

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF OCTOBER 1, 2017

SUNDAY/OCTOBER 1

17th Sunday After Pentecost

Protection of the Holy Theotokos

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

Coffee Hour

6:00p.m. Akathist to African Saints at

St. Simon of Cyrene Mission, New Brunswick

THURSDAY/OCTOBER 5

6:00p.m. Compline & Akathist to St. Innocent

7-8:30p.m. Study Class: "Healing According to St. Gregory Palamas – Sacramental Life"

FRIDAY/OCTOBER 6

St. Innocent, Enlightener of Alaska

8:00a.m. Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY/OCTOBER 7

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

10:00a.m. Hall Clean-Up Session 3

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

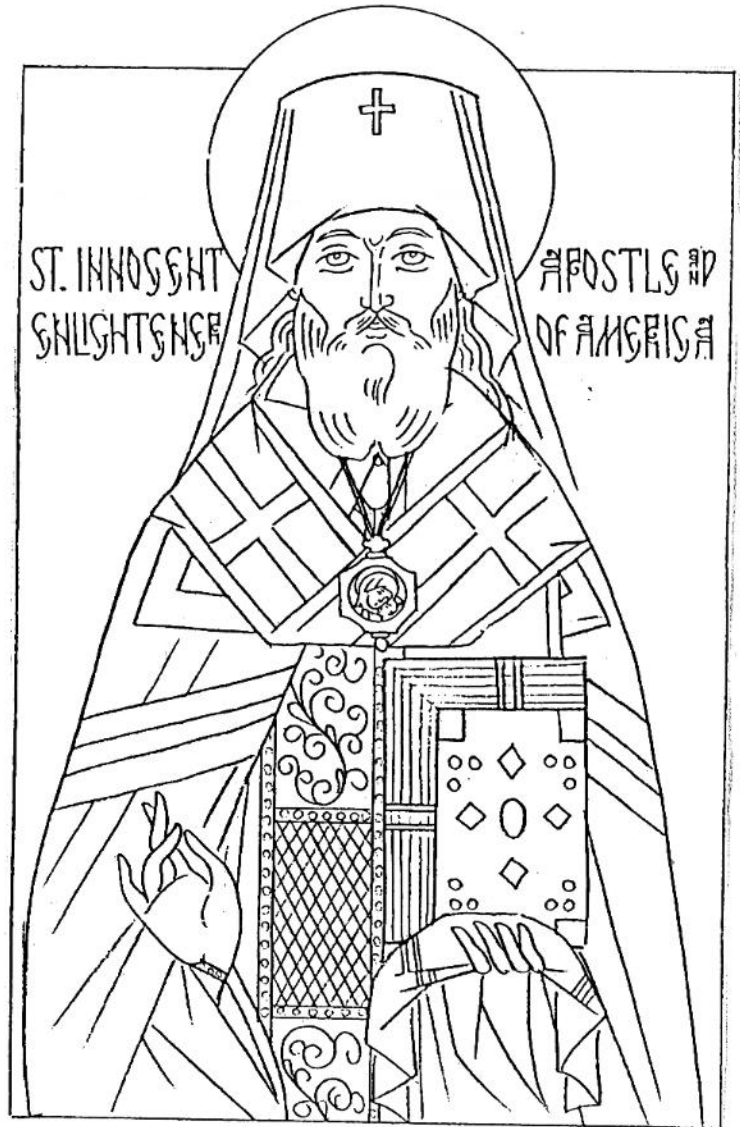
SUNDAY/OCTOBER 8

Fathers of 7th Ecumenical Council

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

Coffee Hour; Church School; Youth Group Trip

3:00p.m. Marriage of George Hadzitheodorou & Lily Mary Sue



Brotherhood of St. Moses the Black Annual Conference – October 6-8, 2017 – Friday 12p.m. – Sunday 12p.m. at Mother of God Church, Princeton, NJ (see posted flyers)

Education Day at St. Vladimir's Seminary, Saturday, October 7th "Modern Martyrs – Christians of the Middle East & North Africa" (see posted flyers)

Offerings Week of October 1

Olive Oil: in memory of Michael, Justina, Rosalia, Anastasia, and Ivanna; in memory of Sarchisian and Bocai families; for the health of Marie & Robert (anniversary).

Flowers: for health of Jerome & Pam (anniversary).

Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Oct. 02, 1990 Stella Labay
Oct. 03, 1922 John Milanich
Oct. 03, 1971 Dimitri Pegene
Oct. 03, 1978 Pauline Andreyko
Oct. 06, 1961 Michael Gorobetz
Oct. 06, 1963 Daniel Victorenko
Oct. 07, 1934 Josephine Vasevich
Oct. 07, 1948 Ann Cook
Oct. 07, 1961 Mary Rechetnikoff

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 to attend to food preparations.

Oct. 01 Sokol, Naseledysheva, Staina & Sarchisian
Oct. 08 Chirnoaga, Moldoveanu, Vajda & Sue

Counters Schedule

Oct. 01 Rebecca O. & Ekaterini M.
Oct. 08 Ciprian C. & Jill P.

Ushers Schedule

Oct. 01 Timothy S. & Peter B.
Oct. 08 Jerome S. & Adrian M.

Sunday Readers Schedule

Oct. 01 John Z. / Oct. 8

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. The theme for the series is "The Science of Spiritual Medicine"

Help us Get Back on Track

During the Summer months, our Sunday Envelope offering was off budget by \$5,000. If you were away and did not make your offerings, please consider in making them up if possible. Thanks!

IOCC – Emergency Kits

We are collecting items to create emergency kits to be used in places damaged by natural catastrophes. A listing of items sought is on the Parish Bulletin Board or speak to Rebecca Oliver.

IOCC – Collection for Hurricane Victims International Orthodox Christian Charities

The amount of \$3,050 was collected this past month in our parish. May the Lord bless your offerings! If anyone wishes to contribute for this purpose, please send your offering directly to IOCC 110 West Road, Suite 360, Baltimore, MD. 21204 (www.iocc.org). The needs remain great.

The Teen Class Was Cancelled for September Month

There were only 2 of 7 students at church. This is not good. Teen Class is the 3rd Sunday of each month. Mark your calendars for October 15th.

Our Payers & Congratulations!

Today is the Marriage of our former parishioner Rodion Smith to Stephanie Coleman in Olyphant, PA. Our congratulations to them and to Timothy Smith, on the Marriage of his son. Many Blessed Years to Rodion and Stephanie!

Axios! "He Is Worthy"

To Father Justin Frederick, (a former parishioner) on his elevation to the rank of Archpriest. Fr. Justin is the rector of St. Maximus the Confessor Church in Denton, TX.

On Making the Sign of the Cross by St. Comas the Aitolos

A person marks himself with the sign of the Cross. Let him unite his 3 fingers of his right hand and place them on his *forehead*, then on his *navel* (that is belly not your lower chest), then on his *right shoulder* and then on the *left shoulder*. The Cross protects from every poisonous thing and every demonic temptation.

TOP 10 TIPS TO LIVING AN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WAY OF LIFE

1) Attend the Divine Services

Participation in the liturgical life of the church is at the heart of the Orthodox way of life. Regular attendance on Sunday mornings, Saturday evenings, the 12 Great Feasts, and other special times throughout the year (like Great Lent), is a must to living a healthy Christian life. Check the calendar.



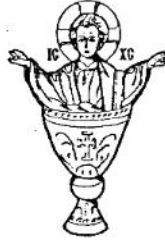
2) Confess Your Sins

Ask God to help you see your own faults and weaknesses. Go to the Sacrament of Confession with sorrow for what you've done and hope for a new beginning through God's grace and mercy. Confession should be regular, once a month or more; at the very least during the four fasting seasons.



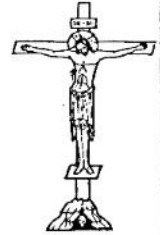
3) Receive Holy Communion

Frequent and fervent reception of the Body and Blood of Christ is indispensable to growing closer to God. Be sure to follow the preparation guidelines, make frequent confession, and remember to offer prayers of thanksgiving afterwards.



4) Keep the Fasts

Fasting on Wednesdays, Fridays, and other fasting days and seasons, helps us to deny ourselves, take up our crosses and follow Christ. Regular fasting helps keep the body health and the soul pure. Health issues, questions? Ask your priest.



5) Make Your Home a Family Church



Maintain an icon corner where you say your morning and evening prayers. Place an icon or cross in every room so that you remember God during the day. Have your home blessed each year. Pray unceasingly.

6) Be a Good Steward

Give of yourself, always remembering that God will hold each of us accountable for the time, talents, and treasure He has entrusted to our care. Our stewardship indicates what we truly love (God or other things), for where our treasure is, there will our heart be also.



7) Study the Scriptures

Read from the Holy Bible every day without fail. This is God's Word to you. Your church wall calendar gives the appointed Epistle and Gospel reading for each day.



8) Assemble a Home Library

In addition to the Scriptures, we should read the Lives of the Saints, the writings of the Holy Fathers, and other spiritual texts. Ask your priest for some advice. What are you reading now?



9) Be Quick to Forgive and Slow to Judge



Always ask forgiveness when we hurt someone, even if it is unintentional. Remember that if we don't forgive others, then God won't forgive us. Likewise, don't judge your neighbor or you will fall under God's just judgment.

10) Trust in God; Not Yourself

Believe what the Lord teaches through His Church. Don't subject the Word of God to your own personal opinion; we don't know better than He does. The way to the Kingdom is to follow Christ; we cannot make it there ourselves.





ON THE VIRTUE OF THE PERFECT MAN, WHO IS FIGURATIVELY
REFERRED TO AS AMBIDEXTROUS

by. St. John Cassian (+430)

There are persons, who are referred to in Holy Scripture as ambidextrous. Ehud, "who used either hand as if it were his right hand," is described as such in the Book of the Judges (3:15). We shall also be able to possess this quality in a spiritual way if by a good and correct use we put the things which are considered fortunate and right-handed and the things which are called unfortunate and left-handed on the right side, so that whatever befalls may become for us, in the words of the Apostle, "the arms of righteousness." For we see that our inner man consists in two parts or, as I might say, two hands. No holy person can be without what we call the left hand, but perfect virtue is discerned in the fact that by proper use he turns both into a right hand.

Let us make what we are saying more understandable: The holy person has a right hand - namely, his spiritual achievements. He has this, when, fervent in spirit, he masters all his desires and lusts; when, safe from every diabolical attack, he rejects and cuts off the vices of the flesh without effort or difficulty; when, raised from the earth, he contemplates all present and earthly realities as mere smoke and an empty shadow and disdains them as soon to disappear; when, with estatic mind, he not only ardently desires future realities but even sees them with clarity; when he effectively fed by spiritual theoria; when he sees unlocked to himself the heavenly sacraments in all their brightness; when he sends prayers purely and swiftly to God; and when, inflamed with spiritual ardor, he passes over to invisible and eternal realities with such utter eagerness of soul that he cannot bring himself to believe that he is in the flesh.

He also has a left hand - when he is involved in the turmoil of trials; when the desires of the flesh are seething emotions and impulses; when the fire of aggravations enkindles or vainglory; when he is depressed by a death-dealing sadness; when every virtuous practice takes on a certain unbearable and darkly loathsome quality.

Whoever, then, is, on what we have referred to as the right side is not elated at the approach of vainglory and, courageously struggling with the things on the left side, is not disheartened by any despair. Rather he seizes the arms of patience from adversity for the sake of exercising his virtue, uses both hands as right hands, and having triumphed in both respects, snatches the palm of victory from the left as much as from the right.

Take Joseph the Patriarch as an example of being ambidextrous. In prosperity he was more thankful than his father, Jacob, more devout than his brothers, and more acceptable to God. In adversity he was chaste, faithful to the Lord, more gentle to those who were imprisoned, heedless of insults, kind to his enemies, and not only respectful of his jealous and very nearly murderous brothers but even exceedingly kind in their regard.

Joseph, and others like him, - as for example Job the Long-Suffering - are rightly called ambidextrous. For they used either hand as if it were their right hand and, passing through those things which the Apostle enumerates, they could all say alike: "By the arms of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by glory and dishonor, by bad reputation and good reputation," and so forth.

We shall be ambidextrous ourselves, therefore, when neither an abundance nor a lack of present things change us - when the former does not push us into harmfully lax pleasures and the latter does not draw us into despair and complaining, but when in either case we are thankful to God and draw similar fruit from both successes and failures.





IT IS SUNDAY: WHERE ARE YOU?

This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it! (Ps. 118:24). With these prophetic words the Psalmist welcomes the Day of the Lord. Every day is made by the Lord and each day we should be glad and give Him thanks. He is the Giver of time, of daylight, of everything on earth, and of our loves. He made everything for us and our joy, but one day of the week is His day. That is Sunday, the Day of the Lord.

Every Sunday is a commemoration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord's Resurrection, as St. Paul says, is the essence of our faith (1 Cor. 15:4). It is the hope of our own resurrection (1 Peter 1:3). We rejoice in the Resurrection of our Lord and are glad for it, for it indeed, together with the creation, God's greatest gift to us.

In addition to the Resurrection of the Lord, on Sundays we remember the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and on His Church (see Acts of Apostles, chapter 2). The physical Church – as a body of faithful people – was established on Pentecost Sunday, after the preaching of the Apostles (Acts of the Apostles 2:41). The Revelation which St. John the Apostle received on the Lord's Day (Rev. 1:10) suggests that the Second Coming of our Lord will also take place on Sunday.

Keeping Sunday holy is one of the tenants of our Orthodox Faith. We are known as Christians because we keep Sunday as our holy day. Therefore, dear Christian, if you understand the importance and meaning of Sunday for your faith, for your church, and for your salvation, then I am sure your conscience will ask you this inevitable question: ***It is Sunday morning. What do you plan to do with the Day of the Lord?***

Are you going to use His day to talk – to have a chat – with the Lord? Will you plan to take time and pray this day? The best way to pray is together with God's children in His House. In the Church our God makes Himself

available to us. He listens to our petitions, answers our requests, and rejoices in our faith, our thanksgiving, and love for Him. *The Lord is in His holy temple*, says the Psalmist, *the Lord is on His heavenly throne* (Ps. 12:4).

Are you going to visit the Lord on His Day, and worship Him in His church? Are you going to choose to ignore Him, or even worse, not even remember Him at all? Do you think you have better things to do: cutting the grass, perhaps, or fixing the house, or sleeping away your salvation? Let us remember we have seven days given to us by Him in which we can do all these other things. Why should we steal His day away from Him?

Are you going to partake of a meal with Him? The meal is provided by Him and it is Himself. When we partake of this meal, Holy Communion, we partake of Christ Himself. There is no excuse to refuse the invitation to the banquet which He give at the Divine Liturgy every Sunday in honor of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

In one of the parables told by our Lord (Matthew 22:1-14) we hear that a King issued an invitation to attend a wedding banquet, but many refused to come. The King (who represents God in the parable) became very angry with those who refused His invitation to the banquet: *"The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city"* (Matthew 22:7). If we do not respect Sunday, God's Day, by refusing His invitation to honor His Son, should we then wonder and ask why our cities are destroyed by fire, by floods, and by earthquakes?

Let us not make light of the Lord's Day, for by so doing we make light of our God who gives us life, health, wealth, and everything we have. Let us not take Sundays for granted, for by doing so, we in fact take for granted as well as risk our own salvation and our everlasting life.

The acceptable answer to our Sunday morning question can be only one: Since today is Sunday, I plan to give this day to my Lord and God. I will sing praises to Him in His church. I will ask Him, in my lose talk with Him, to have mercy on me, on my family, on my church, on my country, and on the whole world.

-Fr. Cornel Todeasa