situation. As with anything in the spiritual life, speaking with one's priest indicates to God that you have humility and are truly seeking the best course of action. Asking for advice also alleviates the conscience, and the last thing the Lord wants is for anyone to be burdened by these Holy Days. After all, He gave these days to loose our burdens, not to add to them. This is why He said, "the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath." (Mark 2:27) The Lord wants us to rejoice in these holy days, crying out TGIF (Thank God its Friday), time for the weekend – rest, praise and joy – time for God and each other!



### **A PUZZLING SCRIPTURAL VERSE**

*'He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver.'* (Malachi 3:3)

This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study. That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver.



As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities. The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot; then she thought again about the verse that says: 'He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver.' She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time. The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed. The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, 'How do you know when the silver is fully refined?' He smiled at her and answered, 'Oh, that's easy – when I see my image in it.'

If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has his eye on you and will keep watching you until He sees His image in you.