

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

605 Washington Avenue, Manville, New Jersey 08835-1856

Voice: 908-685-1452 Email: frjames@ssppoc.org Website: www.ssppoc.org

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

Diocese of NY-NJ: www.ocanynj.org

BULLETIN OF DECEMBER 03, 2017

SUNDAY/DECEMBER 3

26th Sunday After Pentecost

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

Coffee Hour; Church School

5:30p.m. Compline & Akathist to

Great-Martyr Barbara (Dec. 4)

TUESDAY/DECEMBER 5

7:00p.m. Vespers

WEDNESDAY/DECEMBER 6

St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

THURSDAY/DECEMBER 7

6:30p.m. Compline

7-8:30p.m. Study Class: *When, Why,
And How the Incarnation of the Son of God*

SATURDAY/DECEMBER 9

9:30a.m. Confessions

10:00a.m. General Church Clean-Up

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

SUNDAY/DECEMBER 10

27th Sun. After Pentecost

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

Coffee Hour

11:20a.m. Annual Christmas Cookie Walk

“Why is it necessary to pray at home and go to church to attend divine services? Why is it necessary for you to eat, drink and walk in the fresh air? What the body needs, so does the soul, for we are composed of two elements.”

SAINT JOHN OF
KRONSTADT
(+1908)



Offerings Week of December 2

Olive Oil: in memory of Michael, Justina, Rosalia, Anastasia, Panteleimon, Eva & Ivanna; in memory of Bocai and Sarchisian families; in memory of Proto-deacon Keith (40th day).

Wine: Health of Anna (Birthday) health of Mark Jr.; for the health of Alexander (Names Day); for the health of Nicole (Names Day).

Flowers: in honor of St. Nicholas; for the health and salvation of Nicholas.

Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Dec. 05, 1941 Anastasia Rilik
Dec. 05, 1978 Stefan Syubiak
Dec. 06, 1997 John Suseck Jr.
Dec. 06, 2010 John Chabra
Dec. 06, 2011 Howard Bozinta
Dec. 07, 1929 Felix Kshanovsky
Dec. 07, 1972 Gregory Hriniaak
Dec. 07, 1999 Fr. Jaroslav Roman
Dec. 09, 1965 Max Horbel
Dec. 09, 1970 Helen Horbel

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 and attend to food preparations.

Nov. 19 **Lenten Coffee Hours Begin**
Dec. 03 Inga, Eka, Marina & Nona
Dec. 10 Sokol, Nasledysheva, Staina & Sarchisian
Dec. 17 Chirnoaga, Moldoveanu, Vajda & Sue

Counters Schedule

Dec. 03 Rebecca O. & Ekaterini M.
Dec. 10 Ciprian C. & Jill P.
Dec. 17 Irina S. & Lisa K.

Ushers Schedule

Dec. 03 Timothy S. & Peter B.
Dec. 10 Jerome S. & Adrian M.
Dec. 17 Dennis F. & Robert E.

Sunday Readers Schedule

Dec. 03 John Z. / Dec. 10 Austin K.

Names Day Greetings: Many Years!

St. Barbara/Dec. 4: Barbara Kulick & Barbara Erkman

St. Sava/Dec. 5: Saba Kaliashvili

St. Nicholas/Dec. 6: Nicholas Mattei; Nicholas Silvestre & Nicholas Stucka

The 40 Day Nativity Lent

On November 15, we entered into the Nativity Lent in preparation for the Nativity of our Lord (Dec. 25th). A fast is being observed from meat, dairy, fish, wine and oil. On most weekends, fish, wine and oil are permitted, and on other festal days. Your parish wall calendar, the printed monthly bulletin and the parish website bulletin indicate modifications to the Fast.

Bins for Non-Perishable Foods

During the Nativity Lent, you may bring food items to the church vestibule for the local food bank.

5th Annual Coat Drive Is Underway

This year, your donation will benefit the children and families of the Appalachian Mountains. Kindly place your unwanted coats, hats, gloves and scarves in the bin at entrance of church hall no later than Sunday, December 10th.

The Holy Mysteries of Confession & Communion in Nativity Lent

The reception of these two Holy Mysteries of the Church is an essential part of our Lenten work. The faithful – adults and children of Confession age (7 and older) ought to receive these Mysteries in this time of the 40 days Fast (November-December Months).

Christmas Cookie Sale – Sunday, Dec. 10th at 11:20a.m. in the Lower Hall

Please join us in this annual fund-raiser by baking and buying cookies as well as promoting the event. A sign-up sheet for listing of your baked cookies is on the vestibule stand, or speak with Jill Peterson. The sale

Saint Alexander Hotovitzky

New Hieromartyr of Russia and Missionary to America

The New Martyr of Russia Alexander Hotovitzky was born in 1872 in Kremenezh, Russia to parents who raised him with a strong faith and sincere concern for God's people [1]. The young Alexander studied at the Volhynia Theological Seminary, where his father served as Rector. In 1895, he graduated from the Petersburg Theological Academy [2].

The following year, he was assigned to the Diocese of the Aleutians and North America and served as a Reader at Saint Nicholas Church in New York City [3]. After his marriage to Maria Scherbuina, he was ordained to the diaconate and then the priesthood [4]. Bishop Nicholas of the Aleutians, speaking at his priestly ordination in San Francisco, mentioned Father Alexander's "special spark from God" which attracted people "like a magnet."

A week later, Father Alexander was appointed Rector of Saint Nicholas Church in New York City and soon became editor of the *Russian Orthodox American Messenger* [5]. This publication chronicled the life of the Diocese, educated the faithful, and served as a witness to Orthodox Christianity for the American public.

Father Alexander also engaged in missionary work. Despite once being attacked and injured by a fanatic as he encouraged some Russians to abandon the Unia with Rome and return to Orthodoxy [6], he brought many people back to their ancestral faith and established parishes in Yonkers, NY; Philadelphia, PA; Passaic, NJ and other places [7]. He also traveled extensively to raise money for the construction of the majestic Saint Nicholas Cathedral in New York City, which replaced the parish church. The new church was designated the diocesan cathedral in 1903 [8].

From 1914 to 1917, Father Alexander served at Holy Dormition Cathedral in Helsinki, Finland, where he urged the local Orthodox Christians to remain faithful to their faith in the Lutheran-majority country [9]. In 1917, he took part in the All-Russian Council, during which Saint Tikhon was elected Patriarch of Moscow, and was appointed Assistant Pastor at Moscow's Christ the Savior Cathedral [10].

Working closely with Saint Tikhon, Father Alexander resisted Soviet oppression of the Church after the Russian Revolution. When the government marked the cathedral for destruction, he helped draft a document challenging believers: "People of Russia! Will you really surrender this wonderful church to mockery? Rise up and protect your holy things!" He was imprisoned several times, accused of violating Soviet decrees concerning the separation of the Church from the state by operating a Church school [11]. He further angered the Soviet authorities by distributing alms, supporting Patriarch Tikhon's refusal to let them confiscate holy objects that they claimed would be sold to help the poor. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, Father Alexander suffered false accusations and exile, but served at various Moscow churches when he could and continued to help the poor [12]. His final arrest, which took place in 1936, led to his death in a concentration camp the following year. His place of burial remains unknown [13].

In 1994 the Council of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church proclaimed Father Alexander a saint. Patriarch Aleksy II of Moscow and Metropolitan Theodosius of the Orthodox Church in America concelebrated at the glorification services in Moscow that December [14].

O Holy Father Alexander, pray unto God for us! ■



WITH THE NATIVITY FAST (ADVENT) UPON US, WHAT'S THE POINT OF THIS SEASON?

From *Antiochian.org*

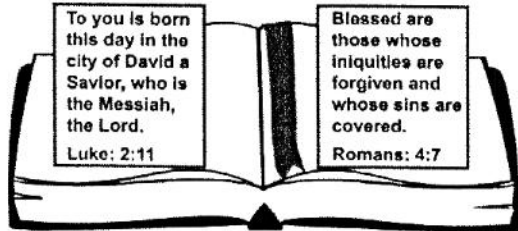
The six weeks prior to Christmas (the Nativity of our Lord in the Flesh) is a fasting period that many call Advent. Advent means "coming." It is that period of time when we find ourselves waiting for the coming of the Messiah, the Anointed One, the Christ. (All three terms mean the same thing.) For this reason, it has a different character than other fasting periods. Although there is an element of preparation involved, it is not the same as the Great Fast that precedes Holy Week and Pascha.

The liturgical preparation is limited to the two Sundays before the Nativity and the five days leading up to the feast. Those two Sundays we are reminded of the Holy Ancestors of God and the Holy Fathers, Patriarchs, and Prophets who played a role in the coming of the Messiah. In the hymns of the Sunday cycle of services, we hear of their great faith and are called to build our own.

For most of us, we are anxious to get to the feast — we want the days to rush by. Our preparation usually consists of shopping and decorating, not to speak of the endless parties that we are invited to attend. Here is where the notion of waiting comes into play. We must discipline ourselves through self control and patience. We are to read the Scriptures, specifically the prophecies that speak of the coming of the Messiah. We are to turn our focus to a Godly way of life that calls for sacrificing and almsgiving (acts of mercy). Let us think of charity and the giving of our time, talents, and resources to others that may be in

need. There is no better way to imitate Christ than to be loving and charitable towards others.

THE REASON FOR THE SEASON...



A word to the wise — put Christ back into Christmas. Find the meaning of the feast by understanding the importance of the Son of God taking on human flesh. Remember the real reason for the season is that Jesus, the Son of God, the Messiah, came into the world and dwelt among men, taking on Himself the sins of the world so that we might have life in Him.

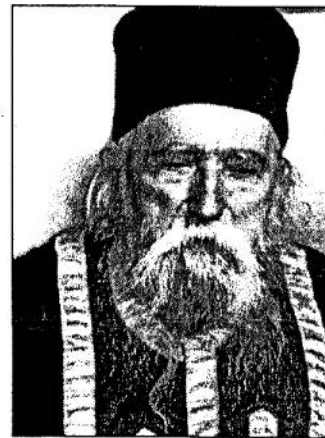
"God is with us! Understand O nations and submit yourselves, for God is with us!" (Isaiah 8:9)

FOUR TYPES OF COMMUNION WITH GOD

By *Elder Cleopa of Romania*

Our union with God in general terms comes about in two ways: through the mystical communion of the Body and Blood of the Lord and through spiritual communion.

1. The first and most important communion with Christ takes place through the partaking of His Body and Blood at the Divine Liturgy.
2. The second way of communion and union with Christ is in the prayer of Jesus, during which the intellect is plunged into the heart and there says unceasingly, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner."
3. The third way of communion with God our Creator takes place through the keeping of His commandments and the acquisition of the virtues.
4. And the fourth way of communion with Christ takes place through the reading and hearing of the Word of God in the Holy Scriptures.



Our Orthodox Church is the special, most holy place in which is realized our many-sided communion with Christ. Therein, all of our faithful, approaching the divine services with piety and faith, dwell in a mystical atmosphere and communion by the mind, heart, prayer and participation in the divine communion of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Saint Alexander Hotovitzky

New Hieromartyr of Russia and Missionary to America

2 He studied at the Volhynia Seminary and the St. Petersburg Academy.

3 He was assigned Reader at St. Nicholas Church, New York City, in 1896.

1 St. Alexander was born on February 11, 1872 in Kremenez, Volhynia, where his father served as Rector of the theological seminary.

5 After his ordination, St. Alexander was assigned Rector of St. Nicholas Church, New York City.

7 St. Alexander engaged in missionary work and helped to establish many new parishes.

9 From 1914 to 1917 he served at the Dormition Cathedral, Helsinki, Finland.

11 St. Alexander was arrested several times for challenging the Soviet government's persecution of the Church.



4 After marriage, he was ordained to the priesthood at San Francisco's Holy Trinity Cathedral and appointed Rector of St. Nicholas Church, New York City.

6 Once, while encouraging others to embrace the Orthodox faith, he was beaten and injured for his witness.

8 He oversaw construction of New York's St. Nicholas Cathedral.

10 In 1917, he was assigned Assistant Pastor of Moscow's Christ the Savior Cathedral.

14 In 1994, St. Alexander was glorified in services concelebrated in Moscow by Patriarch Aleksy II and Metropolitan Theodosius.

12 Despite suffering much at the hands of the Soviet leaders, St. Alexander continued to serve in various Moscow churches and offer help to the poor and needy.

13 St. Alexander was arrested for the last time in 1936. The following year, he suffered a martyr's death in a Soviet concentration camp.

HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS AT CHURCH



Some time ago, I was approached by a new parishioner, after Liturgy, with a question, "How do I become closer to the people at church?" Shocked and saddened that she even had to ask that question (such implications!), I hurriedly mumbled something about her volunteering. And then I thought, and thought, and thought, through the night, the next day, weeks passed. How does one make friends, true friends? Sometimes life is so superficial. We kiss and say, "Hello. How are you?" But we don't mean it. Or maybe we even do, but only on the surface. How do you break through that barrier and truly get someone to care about you? Well, you need to do several things.

First, pray. God loves you. He cares about you. If you ask him, and it will benefit you spiritually, he will grant your request. So if you want a friend, ask him.

Second, care. People care about others that care about them. Really care about them and their desires and needs. The following recommendations will be meaningless, if you don't really, truly care about the person.

Third, listen. How can you get to know someone if you don't listen? If someone is speaking, don't be thinking about how you can mention a similar experience you had, or what you can say next that will sound amusing or knowledgeable. Show compassion. Let them know you care. You never learn anything while you are talking. Think about what you can do to help them. Not in a way that fulfills what YOU think they need, but in a way that would really help them. If you don't know, say so. "I really would like to help you, but not in a bothersome way. What do you really need?" Keep a record of people and what their interests are. If Helen likes horses, next time you read an article about horses, send it to her. If Peter's mother was hospitalized, next time you see him, ask how she is doing.

Fourth, talk. You can't become closer to someone without talking to them. Call them. The telephone is a two way instrument. If they don't call you, call them. My first job in customer service was very difficult. Every telephone call was horrible; full of anger from my customer and manipulation on my part. After a couple years, I developed an aversion to making telephone calls. I love to talk on the phone, but I have a hard time placing a call. Maybe they have a similar background, there may be a legitimate reason they aren't calling you. However, remember, people are busy. When you do call, don't spend too much time on the phone. That is not being a caring friend. You can also invite them to get together for coffee, lunch, dinner, breakfast. I used to know a woman who loved to meet her friends for breakfast. Then they could chat and still have the rest of the day to do things.

Fifth, be kind. Send a card once in a while. Buy them a book. If you come across a tea that they like, buy some for them. Remember their birthday. 'Like' their Facebook posts. Remember their Name Day. If they have an operation, visit them in the hospital with flowers and a funny magazine. If they're sick, bring them some chicken soup. (Studies have actually shown that it can speed recuperation time.) Babysit their children. Give them a big smile when you see them. Luke 6:31 "Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you." Think of what you would appreciate and do that.

Sixth, share. Share your life with them. Tell them your hopes and dreams. Tell them about your struggles and triumphs. Tell them about your childhood. Once I volunteered to help make kulich with a woman from church, Olga. We got on the subject of food and childhood. Olga told me about when she was growing up they would have a celebration in her village where they would dig a big pit and put in wood and roast a pig. And along with the pig, they would put in potatoes. The potatoes would get all black on the outside, but be delicious on the inside. She remembered it so fondly, because not only did the potatoes taste good to a hungry child, but she remembered how they would all get black streaks on their faces because of eating the blackened potatoes. I will never forget that moment. I felt like I was with the young Olga, waiting for the food to cook and laughing at the blackened faces of my friends.

Seventh, do things together. Find a common interest and plan activities around it. Do you both like art? Go visit an art museum. If you both like poetry, go listen to a poetry reading. Perhaps you like astronomy. If so, grab a telescope and go stargazing. Don't forget the hot tea. Are you both Godly people? Do something together to help others, give sweets to the children at an orphanage, pull weeds at a monastery, visit prisoners, have a dinner to raise money for the church, etc.

Lastly, pray. Pray for them. For their health. For their family. For their friends. For their neighbors. For them financially. For a good night's sleep. For their spiritual growth. For their salvation. Pray for whatever seems right. We can all use more prayer. And isn't it something that a caring friend would do?