

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF JUNE 24, 2018

SUNDAY/JUNE 24

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Nativity of St. John the Baptist

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
Recognition of Graduates; Coffee Hour

Holy Apostles Fast: June 4-28th

A fast is observed from meat, dairy, fish, wine & oil
Modifications this week are the following:

June 24/Sun.: fish, wine & oil

June 26/Tues & June 28/Thurs.: wine & oil

June 29/Fri. fish, wine & oil

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 27

7:00p.m. Compline; Confessions

THURSDAY/JUNE 28

3:00p.m. Confessions

7:00p.m. Vigil; Confessions

FRIDAY/JUNE 29

FEAST OF SS. PETER & PAUL

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

SATURDAY/JUNE 30

Parish Conference in Paramus 10:00-3:00

5:30p.m. Vespers; Compline; Confessions

SUNDAY/JULY 1

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour – Moving of Items to Hall

6:30p.m. Compline & Akathist to

St. John of San Francisco (July 2)

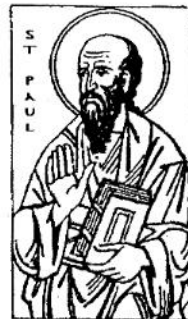
FOR CONSIDERATION

By St. Nikolai Velimirovich



A true friend prays to God for his friend. A true friend is concerned about the salvation of the soul of his friend. To dissuade a friend from false paths and to direct him on the path of truth, that is precious friendship. The saints of God are the best friends of mankind.

Two youths, Barnabas and Paul, were friends while together they were attending the school of Gamaliel. When Barnabas became a Christian, he persistently and tearfully prayed to God that He would also enlighten the mind and turn the heart of Paul in order that he becomes a Christian.



Barnabas often spoke to Paul about Christ the Lord but Paul ridiculed him and considered him as one led astray. However, the Good Lord did not leave the

prayers of Barnabas without fruit. The Good Lord appeared to Paul and turned him from the path of falsehood to the path of truth. The converted Paul then fell before the feet of his friend and cried out: "O Barnabas, teacher of truth, I am now convinced that everything which you spoke to me about Christ is the truth!" Barnabas wept with joy and embraced his friend.

Barnabas, the friend saved the soul of his friend by his fervent prayer. If Barnabas has succeeded to place Paul as the emperor of Rome, he would have done less for him than what he succeeded in doing by bringing him to the truth by his prayers.



Offerings Week of June 24

Relics Candle: for parishioners; in memory of Ivanna; in memory of Nicholas & Eleanor Rita.

Olive Oil: in memory of Sarchisian and Bocai families; in memory of Michael, Justina, Anastasia, Rosalie, & Ivanna; in memory of Kathleen; in memory of Susanna; for the health of Alex (birthday).

Wine: for the health of Jerome Sr.; in thanksgiving and for protection and salvation of Marian (birthday) Stefan, Simona, Gabriel, Tabitha & Kurt.

Litya Breads: for the health of Katherine.

Flowers: for the health and salvation of parishioners of Ss. Peter & Paul Church; in memory of the departed parishioners of Ss. Peter & Paul Church.

Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

June 24, 40th Day of Fr. Vadim Pogrebniak

June 25, 1975 John Felice

June 26, 1966 Mary Max

June 26, 1984 Jacob Grenther

June 26, 1997 Pauline Zorella

June 26, 1999 Alex Putyrsk

June 27, 1950 Metropolitan Theophilus

June 28, 1935 Joachim Seminuk

June 28, 1953 Trophim Lachtuk

June 28, 1968 Alex Lasik

June 28, 1973 Nicholas Dzurich

June 28, 2003 Peter Zeban

June 30, 1955 Steven Sedorkovitz

June 30, 1967 Christine Senko

June 30, 1994 Sophie Karwatt

June ?, 1948 Paul Federoff

Coffee Hour Schedule

Lenten Foods – June 4-28

June 24 Peterson, Bakaltez, Mattei, Erkman & Stone

July 01 Kita, Keller, Turri, Torrissi & Kachek

Counters Schedule

June 24 Larissa M. & Paulina N.

July 01 Rebecca O. & Ekaterina M.

Church Flooring- To date, \$3,830 short of goal of \$30,000.

Ushers Schedule

June 24 Edward S. & Khaka K.

July 01 Timothy S. & Peter B.

Readers Schedule

June 24 Daniel T. /July 01 John Z.

Known Graduates – Congratulations!

Nicholas Torrissi and Michael Tsiwtsiwadze

2018 Parish Council Conference – June 30th, Saturday in Paramus, NJ 10:00a.m.-3:00p.m at Christ the Savior Church
Come!

OCMC – Orthodox Christian Mission Center – Health Team to Guatemala – November 9-18, 2018

Our parish is happy to have one of our parishioners participate in this Mission Work, Lisa Keller. If you wish to help defray the cost of travel you may make a donation for this team member by name at www.ocmc.org/donate (Guatemala November Health Team) or directly to Lisa.

Names Day Greetings:

June 24/St. John the Baptist: John Zahodnick & Adrian Ioan Chirnoaga;

June 29/Ss. Peter & Paul: Proto-Deacon Paul Sokol; Peter Bakaletz, Peter Gorbaturk; Robert Peter Keller, Paulina Nasledysheva
Many Blessed Years!

The Calendar

Sunday/July 1: Regular Liturgy and Coffee Hour.
Moving items to hall after Coffee Hour.

Monday/July 2: Work begins on church flooring.

Monday/July 2: *St. John of San Francisco* – Liturgy at St. Elizabeth Church in Rocky Hill, 9:30a.m.

Saturday/July 7: 6:30p.m. Vespers at Holy Ghost Church, Manville

Sunday/July 8: 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy at Holy Ghost Church, Manville

Thursday/July 12: 7:00p.m. Parish Council Meeting.

Sunday/July 22: Blessing of Autos



ON THE THOUGHTS OF THE HEART
Saint John of Kronstadt

All my happiness and unhappiness are in the thoughts and desires of my heart. If the thoughts of my heart are in accord with God's truth, with the will of God, then I am at rest, filled with divine light, joy and blessedness; if not, I am uneasy, filled with spiritual darkness that corrupts the soul, with heaviness and despondency. If I replace the false and ungodly thoughts of my heart by true and godly ones, then rest, blessedness and joy return.



THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE FORERUNNER & BAPTIST
Celebrated June 24th

The Gospel (Luke. 1: 5) relates that the righteous parents of St John the Baptist, the Priest Zachariah and Elizabeth (September 5), lived in the ancient city of Hebron. They reached old age without having children, since Elizabeth was barren. Once, St Zachariah was serving in the Temple at Jerusalem and saw the Archangel Gabriel, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. He predicted that St Zachariah would father a son, who would announce the Savior, the Messiah, awaited by the Old Testament Church. Zachariah was troubled, and fear fell upon him. He had doubts that in old age it was possible to have a son, and he asked for a sign. It was given to him, and it was also a chastisement for his unbelief. Zachariah was struck speechless until the time of the fulfillment of the archangel's words.



St Elizabeth came to be with child, and fearing derision at being pregnant so late in life, she kept it secret for five months. Then her relative, the Virgin Mary, came to share with her her own joy. Elizabeth, "filled with the Holy Spirit," was the first to greet the Virgin Mary as the Mother of God. St John leaped in his mother's womb at the visit of the Most Holy Virgin Mary and the Son of God incarnate within Her.

Soon St Elizabeth gave birth to a son, and all the relatives and acquaintances rejoiced together with her. On the eighth day, in accordance with the Law of Moses, he was circumcised and was called John. Everyone was amazed, since no one in the family had this name. When they asked St Zachariah about this, he motioned for a tablet and wrote on it: "His name is John." Immediately his tongue was loosed, and St Zachariah glorified God. He also prophesied about the Coming into the world of the Messiah, and of his own son John, the Forerunner of the Lord (Luke. 1: 68-79).

After the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ and the worship of the shepherds and the Magi, wicked king Herod gave orders to kill all male infants. Hearing about this, St Elizabeth fled into the wilderness and hid in a cave. St Zachariah was at Jerusalem and was doing his priestly service in the Temple. Herod sent soldiers to him to find out the abode of the infant John and his mother. Zachariah answered that their whereabouts were unknown to him, and he was killed right there in the Temple. Righteous Elizabeth continued to live in the wilderness with her son and she died there. The child John, protected by an angel, dwelt in the wilderness until the time when he came preaching repentance, and was accounted worthy to baptize the Lord.



VIRTUES EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD SEEK
St. Nikolai of Zicha

Praying inwardly. "When you pray, enter into your closet (your heart), and when you have shut the door, pray to your Father, Who sees in secret, and your Father, Who sees in secret, will reward you openly."

Freedom from things. "A man's life consist not in the abundance of the things which he possess" (Luke 12:15). The soul of a man is of more worth before God than the whole world. "For what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" (Matt. 16:26). We ought to be on guard so as not to identify ourselves, our personality or our soul, with our material possessions, but to lift our souls above everything in the world.

Knowledge of the Scriptures and of the power of God must be increased every day. It helps mightily in strengthening our belief in Christ. The Lord rebuked the Sadducees because of their ignorance, saying: "You know neither the Scriptures, nor the power of God."

Thankfulness toward God is a great virtue. If you have received from God a little, and if you are thankful to Him for it, He will multiply it, as He multiplied the five loaves.

ON CONTROLLING OUR THOUGHTS

By Father Thaddeus of Vitovnica

Our life depends on the kind of thoughts we nurture. If our thoughts are peaceful, calm, meek, and kind, then that is what our life is like. If our attention is turned to the circumstances in which we live, we are drawn into a whirlpool of thoughts and can have neither peace nor tranquility.

As soon as a desire or a worldly thought enters our mind, God immediately sends a warning. Instead of coming to our senses and blocking such thoughts and desires, we nurture them and long for them, and afterwards we wonder why bad things happen to us. These signs of warning come in the form of temptations.

In our minds we conceive everything we do, say, and plan. Without this we cannot do or say anything. Everything first receives its shape and form in the mind; all of our energy is first made manifest in our thoughts. Thoughts are the power that conceives everything in the center of our being (the heart) and when we are united with the Source of life (God), everything is revealed to us and we are open to all kinds of knowledge.

This is how we must live – controlling our thoughts. It is not good to dwell on every thought that comes to us; otherwise we lose our peace. If we learn to refuse such proposals, we are quiet. We do not fantasize or create images in our mind.

thoughts
BECOME
words
WHICH
BECOME YOUR
actions WHICH BECOME YOUR habits
WHICH BECOME YOUR
character WHICH BECOMES YOUR destiny



ABOUT ELDER THADDEUS

Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica was one of the most renowned spiritual guides of Serbia in the twentieth century. As a novice he lived in obedience to Elder Ambrose of Miljkovo Monastery, a disciple of the Optina Elders. From him Fr. Thaddeus learned the Prayer of the Heart and the selfless love that came to characterize his whole ministry to the suffering Serbian people.

Born in 1914, Elder Thaddeus lived through all the suffering endured by Serbia in the twentieth century. Over the course of two World Wars, during the Communist takeover, and through the NATO bombings of 1999, he co-suffered with his people. He taught, counseled, and prayed for all who came to him in pain and sorrow. His words of love and hope provided spiritual balm for people from all classes of society. In 2002 Elder Thaddeus reposed, leaving behind a large collection of his teachings, preserved by his faithful spiritual children. His life, teachings, and spiritual conversations are here presented for the first time in English.

QUOTES FROM ELDER THADDEUS

- "Until you have suffered much in your heart, you cannot learn humility."
- "One must love God first, and only then can one love one's closest of kin and neighbors. We must not be idols to one another, for such is not the will of God."
- "Our starting point is always wrong. Instead of beginning with ourselves, we always want to change others first and ourselves last. If everyone would begin first with themselves, then there would be peace all around!"



ON CHRISTIANS

From the Epistle to Diognetus / Written before the 4th century

Christians are not distinguished from other men by country, language, nor by the customs which they observe. They do not inhabit cities of their own, use a particular way of speaking, nor lead an eccentric form of life... They live in their own countries, but they do so as those who are just passing through. As citizens they participate in everything with others, yet they endure everything as if they were foreigners... They marry, like everyone else, and they have children... They share a common table, but not a common bed. They exist in the flesh, but they do not live by the flesh. They pass their days on earth, but they are citizens of heaven. They obey the prescribed laws, all the while surpassing the laws by their lives. They love all men and are persecuted by all. They are unknown and condemned. They are put to death and restored to life. They are poor, yet make many rich. They lack everything, yet they overflow in everything. They are dishonored, and yet in their very dishonor they are glorified; they are spoken ill of and yet are justified; they are reviled but bless; they are insulted and repay the insult with honor; they do good, yet are punished as evildoers; when punished, they rejoice as if raised from the dead. They are assailed by the Jews as barbarians; they are persecuted by the Greeks; yet those who hate them are unable to give any reason for their hatred. To sum it all up in one word, what the soul is in the body, that is what Christians are in the world. The soul is dispersed through all the parts of the body, and Christians are scattered through all the cities of the world. The soul lives in the body, yet is not of the body; Christians live in the world, yet are not of the world.



GUIDELINES FOR RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

The Orthodox Church offers certain guidelines for the faithful to prepare themselves for the joyous partaking of Holy Communion. These are:

- 1) Attendance at Church services the night before Liturgy. If not possible, then one should keep the evening with prayer, study and/or charity.
- 2) Observance of the fasting days and seasons of the Church.
- 3) A recent confession of sins and absolution from a priest.
- 4) Fasting from food and drink (including water), and smoking from midnight on the day which Holy Communion is to be received. **NOTE:** Do not fast from medications, or food or drink recommended by a doctor.
- 5) Abstinence from sexual relations the night before Liturgy and on the day of receiving Holy Communion.
- 6) Reading of the appointed prayers before and after receiving Holy Communion. These are found in one's prayer book or Liturgy book.
- 7) Being at peace, or at least seeking peace, with one's neighbor.

Questions or special circumstances? Please speak with your priest.

Food To Be Collected

Peanut butter/jelly

Cereal

Oatmeal

Pancake mix or waffle mix

Granola bars

Nuts

Dried fruit

Canned tuna/chicken

Canned fruit

Canned vegetables (low sodium)

Mac and cheese

Pasta

Soup

Food Baskets in Church Vestibule
Sunday - July 1st