

# SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## BULLETIN OF FEBRUARY 04, 2018

**Blessing of Homes: January 8<sup>th</sup> thru February 17<sup>th</sup>**  
(blessings by appointment)

### SUNDAY/FEBRUARY 4

#### Prodigal Son Sunday

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy  
"Souper Bowl of Caring, Sunday I

### WEDNESDAY/FEBRUARY 7

6:30p.m. Compline

7-8:30p.m. Study Class: *Great Lent:  
Preparation, Expectation & Realization*

### SATURDAY/FEBRUARY 10

#### Memorial Saturday

9:30a.m. General Memorial for Departed;  
Confessions

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

### SUNDAY/FEBRUARY 11

#### Meat-Fare Sunday

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy  
Coffee Hour; Church School

12:15p.m. Annual Parish Meeting  
(Less than 1 hour duration)



#### A WORD ABOUT PRAYER

*An Instruction of St. Theophan the Recluse (†1894)*

**The essence of evening prayer** is to thank God for the day and for everything that one has met in the course of it, both good and bad. For the wrong which has been done, one must repent and ask for forgiveness, promising to make amends the next day; also one prays to God for protection during sleep.

**The essence of morning prayer** is to thank God for sleep and revitalization, and to ask Him for help to do things throughout the day for His glory. Say your prayers with all your heart and mind. Make known to God your vital needs, both spiritual and material, speaking to God like a child: "See, Lord, my infirmities and weakness! Help me and heal me!" Never read a prayer hurriedly. Try to learn your prayers by heart. This greatly aids undistracted prayer. A prayer must be learned just like anything else.



### **Offerings Week of February 4**

Relics Candle: in memory of Infant Ivanna; in memory of Andrew, Dimitri and Daniela.

Olive Oil: in memory of Sarchisian and Bocai families; for the health of Frank (birthday); for peace and comfort of Nicholas, Christopher and Theodore.

Wine: for a safe journey; in memory of Gabriela, Floarea, Gheorghe, Elena, Petre, Aurelia, Ilie, Maria, Mihail, Anicuta, Marioara, Anna, Ile, Sinefta, Florica, Anton, Alexadnru, Sinefta, Maria, Elena, Ion, Petre, Marina, Petre, Archimandrite Roman and Archimandrite Teophil.

Litya Breads: for the health of Katherine.

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

Feb. 04, 1973 Mary Bolash  
Feb. 04, 1975 Pelagia Grishkivech  
Feb. 05, 1958 Theodore Andreosky  
Feb. 07, 1931 Basil Petrovsky  
Feb. 07, 1970 Tatiana Gumenuk  
Feb. 08, 1953 John Andreosky  
Feb. 09, 1972 Fr. Nikifor Besmertnuk

(rector 1925)

Feb. 09, 1988 Anna Karel  
Feb. 09, 2007 Vincent Chwat  
Feb. 10, 1962 Fr. Michael Tidik  
(rector 1922, also priest who  
Baptized Archbishop Michael)  
Feb. 10, 1988 Ruth Michaelovsky

### **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.

Feb. 04 Kita, Nevitt, Keller, Turri, Torrisi & Kachek

Feb. 11 Inga, Eka, Marina & Nona

Feb. 18 (No Meats)

Feb. 18 Sokol, Nasledysheva, Staina & Sarchisian

### **Counters Schedule**

Feb. 04 Rebecca O. & Ekaterini M.

Feb. 11 Ciprian C. & Jill P.

Feb. 18 Irinia S. & Lisa K.

### **Ushers Schedule**

Feb. 04 Timothy S. & Peter B.

Feb. 11 Jerome S. & Adrian M.

Feb. 18 Dennis F. & Robert E.

### **Readers Schedule**

Feb. 04 John Z/ Feb. 11 Austin K./ Feb. 18 Cirpian

### **Names Day Greetings**

Feb. 10/St. Charalampus: Charles Dunaenko

Feb. 10/St. Valentina: Valentina Gorbunova

Many Blessed Years!

### **Souper Bowl Sundays – Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>**

Our parish will participate in the Annual IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) project. A food basket will be in the vestibule for staple food items for the local food pantry and in the same basket you may place \$ donations for our local charity – Home for Unwedded and Expectant Mothers in Raritan. Checks should be made to St. Philaret Society.

### **Forth-Coming Calendar**

Annual Parish Meeting: Sunday, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:15p.m. (Less Than An Hour Duration).

Meat-Fare Sunday: Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>. This is the last day we partake of meat until Pascha, April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Cheese-Fare Wednesday & Friday: On these days, Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, fish and dairy are permitted.

Cheese-Fare Sunday: Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>. This is the last day we partake of dairy products until Pascha, April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Sunday of Orthodoxy: February 25<sup>th</sup>, at SS. Peter & Paul Church in South River. Metropolitan Tikhon, Archbishop Michael, Metropolitan Joseph (Antiochian Archdiocese) and Archbishop John (Russian Patriarchal Church) will be at both services: 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy and 4:00p.m. Vespers. You are invited!

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent: March 18<sup>th</sup>. The NJ South Deanery Vespers will be hosted by our parish at 4:00p.m.

### **First Service of the Great & Holy Fast**

Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:30p.m. Vespers and the Rite of Mutual Forgiveness. This is a most important service for everyone.



## DO NOT DESPAIR BUT TRUST IN GOD'S MERCY

By Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk

Do not despair of whatever sins you may have committed since Baptism and find yourself in true repentance, but await God's mercy. However, many and however great and burdensome your sins may be, with God there is greater mercy. Just as His majesty is, so likewise is His mercy. Only guard yourself from sinning henceforth, and walk according to the ways of God.

If you have transgressed in this as a man, and have sinned do not despair. But at that very moment, confess your sin and fall down with humility before the compassionate eyes of God and ask mercy with the voice of the publican, *God be merciful to me a sinner!* (Luke 18:13), and your sins will be forgiven you.

True repentance demands that a man turn away from sins and from the vanity of this world and turn toward God with all his heart, that he be changed within, and that he become different from what he was before, and so *work out his salvation with fear and trembling* (cf. Phil. 2:12), and so endeavor to do nothing else but only to



please God and so be saved. For if you wish to be in true repentance and so be saved, change yourself and be renewed, and become different from what you were before, and take care for nothing else but only to please God and be saved, and so shall you be a new creature in Christ. For every Christian that wishes to be a true Christian, and not

false, out to be a new a renewed man or a new creature. Do not, then, indulge your flesh, and do not do everything it may desire. It must be *crucified with its affections and lusts* (Gal. 5:24) when you wish to be a Christian, that is, Christ's. Much effort and labor is needed, for a man to be changed and to be the good tree that brings forth good fruit. Strive, then, for nothing else but to change, renew, and correct yourself.

And pray for this, and sigh often and with all zeal to Christ the Lord, that He Himself might renew you and make you good, for without Him our renewal and correction cannot take place. And when you are renewed inwardly and good, then you outward life and works shall also be good.

### THE BANDIT'S REPENTANCE

Can a sinner, in the space of ten days, make full repentance of his sins? By the immeasurable grace of God, he can. In the time of Emperor Maurice, there was a well-known bandit in the region around Constantinople. Both in the countryside and in the capital itself, he inspired fear and trembling. Then the Emperor himself sent him a cross, as a pledge that he would not punish him if he gave himself up.

The bandit took the cross, and did indeed give himself up. Arriving in Constantinople, he fell at the Emperor's feet and begged his forgiveness. The emperor kept his word, had mercy on him and let him go free.

Immediately after that, the bandit fell gravely ill and sensed that death was near. He began to repent bitterly of all his sins, and implored God with tears to forgive him as the Emperor had. He shed many tears in his prayer, so that the handkerchief with which he wiped them became soaked, and he died after ten days of prayerful weeping.

The night of his death, the doctor who had been attending to him had a strange vision in a dream: When the bandit on the bed breathed his last, a number of little black men gathered around him, flourishing bits of paper on which his sins were written, and two glorious angels also appeared. A pair of scales were placed in the middle, and the little black men gleefully put all the bits of paper on it, so their side of the scales was loaded, while the other was empty.

"What can we put in?" the angels asked each other. "Let's look for something good in his life." Then there appeared in the hand of one of the angels the handkerchief soaked with tears of repentance. The angels quickly placed it on their side of the scales, and it at once outweighed the other with all the papers. Then the little black men fled, howling in anguish, but the angels took the man's soul and carried it to Paradise, glorifying God's love for mankind.





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# The Practice of Hospitality

The most revered exercise of almsgiving in the Christian East is practicing hospitality: opening one's home or parish to strangers. It is the sharing of who one is and what one has with those whom God has sent our way. Recalling the hospitality of Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 18), the Scriptures tell us, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares" (Hebrews 13:2).

**Hospitality Is Not** – hosting one's friends and relatives:

*"For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you salute only your brethren, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?" (Matthew 5:46-47)*

**Hospitality Is** – greeting the outsider and making them welcome in the Lord's name:

*"Whoever gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he shall not lose his reward" (Matthew 10:42)* In monasteries and many homes visitors are first greeted with a glass of cold water, and perhaps a cup of coffee and a sweet to fulfill this command of Christ.

*Even if you have only bread or water, with these you can still meet the dues of hospitality. Even if you do not have these, but simply make the stranger welcome and offer him a word of encouragement, you will not be failing in hospitality. Think of the widow mentioned in the Gospel by our Lord: with two mites she surpassed the generous gifts of the wealthy. (St. Theodore of Edessa)*

**Welcoming visitors to your home** – You can make your home a place of hospitality to:

- **Students:** become a sponsor for summer visitors, or sponsor a foreign student at a local university.
- **Hospital visitors:** register to host out-of town relatives visiting patients at your local hospitals or nursing homes.
- **Church personnel:** extend hospitality to visitors from churches abroad.

**Welcoming visitors to your parish** – When strangers visit your church...

- Would they be made to feel welcome?
- Would something make them uncomfortable?
- Would someone offer them a service book, holy bread, or refreshments?
- Would anyone introduce them to other parishioners?
- Would anyone invite them home for dinner?

➤ **Remember:** Almsgiving is "God's business," no one else's –

*"When you give alms, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you" (Matthew 6:2-4).*

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