

# SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

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## BULLETIN OF AUGUST 20 & 27, 2017

### SUNDAY/AUGUST 20

11<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Post-Feast of Dormition

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

Prayers for New Academic Year

Coffee Hour

### TUESDAY/AUGUST 22

7:00p.m. Compline & Akathist to the  
Dormition on **Leave-taking of feast**

### SATURDAY/AUGUST 26

9:30a.m. Akathist to our Lord; Confessions

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

### SUNDAY/AUGUST 27

12<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

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

Coffee Hour with Question/Answer Period

### MONDAY/AUGUST 28

7:00p.m. Vespers

### TUESDAY/AUGUST 29

**Beheading of St. John the Baptist  
(Strict Fast Day)**

7:40a.m. Hours; 8:00a.m. Divine Liturgy

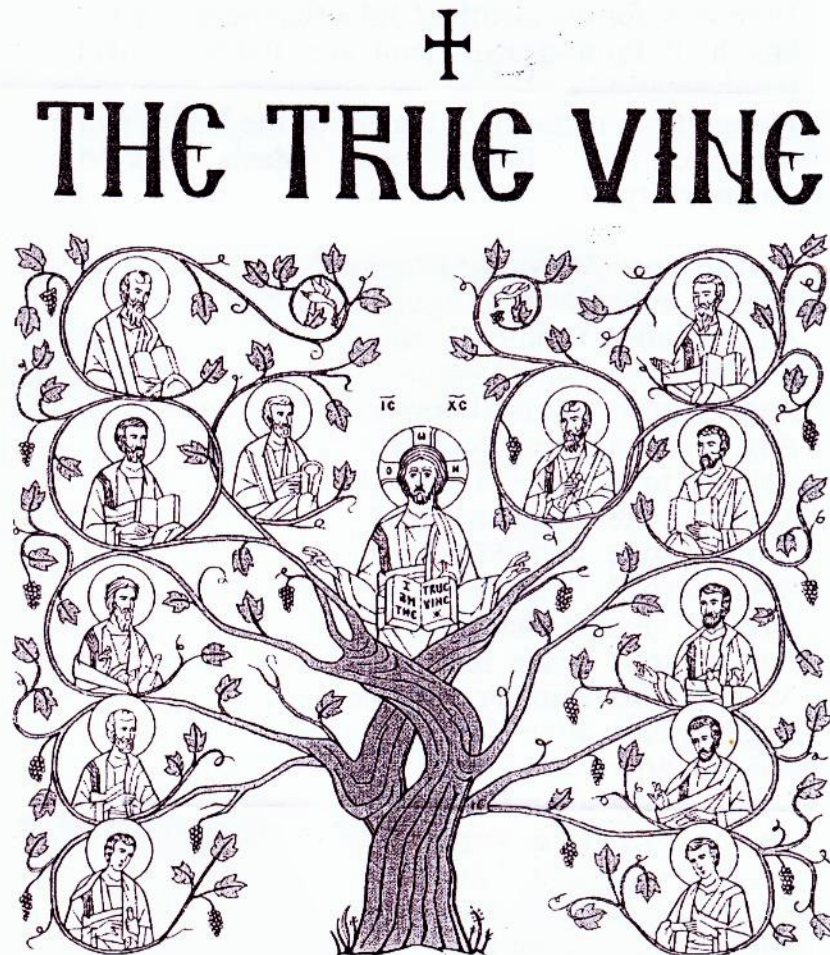
### THURSDAY/AUGUST 31

7:00p.m. Service for **Church New Year  
(Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>)**; Ice Cream Party to follow

### SATURDAY/SEPTEMBER 2

9:30a.m. Akathist to our Lord; Confessions

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions



### **Offerings Weeks of Aug. 20 & 27**

**Olive Oil:** in memory of Michael, Justina, Rosalia, Anastasia, Eva and Ivanna; in memory of Sarchisian and Bocai families; in memory of Gabriela, Floarea, Gheorghe, Valeria, Mihai, Anicuta, Elena, Petre, Ilie, Aurelia, Alexandru, Elena, Maria, Father Roman and Father Theophil; in memory of Daniel (40thday); for the health of Susan; for the health of John and Andrew (birthdays).

**Wine:** for the health of Susan; for the health of Zaria on her Holy Baptism; in memory of Dimitrios; for the health of Julia (birthday) for the health of Proto-deacon Paul and Patricia Sokol (anniversary).

**Flowers:** in memory of Ivana; for the health and protection of Daniel and Maria Torrisi (anniversary).

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

Aug. 20, 1965 Natalie Laga Salevanik

Aug. 20, 2008 Sophie Wassel

Aug. 21, 1980 Mary Pegene

Aug. 21, 2001 Anna Cherniak

Aug. 22, 1978 Anna Recketz

Aug. 23, 1926 John Mlinets

Aug. 23, 1938 Semeon Dutko

Aug. 24, 1954 John Wasevich

Aug. 24, 1958 John Galida

Aug. 24, 1990 Michael Sudia

Aug. 25, 1977 Tekla Barna

Aug. 26, 1962 Anna Persurance

Aug. 26, 1965 John Harchin

Aug. 26, 2001 John Wassel

Aug. 27, 1934 John Poklitar

Aug. 27, 1970 Luke Vozny

Aug. 28, 1958 Daniel Zydiak

Aug. 30, 1952 Terry Beth Koles

Aug. 31, 1927 Jacob Kava

Aug. 31, 1972 Julia Marchuk

Aug. 31, 1975 John Kluchnik

Aug. 31, 1988 Fr. Nicholas Kiryluk  
(rector 1946-1953)

Sept. 01, 1922 Constantine Maykovsky

Sept. 01, 1977 Edward Waitowski

Sept. 01, 1978 Pauline Trosko

Sept. 01, 2007 Fr. John (George) Lewis  
(rector 1969-1971)

### **Coffee Hour Schedule**

Aug. 20 Inga, Eka, Marina & Nona

Aug. 27 Sokol, Nasledysheva, Staina & Sarchisian

Sept. 03 Chirnoaga, Moldoveanu, Vajda & Sue

### **Counters Schedule**

Aug. 20 Irina S. & Lisa K.

Aug. 27 Larissa M. & Paulina N.

Sept. 03 Rebecca O. & Ekaterini M.

### **Ushers Schedule**

Aug. 20 Dennis F. & Robert E.

Aug. 27 Edward S. & Kahka K.

Sept. 03 Timothy S. & Peter B.

### **Sunday Readers Schedule**

Aug. 20 Ciprian C. / Aug. 27 Daniel T.

### **On Receiving the Holy Mysteries of Confession and Communion**

- If you are regularly receiving Holy Communion on Sundays and you have not been to Confession anytime after Pascha (April 16) you must go to Confession by the end of August to continue to approach the Holy Chalice – this also includes children of Confession age.
- If you miss Sunday Divine Liturgy for more than 3 weeks in a row, you must go to Confession again before coming to Communion.

### **Names Day Greetings**

St. Samuel/Aug. 20: Deacon Samuel & Samuel Alexander Davis;

St. Natalie/Aug. 26: Natalie Ratzkovich & Natalie Gripp;

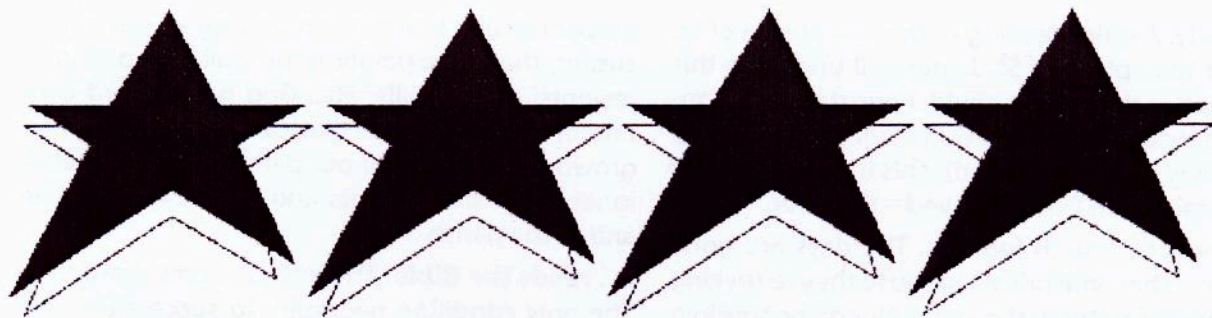
St. Alexander/Aug. 30: Alexander Chirnoaga  
Many Blessed Years!

### **Many Blessed Years!**

To Zaria Raymond, on her Baptism and Entrance into the Holy Orthodox Church!

### **Memory Eternal to Newly-Departed**

Julia Cresina of Hillsborough (Aug. 14) and Constantine Stepan of Bedminister (Aug. 11). Our sympathy to their families.



## FOUR-STAR PARISHIONERS

By A Ukrainian Orthodox Priest

The success (or failure) of a parish is dependent upon the synergy among pastor and faithful. Successful parishes aren't dependent upon any one person (this includes the priest!) for their success. In a successful parish the parishioners cooperate with each other, they fulfill their own obligations, and contribute what they can into the common treasury of deeds, wisdom and finances.

I used to work in a restaurant. It was a nice place with good food, a pleasant ambience, and class. We had many regulars, but one of them stood out. The owners called him the "four-star customer." He would visit often. He'd bring business clients there. He'd come for dinner with his family. He'd celebrate important occasions there. He was a good tipper. He was always pleasant to be with and a pleasure to serve.

I'm sure you see where this is going. What would a "four-star parishioner" look like?

### A four-star parishioner...

... **prays.** The whole point of being a member of the Church is to know God. Union with Christ is the goal of all Christian endeavor. We must therefore seek to always have God in our thoughts and on our lips. This is prayer. A four-star parishioner prays (privately or with their family) upon arising in the morning, before retiring in the evening, and before meals during the day. They might do more, but they won't do less.

... **worships God.** If we know God we will worship Him. We are created to worship Him. He commands us to worship Him. Why? Worship creates unity and

feeds us spiritually. Worship teaches us who we are and who God is. All human beings worship – either the one True God or an idol, and every idol is fundamentally an image of ourselves. God or me? Which will it be? Four-star parishioners attend the worship services of the Church. Unless it is impossible to do so, they're in Church every Sunday and Great Feast Day and on as many lesser holy days as is feasible.

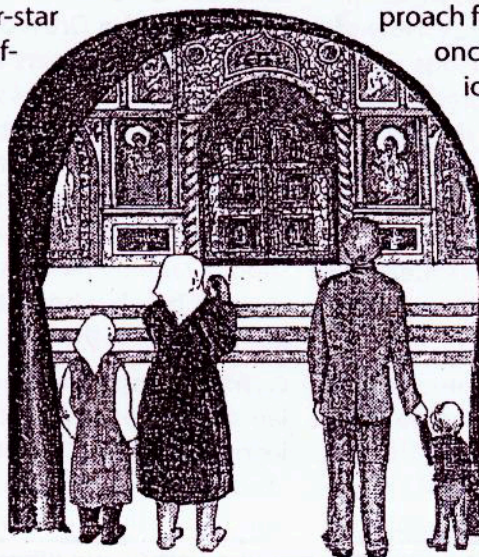
... **partakes in the Holy Mysteries.** Just because I must approach for Holy Confession and Communion once a year doesn't mean that I should only approach for Holy Confession and Communion

once a year. If Confession and Communion are a good thing, why not approach more often? The Church exists (among other things) in order to make the Holy Mysteries – Baptism, Chrismation, Confession, Communion, Marriage, Ordination, and the Oil of Prayer (anointing of the sick) available to the faithful. Four-star parishioners live a sacramental life: approach for Confession/Communion as often as possible, get married and buried in the Church, have their children baptized in the Church, etc.

### ... supports the parish generously.

If the Church can't pay the bills, it can't stay open. If it doesn't have the money to do outreach work or educate the children, it will die. A four-star parishioner treats parish financial obligations with the same seriousness as taxes. Don't pay taxes, go to jail. Don't support the parish, go to ...

... **helps the poor.** At the Last Judgment, Jesus is going to ask us, "Did you feed me? Did you clothe me? Did you visit me when I was sick?" etc. (Mt. 25:36). All our religious acts should lead us to charitable acts on behalf of the suffering, the poor, and



the needy. A quick reading of the first epistle of St. John or the epistle of St. James will underline this point better than I ever could. Four-star parishioners give their whole life to God – not just two hours on Sunday morning (if that!). This includes sharing their wealth with God's beloved – the poor.

**... respects church leaders.** The days are gone when men become priests because they're seeking some type of status in the world. Nor do people join the parish council because they're seeking fame or riches. The least we can do is respect those who lead our communities. Even when we disagree with them, we should do so respectfully. They're not perfect – but neither are we. A four-star parishioner always speaks respectfully to and about the parish and Church leaders. The words of Abraham Lincoln bear repeating: "No one should criticize unless they're willing to help."

**... respects their fellow parishioners.** I once heard this terrible riddle: "What happens when a member of the Church is wounded (spiritually, emotionally, or personally)?" Answer: "Someone from the parish comes along and finishes them off!" It's a terrible riddle because it's often true. How often do we hear people spreading malicious gossip or delighting in the troubles of their brothers and sisters in Christ? A four-star parishioner doesn't gossip, doesn't impute evil motives to the actions of others, and doesn't try to build themselves up by tearing other people down. If we do love each other, we should speak positively and respectfully about each other and help pick each other up when we're down.

**... fasts.** There's an old saying: "The spiritual life begins with the stomach." Fasting is a sign of our obedience to the Church; fasting builds unity within the community (just look at the example of the Jews or Muslims); fasting builds discipline (all discipline is fundamentally self-discipline); fasting brings God's blessings upon us. Four-star parishioners offer their table to the Lord. How we fast may occasionally differ due to individual circumstances, physical needs, or illnesses. But if we wish to be close to God, if we are obedient to God and the Church, we will fast according to the apostolic teaching and practice of the Church.

**... works for the parish.** In order for a parish to function, much needs to be done: singing in the choir; sitting on the parish council; teaching religion; visiting the sick; cooking; working with youth;

preparing the bulletin; organizing social events; cutting the grass; painting the walls; preparing tax receipts; paying bills, etc.. God has blessed every one of us with talents that can be utilized for the growth and benefit of our parish. Four-star parishioners offer their talents and abilities to the Lord and to the parish.

**... reads the Bible.** The Bible is God's Word to us. The only condition necessary to successfully read the Bible is that we must read God's Word in order to put it into practice. Reading the Bible simply in order to discuss it—or even worse, discussing the Bible without having read it—will not help us draw near to God – in fact, the opposite will probably take place. A four-star parishioner reads the Bible every day: a passage from the Gospel, a passage from another New Testament book, and a reading from the Psalter as a minimum.

**... takes responsibility for their children's souls.** People often send their children to "religious" schools – Catholic or Protestant – and figure they don't need to send them to Church school. If we send our children to non-Orthodox schools, they won't learn the Orthodox faith. Every parish child should be taking part in the religious lessons offered by the Church, as well as being taught to pray at home and seeing the example of parents living a deep and authentic Christian spiritual life. A four-star parishioner makes sure that the young people of the parish are given a solid education in the Orthodox faith by parents (or other family members), clergy, Church school staff, and participation in the liturgical life of the parish.

**... never stops learning about the faith.** A Ukrainian saying goes: "A man must spend his whole life learning so that he can die an ignoramus." Bible study classes, religious seminars, spiritual retreats, and adult education classes should be just as integral a part of the life of every mature Christian as professional development programs and in-service seminars are for teachers, doctors, auto mechanics, etc. This goes double for those in positions of leadership in the parish. Four-star parishioners take part in every bible-study, seminar, retreat, and adult education class they are able to. When people fall in love, they want to learn everything about each other. If I love God, I'll want to learn as much as I can about Him.

What's stopping you from becoming a four-star parishioner?