

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF JULY 9, 2017

SUNDAY/JULY 9

5th Sunday After Pentecost

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

TUESDAY/JULY 11

7:00p.m. Vespers

WEDNESDAY/JULY 12

Icon "Of the Three Hands"

St. Paisios of Athos (+1993)

8:00a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00p.m. Compline with Akathist to
St. Paisios

THURSDAY/JULY 13

7-8p.m. Lemonade & Conversations in
St. George Gazebo

FRIDAY/JULY 14

7:00p.m. Compline with Akathist to
St. Prince Vladimir; Confessions

SATURDAY/JULY 15

St. Prince Vladimir (+1015)

9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy with Abp. Michael
at St. Vladimir Church in Trenton

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

SUNDAY/JULY 16

6th Sunday After Pentecost

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
Blessing of Autos and Other Things That
Move Us; Coffee Hour

THE BANDIT'S REPENTANCE

Can a sinner, in the space of ten days, make full repentance of his sins? By the immeasurable grace of God, he can. In the time of Emperor Maurice, there was a well-known bandit in the region around Constantinople. Both in the countryside and in the capital itself, he inspired fear and trembling. Then the Emperor himself sent him a cross, as a pledge that he would not punish him if he gave himself up.

The bandit took the cross, and did indeed give himself up. Arriving in Constantinople, he fell at the Emperor's feet and begged his forgiveness. The emperor kept his word, had mercy on him and let him go free.

Immediately after that, the bandit fell gravely ill and sensed that death was near. He began to repent bitterly of all his sins, and implored God with tears to forgive him as the Emperor had. He shed many tears in his prayer, so that the handkerchief with which he wiped them became soaked, and he died after ten days of prayerful weeping.

The night of his death, the doctor who had been attending to him had a strange vision in a dream: When the bandit on the bed breathed his last, a number of little black men gathered around him, flourishing bits of paper on which his sins were written, and two glorious angels also appeared. A pair of scales were placed in the middle, and the little black men gleefully put all the bits of paper on it, so their side of the scales was loaded, while the other was empty.

"What can we put in?" the angels asked each other. "Let's look for something good in his life." Then there appeared in the hand of one of the angels the handkerchief soaked with tears of repentance. The angels quickly placed it on their side of the scales, and it at once outweighed the other with all the papers. Then the little black men fled, howling in anguish, but the angels took the man's soul and carried it to Paradise, glorifying God's love for mankind.



Offerings Week of July 9

Olive Oil: in memory of Michael, Justina, Rosalia, Anastasia and Ivanna; for the health of Kyra (birthday); for the health of Katya (birthday); for the health of Mark & Barbara (anniversary); in memory of Sarchisian and Bocai families.

Wine: for the health of Joseph and Ryan

Flowers: for the health of Scott & Amanda (anniversary).

Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

July 11 (40th day) Xenia Bodenchuk

July 30 (40th day) Ivanna Parsells

July 09, 2010 Tatiana Onuschak

July 09, 2011 Atopere Filippini

July 10, 1951 Vassily Fetchina

July 11, 1928 Elias Chromoho

July 12, 1978 Antonia Salamander

July 12, 1979 Chariton Perogeff

July 13, 1975 John Kachorsky

July 14, 2015 Charles Specian Jr.

July 15, 1951 Wojciech Bogusiewsky

July 16, 1968 Pelagia Holovach

July 16, 1982 Stephen Kulina

Coffee Hour Schedule

July 09 Inga, Eka, Marina & Nona

July 16 Sokol, Nasledysheva, Staina
& Sarchisian

July 23 Wypych, Chirnoaga, Vajda,
& Moldoveanu and Sue

Counters Schedule

July 09 Ciprian C. & Jill P.

July 16 Irina S. & Lisa K.

July 23 Larissa M. & Paulina N.

Ushers Schedule

July 09 Jerome S. & Adrian M.

July 16 Dennis F. & Robert E.

July 23 Edward S. & Kahka K.

Sunday Readers Schedule

July 9 Austin K. / July 16 John Z.

Parish Council Meeting

Thursday, July 20th at 7:00p.m.

Vacation Planning – Be Mindful Of

- Finding the location of an Orthodox Church of Sunday Liturgy;
- If you are prepared to receive Holy Communion, you must make contact with the priest by phone, e-mail, in person in a reasonable amount of time before the Liturgy, if possible before the day of Liturgy. It is bad manners to approach the Chalice and the priest has to question who you are.
- Request a Prayer for Travelers before you make your journey;
- Bring a small icon and prayer book;
- Observe Lenten days;
- Make your offerings to your parish church before you go.

Change of Times for Minor Feast Days

Please note that the time of the morning services of Minor Feast Days has been changed to **8:00a.m.** The 12 Great Feast Days, Saturdays and Sundays remain at 9:30a.m. This change begins in July on a trial basis. (See July Monthly Calendar)

Lemonade & Informal Conversations in St. George Gazebo

7-8p.m. Thursdays, July 13, 27 & Aug.3. Join us!

Annual Blessing of Automobiles, Bikes, Skateboards, and Other Modes of Transportation – Sunday July 16th

The roads and off-roads can be fraught with danger. We ask the Lord's blessing upon us as we go about on our wheels. (Rain date: July 23rd).

Our Parish Website Has Photos & More Photos – www.ssppoc.org

The celebration of Ss. Peter & Paul Day; the Ordination of Samuel Davis; the Feast of St. John Maximovitch, etc. Check them out.

The Holy Fire from Jerusalem

Still burns in our altar. You may request the holy fire, after any service for your home. A blessing of Holy Pascha that continues throughout the year.

VARIOUS COUNSELS OF ST. PAISIOS OF ATHOS (+1993)

In the hour of prayer, when our mind wanders to thoughts of bad things, or if these thoughts come without our wanting them, we shouldn't wage an offensive war against the enemy, because, even if all the lawyers in the world joined together, they wouldn't make any headway with a little demon. Only through ignoring them can one chase these thoughts away. The same is true for blasphemous thoughts.

If you want to grab God's attention so He'll hear you during prayer, turn the dial to humility, for God always works in this frequency; then humbly ask for His mercy.

My brother, don't ask for anything in prayer except for repentance. Repentance will bring you humility, humility will bring you the grace of God, and God will uphold you in His grace and will give you whatever you need for your own salvation as well as whatever is needed, should the case arise, for you to help another soul in need.

When man is spiritually healthy and distances himself from other people, so as to better help them through his prayers, then he regards all people as holy and only himself does he regard as a sinner.

If we haven't got control of our mind during the hour of spiritual study we are not benefited at all. We simply yawn and tire ourselves without a goal, for we cannot remember anything. In the same way, when the printer doesn't have his mind on his work and forgets to put ink in, the printing presses work without printing anything.

There are no people more blessed than those who have made contact with the "heavenly television station" and who are piously connected to God. In the same way, no people are more wretched than those who have cut contact with God and wander, dizzy, around the world, flipping through the world's many television stations so as to forget, if only for a short time, the anguish of the derailment of their lives.

Children contract their first spiritual colds from the open windows of their parents' senses. The mother passes on her cold especially when she is not modestly dressed and scandalizes her children with her behavior.

The holy life of parents instructs the souls of their children and so they naturally obey them and grow up with piety and without psychological problems, and the children are pleased with their parents. The parents are gladdened by their children in this life and in life eternal, where they will once again glory in them.

Whoever is at peace in the material world and is not concerned about the salvation of his soul is like the senseless birds who don't make a noise from within the egg, so as to break the shell and come out to enjoy the sun—the heavenly flight in the life of Paradise—but instead remain unmoving and die inside the egg shell.

The pretense of worldly politeness is very harmful, for it fools one and opens one's heart to the worldly person, and in the final analysis it wastes one's piety, for the worldly person doesn't know what piety is. It's like giving golden pounds to people that only know bronze pennies.

Blows are necessary for the salvation of our souls, for they cleanse the soul. The more one hits and rubs clothing, the better it is cleaned. Similarly, the more one hits octopus and cuttlefish, the more they are softened and washed from ink.

Live in constant glorification of and thanksgiving towards God, for the greatest sin is ingratitude and the worst sinner is the ungrateful person.

At the beginning of the spiritual life, out of love, God doesn't allow anyone to realize either his sinfulness or the many benedictions that He bestows on him, so as to keep him from despair, especially if he is sensitive.

Those who are in the world must not despair when they are overcome by many passions, and when their nature is unruly and races passionately downwards. Rather, they must trust in the almighty power of God and turn the steering wheel of their powerful engine back onto the road toward God, upwards. Soon after they will pass other, slow-moving cars, which for years have been driving the road toward God.

What are Symbols?

There are many things that we cannot see or touch, which are very real and important to us. Our love for someone, our happiness or joy, our sorrow or pain.



We cannot see God

We cannot see God but we can feel that He cares for us, loves us. We see how wonderful is the world we live in, how mysteriously things grow and develop, how sometimes we are saved in danger, or helped when we are in bad trouble.

In order to be closer to God we pray to Him, speak to Him in our own words or in words of the saintly people who were close to God.



A symbol is a sign of something

To show our love for God we use symbols. A symbol is a sign by which we know a thing, that which suggests something. Incense is a symbol of our prayer: it is fragrant, sweet smelling, it rises in the air heavenwards like we want our prayer to do.

From the earliest days Christians used this symbolism. When the Wise Men found the Infant Jesus they brought Him gifts - gold and frankincense and myrrh. Gold symbolized that He was royal, frankincense that He was divine, and myrrh that He would suffer. The birth of John the Baptist was announced by an angel to his father, the priest Zacharias, as he was burning incense in the Temple.

Symbols in everyday life

A symbol stands for something, it means something, it represents something. We use all kinds of symbols every day. Names are symbols. Your name stands for you, it represents you. Numbers are symbols, too. They stand for things. Every kind of story is a symbol. Whether it is a fairy tale, a myth, a legend or a parable, every story stands for something and teaches something.

Maybe you can see symbols around you. If you look at a coin you will see symbols on it. On your way to school you may have seen a flag flying - another kind of symbol. You may have passed traffic signals. They are symbols, each one standing for something. We use colors - red and yellow and green - as symbols to direct the traffic.

Every day, too, we act symbols. We do things with our bodies which are symbols. Each action stands for something and means something.



Praising God through our Church Worship

Our Church has made every part of the day holy by its prayer. The plan of the daily services is based upon the words of David, the psalm writer: "Seven times a day do I praise thee because of Thy righteous judgements." In monasteries there are daily services, where monks and nuns gather in church several times every day to praise God. Though we cannot attend as often as they do, the Church prays for us, too. Bells always announce each service.

The church services follow the order of certain events in the life of Jesus Christ and the Apostles. We remember these events because they are part of the history of our salvation. In the time of Jesus Christ, the day was divided into eight parts which corresponded to the guard duties, or watches, of the Roman soldiers.

Praising God night and day helps build in us an inner attention. Our Lord cautioned us, "Be wakeful and pray, that you may not enter into temptation." (Matt. 26:41) In this way we can keep vigil, watch, awaiting our Lord's Second Coming.

Our day of worship begins in the evening. This follows the tradition of the Old Testament which says in the story of creation: "And the evening and the morning were the first day..." (Genesis 1:5) Following is a chart on the watches, times, the services, and their meanings.

Liturgical Service	Time of Service	Theme of Service	Ancient Roman Time Roman Watch	Modern Time
Vespers	7 P.M.	Creation of the World	Evening Watch	6-9 P.M.
Compline	8 P.M.		Midnight Watch	9-12 P.M.
Midnight Service	12 P.M.	Resurrection	Rooster-crowing Watch	12 P.M. to 3 A.M.
Matins	6 A.M.	Preparation for Christ	Morning Watch	3-6 A.M.
1st Hour	7 A.M.	Creation of the Light of Day	1st Hour	6-9 A.M.
3rd Hour	9 A.M.	Descent of Holy Spirit	3rd Hour	9-12 Noon
6th Hour	9:30 A.M.	Crucifixion of Christ	6th Hour	12 Noon to 3 P.M.
Divine Liturgy	10:00 A.M.	The Mystical Supper		
9th Hour	5:30 P.M.	Death of Christ on Cross	9th Hour	3-6 P.M.