

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

SUNDAY/SEPTEMBER 10

14th Sunday After Pentecost

9:00a.m. Hours; 9:20a.m. Rite of Betrothal of Robert Smith and Stephanie Coleman

9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy; Coffee Hour
Church School

MONDAY/SEPTEMBER 11

8:00a.m. Akathist to St. Silouan of Athos

WEDNESDAY/SEPTEMBER 13

7:00 p.m. Vigil of the Holy Cross

THURSDAY/SEPTEMBER 14

ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

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

Strict Fast Day: no meat, dairy or fish

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

6:30p.m. Akathist Before the Miraculous Icon of the Kursk-Root at St. Elizabeth Church in Rocky Hill – all are invited

SATURDAY/SEPTEMBER 16

9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy with Abp. Michael at Holy Trinity Church in Rahway, celebration of 50th Anniversary of Parish

11:00a.m. Blessing of Animals at Holy Ghost Church, Manville

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

SUNDAY/SEPTEMBER 17

Sunday After the Holy Cross

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



Reading helps prayer, and prayer helps reading
(St. Isaac)

THE USEFULNESS OF READING THE SCRIPTURES

Progress in spiritual life is impossible without the continual study of the Holy Scriptures and the writings of the holy Fathers. It is especially necessary for those who have only recently abandoned a sinful life, and have determined to live in a Christian manner, to make the Holy Scripture their chief study, that they may penetrate their meaning. Silence contributes much to the deep understanding of the Scriptures. It is necessary for us to study as far away from disturbance and conversation as possible. And what is unknown to many is noted here: the Scriptures, when studied with care, transmit Divine energy. When someone has been long absorbed in the study of the Holy Scriptures, the Divine energy becomes very perceptible. He who studies feels inspiration in his heart and, without knowing why, begins also to shed tears. After the tears, he feels much peace; and when he begins to study again he understands the thoughts of the Bible more purely. This purifying and sanctifying energy exists in other works of the Church Fathers as well, but less intensely. Someone who knows this Divine energy from personal experience is able, should he read books by faithless and sinful men (such as various erotic novels, gangster stories, and so on), to sense a polluted energy leaping up from the pages of these books. For this reason, as soon as he sees them, and even before he reads, he feels in his heart an uneasiness, a heaviness. It is God's warning of what harm they contain.

We gain a unique advantage from the continual reading of the Gospels: we understand the personality of the God-Man, Jesus, and we know the details of the Divine Commandments which are indispensable for our salvation.

St. Isaac the Syrian, in many of his discourses, emphasizes the great benefit of reading the Holy Scriptures, saying that "reading helps prayer, and prayer helps reading."

Offerings Week of September 10

Olive Oil: in memory of Michael, Justina, Rosalia, Anastasia, and Ivanna; in memory of Sarchisian and Bocai families; for Rebecca, Nicholas, Sarah & Rachael.

Wine: for mercy of God and protection during travel of Mariana and Stefan and for blessings of Tabitha (birthday) and her protection and salvation; for the health of Marie.

Flowers: in honor of the Holy Cross

Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Sept. 19 (40th day) Constantin Stepan

Sept. 22(40th day) Julia Cresina

Sept. 11, 1964 Michael Grenther

Sept. 12, 1929 Helen Kotliarchik

Sept. 12, 1971 Pauline Kravitsky

Sept. 12, 1974 Anna Naruta

Sept. 12, 1995 Anna Rudzina

Sept. 14, 1978 Stephen Keselchak

Sept. 15, 1966 Theodore Mivonuk

Sept. 16, 1980 Mary Lukasik

Sept. 17, 1960 Katherine Sedorkewicz

Sept. 17, 1988 Raymond Koslosky

Sept. 17, 2003 Mila Seidal

Coffee Hour Schedule

Coffee Hour Hosts please prepare foods that are simple enough, so you are not absent from the Divine Liturgy. It is only after Communion, that we should leave the church at attend to food preparations.

Sept. 10 Peterson, Bakaletz, Mattei, Erkman & Stone

Sept. 17 Kita, Keller, Turri, Torrisi & Kachek

Sept. 24 Inga, Eka, Marina & Nona

Counters Schedule

Sept. 10 Ciprian C. & Jill P.

Sept. 17 Irina S. & Lisa K.

Sept. 24 Larissa M. & Paulina N.

Ushers Schedule

Sept. 10 Jerome S. & Adrian M.

Sept. 17 Dennis F. & Robert E.

Sept. 24 Edward S. & Kahka K.

Sunday Readers Schedule

Sept. 10 Austin K. / Sept. 17 Ciprian C.

General Clean-Up of the Upper Hall

Sept. 9th, Sat. after Akathist (about 10:15a.m.)

Sept. 23rd, Sat. after Akathist (about 10:15a.m.)

Please join us in getting our Hall in good order!

Names Day Greetings

St. Cornelius/Sept. 15: Ciprian Corneliu Chirnoaga

Many Blessed Years!

Cemetery 7 Day Vigil Light (3 bar cross)

On sale \$95.00

Orders for the New Edition of the Prologue of St. Nicholas of Zicha

The 2 volume edition may be viewed on the table in the nave of the church. If you are interested in placing an order (\$140.00) let Katherine know.

The Betrothal Service for Robert Smith and Stephanie Coleman – Sunday, September 10th

The Marriage of Robert and Stephanie will take place on Sunday, October 1st in Olyphant, Pa. We congratulate Robert and Stephanie on the Holy Betrothal today.

Church School September month

Classes will be held Sept. 10th & 24th, during Coffee Hour. The Youth Group will have an Ice Cream Social on Sept. 10th. Teen Class is held the 3rd Sunday of each month (Sept. 17).

Adult Study Thursday Evenings

There will be 5 consecutive classes, beginning Sept. 28th, with four classes to follow on the Thursdays of October. 7-8:30p.m. Classes Are held in the Conference Room, and all are encouraged to participate.

Hurricane Relief Collection – ends September 24th

A Special Basket is in the center of the church for offerings for Hurricane Relief victims. The funds collected will be sent to IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) for distribution. You may make your checks to either Ss. Peter & Paul with notation of IOCC or make your check to IOCC. The Lord bless your offerings.

2017 Saints Peter & Paul Parish Fiscal Summary	Total Income	Total Expense	Year to Date Profit (Loss)	Sunday Envelope Budget	Sunday Envelope Actual	Surplus/Loss
January	\$12,273.87	\$13,083.94	(810)	\$11,057.69	\$9,615.00	(1,443)
February	\$10,071.73	\$7,886.08	2,186	\$8,846.15	\$8,435.00	(411)
March	\$11,491.10	\$17,457.81	(5,967)	\$8,846.15	\$9,529.00	683
1st Quarter	\$33,836.70	\$38,427.83	(4,591)	\$28,750.00	\$27,579.00	(1,171)
April	\$20,673.98	\$19,320.04	1,354	\$11,057.69	\$10,412.00	(646)
May	\$10,567.17	\$4,750.16	5,817	\$8,846.15	\$9,532.00	686
June	\$8,886.35	\$26,760.91	(17,875)	\$8,846.15	\$6,623.00	(2,223)
2nd Quarter	\$40,127.50	\$50,831.11	(10,704)	\$28,750.00	\$26,567.00	(2,183)
July	\$14,541.28	\$12,922.34	1,619	\$11,057.69	\$9,585.00	(1,473)
August	\$10,137.00	\$7,135.98	3,001	\$8,846.15	\$7,963.00	(883)
YTD	\$98,642.48	\$109,317.26	(10,675)	\$77,403.85	\$71,694.00	(5,710)

Notes:

Year to date variance is due to full year church insurance premium paid in June, church envelope order, which lasts us a few years, and candle order, expense is incurred up front, income comes in from candle sales.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ❖ Most people come to church because of a personal invitation.
- ❖ Only 2% of church-going people invite someone to church in a given year. That means 98% of church-goers never extend an invitation in a given year!
- ❖ 7 out of 10 unchurched people have never been invited to church in their whole lives.
- ❖ 82% of the unchurched are at least somewhat likely to attend church if invited.
- ❖ The top "rational" reason adults seldom or never attend church is they don't agree with organized religion or what they preach (24 percent).
- ❖ The top "practical" reasons for hardly attending or missing church altogether, 21 percent said they don't have time or they don't get around to it.
- ❖ Children and youth who attend religious services weekly, exhibit fewest behavior problems, are more likely to have high-quality relationships with their parents, and are more likely to exhibit positive social behavior, including showing respect for teachers and neighbors, getting along with other children, understanding other people's feelings, and trying to resolve conflicts with classmates, family or friends.



TRUE SUCCESS

By Fr. Theodore Stylianopoulos

Many people labor under the wrong concept of success. This is the idea of achieving possessions, status, or power. A person's self-image is measured by what he or she earns or possesses, by what he or she socially can do or economically control. However, the Saints teach another radically different concept of success based on faithfulness and discipleship. True success is measured by the depth of one's personal communion with God, concern for the salvation of souls and the advancement of the Kingdom. A truly successful person is a saint – one who seeks wholeness in God, who strives to grow in the image of Christ, who finds fulfillment and happiness in loving and serving others for God's glory.





CONCERNING THE EFFECTS OF RECEIVING THE BODY AND BLOOD OF OUR LORD

There are at least four major benefits which may be expected after partaking of Christ's Body and Blood, namely:

1. Intimate union with Christ through His love.

Through this union we mingle with God and share with Him. As God is love, when we partake of Him through Holy Communion we become partakers of His love. It should be added that these Gifts from God are truly free. He compels no one to accept, just as in true love there is no compulsion, but absolute free to either accept or reject.

2. Strengthening of the body and soul.

Eating ordinary food only nourishes a person's body; but eating Christ's Flesh and Blood strengthens and nourishes both the body and soul. When the soul is nourished, a person is better able to live, grow and develop spiritually. This means that the ability to resist sin is greatly increased, thus enhancing the desire and capacity to be more virtuous, righteous, compassionate and considerate. We can be sure that this is so since Christ said: "I am the bread of life, he who comes to Me shall not hunger and he who believes in Me shall never thirst" (Jn 6:35), and then: "For My Flesh is true food and My Blood is true drink" (Jn 6:55).

With these statements Christ expounded the eternal nourishment value of His Flesh and Blood. Unlike ordinary food which only temporarily strengthens the body, true Divine food strengthens the soul eternally.

The strengthening effect of these Gifts, is another indicator of Christ's great love for us. Christ gave us certain Commandments to follow if we are able to inherit the Kingdom of Heaven. Scripture teaches that evil is spread through man by various demonic powers (Eph 6:12). Without Divine intervention man does not have the strength to fight these extremely powerful, fleshless creatures – as Christ said: "...for without Me you can do nothing" (Jn 15:5). Man alone does not have the strength to become perfect. Not wishing man to be condemned to hell, Christ nourishes us with His Body

and Blood – giving us a Perfect Food with which to become perfect.

3. Preparation for eternal life with God.

Partaking in Communion prepares us to share with God, an eternally joyful life after the resurrection of the dead. Christ is God and therefore lives forever – by eating His Body and Blood, we are blended with Him and will likewise live forever. This is Christ's promise when He said: "He who eats My Flesh and drinks My Blood has eternal life; and I will raise him up on the last day" (Jn 6:54).

This "life" that Christ refers to is not related to the life here on earth, since it is obvious that all men "live" here, even non-Christians. Nor does He refer to "life" of the general resurrection. Rather, Christ refers to the glorious life which some Christians will inherit as a reward for righteous living. How necessary it is for us to partake in Christ's Body and Blood; by being with Him, our souls are washed and transformed – made beautiful – then, after death, we would not expect punishment and hell, but the unspeakable rewards of the Heavenly Kingdom.



4. Unity through love with other Christians.

Christ has only one Body, by partaking of It, each and everyone of us also becomes united into one body – the Body of Christ. Christ's love for us is made perfect in unity, since not only is it reciprocated between ourselves and Christ, but amongst ourselves as well. This is what Christ meant when He established the Church.

The Church is not a building where people pray, it is the Body of Christ – a living organism, in which we all unite in love with Him and amongst ourselves, when we partake of Holy Communion (1 Cor 10:17). Christ is the head of His Body, the Church (Col 1:18), and not some bishop, patriarch, theologian or other mortal man. The Orthodox Church is thus infallible, since Christ being God, is infallible; we can then be sure that our Divine nourishment can never be false or corrupted, even if those who perform this Sacrament are themselves imperfect or unworthy.