

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF JANUARY 7, 2018

SUNDAY/JANUARY 7

Sunday After Theophany

Synaxis of St. John the Baptist

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

WEDNESDAY/JANUARY 10

St. Theophan the Recluse

9:30a.m. Akathist to St. Theophan

6:30p.m. Compline

7-8:30p.m. Study Class: *"Salvation: Was Saved, Being Saved, Will be Saved"*

SATURDAY/JANUARY 13

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

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

SUNDAY/JANUARY 14

Leave-Taking of Theophany

St. Nina of Georgia

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

Coffee Hour



QUESTIONS ABOUT HOLY WATER

Q. When should I drink holy water?

A. When you feel a spiritual need, that is when you find yourself strongly tempted; feel in an evil way; are about to set out on a journey; will miss the divine services; before a difficult encounter; in illness, afflictions, etc.. It is the custom of some pious people to take a drink of holy water the first thing every day before they eat or drink anything

else (except on days when they receive Holy Communion).

Q. Where should I keep the holy water?

A. Some keep the holy water in their icon corner and others in the refrigerator.

Q. Does holy water have magical powers?

A. No. But it is matter that is "spirit-bearing" which brings the blessing of God, cleansing, healing, and can be used for every purpose that is expedient.

THE FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD

The Baptism of our Lord in the Jordan River reveals wondrous salvific events:

- ❖ The Mystery of the Holy Trinity was revealed.
- ❖ Christ blessed the water, making it holy; water for our renewal and regeneration.
- ❖ A model of Baptism was established for the followers of Jesus Christ, so that they could have their sins washed away and be freed from the tyranny of demons.
- ❖ The Forerunner, St. John the Baptist was blessed by Christ.



Offerings Week of January 7

Relics Candle: in memory of Infant Ivanna

Olive Oil: in memory of Michael, Justina, Rosalia, Anastasia & Ivanna; in memory of Gabriela, Floarea, Mihail, Anicuta, Marioara, Ion, Alexandru, Elena, Petre, Ilie, Aurelia, Maria, Alexandru, Sasinca, Elena, Petre, Ion, Nicolae, Father Roman and Father Teofil.

Flowers: in memory of Frank (Jacob).

Wine:

Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Jan. 07, 1959 Ufim Nesteruk
Jan. 07, 1963 Mary Borushko
Jan. 07, 1967 Helen Knysh
Jan. 08, 1963 Mathilda Blanchard
Jan. 08, 1967 Katherine Karpinski
Jan. 08, 1978 Eustafey Gumenuk
Jan. 09, 1995 Michael Hobora
Jan. 10, 1983 Helen Zvonchenko
Jan. 11, 1979 Vassily Koles
Jan. 12, 1965 Alex Emilianov
Jan. 12, 1976 Julia Dzyban
Jan. 12, 1982 Xenia Kalevich
Jan. 12, 2011 Margaret Lohsen
Jan. 12, 2013 Slako Yadlowsky
Jan. 13, 1953 Katherine Shwetz
Jan. 13, 1966 Peter Krenitsky

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.

Jan. 07 Inga, Eka, Marina & Nona
Jan. 14 Sokol, Nasledysheva, Staina & Sarchisian
Jan. 21 Chirnoaga, Moldoveanu, Vajda & Sue

Counters Schedule

Jan. 07 Rebecca O. & Ekaterini M.
Jan. 14 Ciprian C. & Jill P.
Jan. 21 Irina S. & Lisa K.

Ushers Schedule

Jan. 07 Timothy S. & Peter B.
Jan. 14 Jerome S. & Adrian M.
Jan. 21 Dennis F. & Robert E.

Winter Weather Alert

If it is necessary to make changes in the schedule, they will be posted via 1) Parish E-Mail; 2) Parish website www.ssppoc.org ; 3) Friends of Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church Face Book.

Written Reports for Annual Meeting

All written reports for the Annual Meeting of February 11th must be received by the Fr. James no later than January 30th, for compilation and distribution to the parish membership for February 3rd.

March For Life – Washington DC, Friday, January 19th

Parish Council Meeting – Thursday, January 25th at 7:00p.m.

Annual Parish Meeting of 2018 – Sunday, February 11th at 12:15p.m.

2017 Contribution Statements

The listing of your contributions for the year 2017 is being distributed. Questions you may have should be addressed to Katherine Mantzafos, Financial Recording Secretary.

The Blessing of Homes Season Is Underway

The Blessing of Homes is taking place January 7th thru February 17th. To have your home blessed, please contact Father James for an appointment. The earlier in the season to make your arrangements, the better.

A Family Needs Assistance

There is a local family consisting of four children, ages 9,7,3 and 14 months that are in difficult financial standing. Fr. James has known this family for a good number of years and while the father of the family works, the immediate needs of the household are great. If in your charity, you can be of any help, I personally, as well as the family would be most grateful. Your donation can be entrusted to Fr. James or a check made to St. Philaret Society, earmarked "family." The Lord bless!

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)
Sept	\$16,012.85	\$8,822.18	7,191	\$8,846.15	\$6,783.00	(2,063)
3rd Quarter	\$40,691.13	\$28,880.50	11,811	\$28,750.00	\$24,331.00	(4,419)
Oct	\$18,538.21	\$11,805.11	6,733	\$11,057.69	\$11,284.00	226
Nov	\$4,057.00	\$7,546.00	(3,489)	\$8,846.15	\$8,592.00	(254)
Dec	\$21,999.00	\$18,954.08	3,045	\$8,846.15	\$11,036.00	2,190
4th Quarter	\$44,594.21	\$38,305.19	6,289	\$28,749.99	\$30,912.00	2,162
YTD	\$159,249.54	\$156,444.63	2,805	\$114,999.99	\$109,389.00	(5,611)

A COMPARATIVE VIEW OF ACTUAL INCOME AND EXPENSES

YEAR	SUNDAY ENVELOPE	TOTAL INCOME	TOTAL EXPENSES	CENSUS
2017	\$109,389	\$159,249	\$156,444	77
2016	\$111,925	\$148,870	\$149,636	75
2015	\$118,466	\$177,657	\$169,434	76
2014	\$105,617	\$165,299	\$171,054	76
2013	\$111,399	\$168,215	\$169,823	77



THE TIME TO TITHE IS NOW: IT IS A SPIRITUAL ADVENTURE

You will never be in a better position to tithe, or give 10% of your income, than you are today. Whether you can tithe has relatively little to do with the amount of your income or the number of your financial obligations. The person who says, "After I pay all my bills, I can't afford to tithe," is telling the truth. He or she simply has the cart before the horse. None of us could afford to tithe with what's left. Tithing is a matter of putting first things first, taking our tithe out first, and then wisely managing the rest of our income in a way in which we still pay our bills.

REWARDS OF TITHING

Honor the Lord with the first fruits... then will your plate be filled with food!

As for the rewards of tithing, one thing is certain: As far as MATERIAL needs are concerned, there will be enough; as far as SPIRITUAL needs are concerned there will be more than enough; ABUNDANCE, seven time as much, for if you tithe with the proper motives, you will be less and less attached to material things and your soul will be able to soar to undreamed spiritual heights. For tithing is a way of life and it will affect every area of your spiritual life and influence every facet of your efforts to become a better Christian.

If we part with what we hold dear – our money – then we will soon be able to part with other things we may cling to – things that may prevent us from practicing virtue: selfishness with our time or talent; stubbornness of will, refusal to listen to another's point of view.

In a word, we will overcome selfishness in all its varied forms, and after all, is it not selfishness that prevents our spiritual growth; selfishness prefers one's own will to the will of God.

From Parish Publishing

DID YOU KNOW?

- ❖ One sixth of all of the words of Jesus Christ are concerned with the relationship of a person and his material possessions.
- ❖ One third of Christ's parables are devoted to man's preoccupation with money.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Christ says in Matthew 6:21, "Where your treasure is there shall your heart be also." What a person does with his money, how he thinks about it, where he spends it, what he will do to earn it, and the things to which he will give it are some of the real clues to who he is inside, to what is essentially important to him, to what is really in his heart.

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

"Let each of you regularly on the first day of the week set aside a proportion as God has prospered him." (1 Cor. 16:2)

"Bring all the tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house. And test Me now with this, says the Lord, to see if I will not open the windows of Heaven for you, and pour out a blessing for you, until there is not enough room." (Mal. 3:11)

PROPORTIONATE MONTHLY / YEARLY OFFERING GUIDE								
Annual Income	10%		8%		6%		4%	
	Year	Month	Year	Month	Year	Month	Year	Month
20,000	2,000	166	1,600	133	1,200	100	800	66
30,000	3,000	250	2,400	200	1,800	150	1,200	100
50,000	5,000	416	4,000	333	3,000	250	2,000	164
75,000	7,500	625	6,000	500	4,500	375	3,000	250
100,000	10,000	833	8,000	667	6,000	500	4,000	333

THINE OWN OF THINE OWN
By the VRev. Vladimir Berzonsky

"Thine own of Thine own, we offer to Thee, in behalf of all, and for all" (Elevation of Gifts)

What gift can we offer to You which is truly ours to give? Even the awareness of our poverty is a gift that comes from Your Holy Spirit. Like the Little Drummer Boy of the Christmas carol, we have no gifts to bring, unless it be the free will to desire to be here at this moment of the Divine Liturgy at the consecration of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of You Yourself, our Lord Christ Jesus, and Your heavenly Father, the Almighty Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in it. In Your great wisdom, Lord Jesus, You chose from the meal the items that require some effort and talent or preparation on behalf of humans. The seeds of wheat planted and cultivated until ripened and made into flour and then bread is Your way of allowing us to take pride in the product; and so too the wine from the grapes. Your bread is our precious nourishment and Your wine having become Your Blood is the stimulant that fires us from complacency, invigorating us with zeal to be worthy of those Gifts.

We learn humility, like its root humus, is a reminder that "You shall eat bread in the sweat of your face till you return from the ground from which you were taken" (Genesis 3:19). We elevate the memory of that announcement spoken by the Almighty as response to Adam's disobedience. This bread will become the revocation of that curse, because it shall turn into the Bread of Life, the unique Body of God's only-begotten Son and our Lord, Jesus Christ, Who came into the world to free us from Adam's sin. Indeed, we return like the wheat and vine, yet the part of us created originally to live forever with the Holy Trinity will go on

with Christ to meet the Father with Whom we are reconciled by the humble obedience of God's will as demonstrated in His acceptance of the cross.

We learn discernment. Life is a continual process of decisions and choices. What is the cost of eternal life? Where on earth do we discover the one precious jewel, that pearl (Matthew 13:45) worth the cost of all other jewels in the world; and once we find it, what shall we do with it? This explains what

monastics do with their lives, but it is not only they – all of us have the Christian obligation to sort out the genuine from the fraudulent, the true from the imitation, the lofty from the banal at each stage of our lives here on earth.

We learn loyalty. Only Jesus Christ could win our salvation, and only to Him do we commit ourselves to love, honor and obey throughout our lives here on earth. Because He gave His life for us even to the death on the cross, we cannot live as mere spectators going through the rituals of the faith without offering our own lives as witnesses to

His glory and as disciples engaged in manifesting His concerns in all ways possible.

We learn that Church is family. Never is it a One-on-one relationship, but as God is Three Persons in unity, so the two or three assembled in Eucharist are part of an uncountable number of those united through Christ with Father by the Holy Spirit – not only in the parish and diocese, but universally at a certain holy feast day or Sunday. We are members of the Church past, all who have fallen asleep in the Lord since Pentecost, and those who were snatched out of Hades on that most sacred day of rest when God was at work saving those held by death, and all those yet to be born, baptized and welcomed in the holy Church of the future.



CANDLES – SMALL PIECES OF LIGHT

By Natalie Ashanin

Lighting Candles

Light. Bright, beautiful light was created by God before all other things. It was only after He created light that He looked at His creation and saw that it was good. Without light we cannot see and we cannot do very much. Light is God's first and greatest gift, for with it we can see all the other beautiful things He has given to us.

A candle is a small piece of light. Long ago candles and oil lamps were the only ways people could have light at night. They would bring these bits of light to the first Christian gatherings in catacombs and other secret places so they could see what was taking place and to bring joy and warmth into the meeting. Soon the candles became a way of praying, of giving something back to God.

Candles are used in all Orthodox churches. When we enter the church, we stop to buy a candle. It's our sacrifice. In olden days, people made their own candles. Some had a bees hive at home. Candles were made from pure wax, then, without any mixtures. Bees were thought of almost like saints, because of their purity.

When we light the candle before an icon and say a prayer for someone; we tell God that we are praying for that person and as long as our candle burns our prayer will be there before God. We say to our



friends who are sick or troubled that we will light a candle for them. We light candles for someone who has died. Sometimes we light a candle to say "thank you" to God. In some churches people kiss the candle before lighting it.

Candlelight In The Home

In many Orthodox homes, especially Russian and Ukrainian ones, it is the custom to have a "beautiful corner" where the family icons are placed with a candle or an oil lamp burning before them. This light is a reminder that the family's prayers are going before God. It reminds them of Christ and the saints who watch over them. The Serbian people



honor the family's patron saint with a special celebration called a Slava during which they burn a large candle called the "Slava Candle". It is said that as long as the candle burns the saint will be at the celebration.

Candles are especially important during holidays for Carpatho Russians, Bulgarians and Albanians. At Christmas time, it is the custom to light a special decorated candle or place it in a round loaf of bread for the feast day meal. Among the Romanians, groups of children go from house to house on Christmas eve, singing carols and carrying a beautifully decorated lantern in the shape of a star, to recall the Bethlehem star that showed the Wise Men where the Christ Child was lying.

Those who have converted to Holy Orthodoxy have a rich treasury of customs to choose from to brighten their home celebrations.

Candle Light During Services

Candles are an important part of many services. They are used during the service for a funeral, a baptism, wedding, and holy unction. When a bishop serves, he uses two candleholders to bless the faithful at the Divine Liturgy. Candles play an important part in the services of Holy Week and Pascha. During the midnight Paschal Matins, the priest calls to the people to "Come, take the light that is never overtaken by night and glorify Christ Who is Risen from the dead." Altar servers carry candles during the Little Entrance and for the reading of the Holy Gospel, to represent the Light which shines upon the world.



Light In Our Life

Even today when we have electric lights we do not want to give up praying with those small bits of living light. God's first creation. Candles are pictures of our prayer to God. But they also stand for us. They remind us that our souls should burn with love for God and our neighbor, for we are called to be living candles. Christ says, "You are like a light to the world. You are like a candle in a dark room. Don't hide your light. Let your light shine for everyone to see!" When we see so many candles everywhere, we know that Christ is everywhere in the whole church, our homes, and He is in us, too.