

# SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## BULLETIN OF OCTOBER 8, 2017

### SUNDAY/OCTOBER 8

#### Fathers of 7<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council

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

Coffee Hour; Church School;

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

### MONDAY/OCTOBER 9

#### St. Tikhon of Moscow, Enlightener of North America (+1925)

8:00a.m. Akathist to St. Tikhon

### THURSDAY/OCTOBER 12

6:30p.m. Compline

7-8:30p.m. Study Class: *“Healing According to  
St. Gregory Palamas – Hesychastic Life*

### SATURDAY / OCTOBER 14

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

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

### SUNDAY/OCTOBER 15

#### 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

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

Teen Class; Coffee Hour



“The man who  
knows the delight of  
the love of God—  
when the soul,  
warmed by grace,  
loves both God and  
her brother—knows  
in part that the  
kingdom of God is  
within us. Blessed is  
the soul that loves  
her brother, for our  
brother is our life.”

SAINT SILOUAN  
OF ATHOS  
(+1938)

#### ON THE BENEFITS OF ATTENDING THE LITURGY

*St. Maximos the Confessor*

It is necessary for every Christian to spend time in the holy church of God, and never to miss the celebration of the Divine Liturgy – for here, the holy angels have custody – they register the people going in each time and offer their angelic intercessions on their behalf. Each person who is found present at the Divine Liturgy, the grace of the Holy Spirit transforms, remolds, and truly remodels into a more divine image, conforming to Himself.



### **Offerings Week of October 8**

**Olive Oil:** in memory of Michael, Justina, Rosalia, Anastasia, and Ivanna; for the health of Larissa & Frank Mattei (25<sup>th</sup> anniversary); for the health of Jill & Todd Peterson (anniversary).

**Wine:** in memory of Emila; in thanksgiving to God for safe return from travelling; for forgiveness of sins and salvation of Mariana, Simona, Gabriel, Tabitha, Stefan, Kurt, Constantin, Maria 7& David.

**Flowers:** for the health and protection of Vera (birthday); for the blessings of the Lord on the Marriage of George & Lily; for the health of Basil & Barbara Kulick.

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

- Oct. 09, 1923 Nicholas Makovsky
- Oct. 09, 1945 Mary Zydiak
- Oct. 10, 1917 Elizabeth Tkach
- Oct. 10, 1926 Francis Bongrost
- Oct. 10, 1947 Fr. Michael Lototzky  
(rector 1935-1946)
- Oct. 11, 1961 Mary Lebedz
- Oct. 11, 1969 Anna Evaniec
- Oct. 11, 1978 Jacob Barnosky
- Oct. 12, 1967 Timothy Zeban
- Oct. 12, 1967 Matthew Zeban
- Oct. 12, 1981 Andrew Mogilevsky
- Oct. 13, 2015 Sharon Kloss
- Oct. 14, 1973 Anthony Bolash

### **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.

- Oct. 08 Chirnoaga, Moldoveanu, Vajda & Sue
- Oct. 15 Peterson, Bakaletz, Mattei, Erkman  
& Stone
- Oct. 22 Kita, Nevitt, Keller, Turri, Torrisi  
& Kachek

### **Counters Schedule**

- Oct. 08 Ciprian C. & Jill P.
- Oct. 15 Irina S. & Lisa K.
- Oct. 22 Larissa M. & Paulina N.

### **Ushers Schedule**

- Oct. 08 Jerome S. & Adrian M.
- Oct. 15 Dennis F. & Robert E.
- Oct. 22 Edward S. & Kahka K.

### **Sunday Readers Schedule**

- Oct. 8 Austin K. / Oct. 15 Ciprian C.

### **Adult Study Thursday Evenings**

There will be 5 consecutive classes, beginning Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>, 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"

### **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](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. Mark your calendars for October 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Our Payers & Congratulations!**

We extend our congratulations and fervent prayers for George Hadzitheodorou & Lily Mary Sue on their Holy Marriage today. Many Blessed Years!

### **Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>**

This is Demetrius Memorial Saturday, at 9:30a.m. there will be the Akathist for the Departed and at 10:30a.m. General Hall Clean-Up, Session 4. On this day, the Hawaiian Iveron Icon will be at St. Grigol Georgian Church in Manville at 9:00a.m.

## Why You Should Keep Taking Your Kids To Church Even When It Feels Pointless

*Every Sunday families face the monumental challenge of getting out the door and to the service on time. In our house the baby always needs something right as it is time to leave.*

After a bottle, a paci, her blanket, and some coaxing, our eight-week-old daughter fell asleep on the way to church. I hoped she would take a morning nap during the service and we would actually focus on worship.

Not ten minutes into the service, she filled her diaper. Out went my husband with my daughter. After they returned, she sat calmly for about two minutes before the fussing began again. I took her to the back to calm her down, but nothing worked. I went back to our seat, grabbed my nursing cover, and headed to the room in the back. Nursing, burping, and more fussing ensued. Before I knew it, the service was over and I had yet to "worship." I couldn't help but wonder: Why are we even here? Why do we even try?

Every Sunday is some variation of this routine. In the two to three hours we spend at church, my daughter is bound to need to be changed, fed, and put to sleep. My husband and I are like popcorn as we tend to her needs. I think about the future and realize that things are not going to get easier any time soon.

I remember my parents dutifully bringing us to church and carting us up to the balcony. My grandma would quietly pass out fruit Mentos while we wiggled in our pew. Over the years this pew was where we would doodle on children's bulletins, sing hymns, and memorize the Lord's Prayer and the Apostle's Creed. Slowly, but surely, these words were written on our hearts and the wiggles stopped. My parents' persistence and regular church attendance wasn't futile.

Other parents of young children, be encouraged. Your work on Sunday mornings isn't futile either. Even the worst, most distracted and failed attempts are important, if for no other reasons but the following.

### **You Are Teaching Your Child that Church Is Important**

You wouldn't be attempting church with children if you didn't think it was important. Perhaps you have always known church is important or perhaps as a childless adult you were convinced that corporate

worship is better than an isolated spiritual life. Either way, you have known the beautiful reality that going to church is part of the spiritual life.

As Russell Moore stated, "we are not simply fueling our individual quiet times with praise choruses. We're actually ascending to the heavenly places together, standing before Christ and all of his angels on Mount Zion." But now with children participation in the corporate body feels like a distant reality and heaven isn't any closer.

Every Sunday families face the monumental challenge of getting out the door and to the service on time. In our house the baby always needs something right as it is time to leave. Some mornings we stop to address her needs and we are late to church. Other mornings we come rolling in with a crying, needy baby. Either way, we are not part of corporate worship in the ways we used to be.

It is easy to find excuses to stay home, but even on the most stressful mornings it is important that Christian parents haul their families to church, even if we just feel like we are going through the motions. Children see what we do and, as my pastor reminds us regularly, they love what we love. The regular struggle to attend regular worship reinforces to our children that church is a priority.

## **You Are Creating Habits that Will Smooth the Future**

*Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6.*

If we wait until we have perfectly well-behaved children to bring them to church, it is likely Jesus will have already returned. Looking back, things only got more difficult for my parents as my sister and I got older. I have distinct memories of my dad sitting in the station wagon idling in the driveway while my mom herded us out the door.

Once I could drive we would often take three cars to get four people to church because nobody could get out the door on time to suit my father. But we followed his lead. Going to church wasn't debatable, and nobody had to tell us that. This was simply the established order as long as I can remember. It was this habit that pulled me through as I doubted my faith in my adolescence.

While on the subject of behavior and habit-making: what a great way to teach, practice, and live grace. Our salvation isn't dependent on our behavior, so don't make church attendance behavior-dependent, either. Our children need grace, and so do we. Regardless of how the children are acting during worship, if worship involves entering the presence of God, then what better time than with screaming children to experience such a grace.

## **You Are Introducing Your Kids to a Lifelong Community**

So you got to church and you survived the service, but you can't repeat any points from the sermon and your child was throwing a fit so epic no one could focus on the sacraments. Wasted time, right? No.

Your time after the service, while perhaps not as essential as participating in the word and sacrament, is an important part of being part of the body. Your children are meeting peers whom, Lord willing, will be alongside them as they come into their faith.

They are also meeting adults who are praying for them, teaching them, guiding them, and setting an example of a godly life. As an adult, I now see that some of my fiercest prayer warriors are the adults who have prayed for me since my baptism. They prayed for me when I left for college and kept me connected to the body of Christ as I struggled to find a church home in early adulthood.

These peers, prayer warriors, teachers, and mentors are essential to your child's spiritual well-being. We live in a time when fewer and fewer other associations will uphold the gospel. With the secularization of the communities in which we live, our children will lean even more on their church community to help bear the burdens that are inevitable to the human experience.

## **You Are Building Your Own Community**

As I have already stated, perhaps belabored, being part of Christ's body is essential. If you stay home, when do you have a chance to share your needs as well as offer support to others? Perhaps an exhausted tired momma with a screaming baby in the back will remind others to pray for all of the exhausted tired mommas (and especially you). You need the prayer.

You also need to pray for others. As a mother, I surprisingly find myself with more time to pray. This might change in the future, but with one baby I seem to have extra quiet time in my day. I find myself praying on walks, while I am nursing, while I am rocking a sleeping baby. By staying connected to the Christian body, I can use this time to pray for others.

## **You Are Including Your Children in Christ's Body**

You are not just offering your children a like-minded community, you are faithfully including them in the body of Christ. In Acts 16:33 Paul baptizes the whole household of the jailer. In Matthew 19:14, Jesus says, "Let the little children come to me, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." The New Testament makes it clear that there is a place for our wiggly, fussy, and distracting children. Our efforts as parents, however messy, are worth our time, if only to follow the example of both Christ and Paul.

## **You Are Being Faithful**

Perhaps the most important reason to strive for regular church attendance is because it is part of the duty of a Christian parent. This builds on point number five, but it is not just a recognition of children's place in church. Instead, it is acknowledging our responsibility as parents to bring them up in the church.

When we baptized our daughter we promised to instruct, pray with, set an example for, and "endeavor by all the means of God's appointment to bring her up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." These vows echo Paul's words in Ephesians 6:4: "provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

This is an intimidating responsibility, if only for the sheer weight of its consequences. While baptism practices and vows vary between denominations, the responsibility to raise our children according to God's word is an essential responsibility as a Christian parent. And why not do it with the help and guidance of the church?

## **Take Heart and Keep It Up**

So dear parent, rest easy. While Sunday morning might feel more like a wrestling match, a battle of wills, or a circus, your time, efforts, and distracted worship are worth it. Even the messiest and most frustrating days are not wasted. Thank God for his grace—and keep it up.

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