

# SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Diocese of NY-NJ: [www.nynjoca.org](http://www.nynjoca.org)

## BULLETIN OF JULY 15, 2018

### SUNDAY/JULY 15

#### Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

#### St. Prince Vladimir of Rus

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

### WEDNESDAY/JULY 18

7:00p.m. Compline and Akathist to

#### St. Seraphim of Sarov (July 19)

### THURSDAY/JULY 19

7:00p.m. Vespers

### FRIDAY/JULY 20

#### Prophet Elias

8:00a.m. Divine Liturgy

### SATURDAY/JULY 21

9:30a.m. Akathist to our Lord; Confession

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confession

### SUNDAY/JULY 22

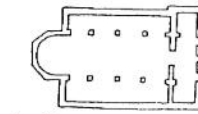
#### Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

#### St. Mary Magdalene

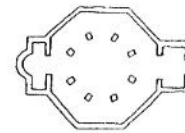
9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy  
Blessing of Autos/Bikes/"Things That Move"  
Coffee Hour

#### Some different styles of church building

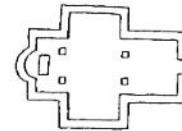
Churches are built in different shapes, each of which has its own significance. The circle gathers God's creation together under the dome of heaven. In the basilica (from the Greek for a royal hall) there is a gradual progression towards the Kingdom, represented by the sanctuary\*



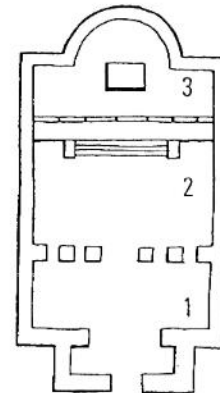
basilica



circle or octagon



cross



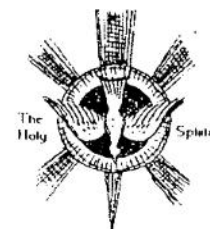
#### Parts of the church

- 1 The narthex\* – a place of transition from the world into the church
- 2 The nave\* (from the Latin word for 'ship') – life in the world on the journey towards the Kingdom of Heaven
- 3 The altar\* or sanctuary\* – the holy place (from the Latin *sanctus*) where the holy table is found

#### ON THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

"No matter how much we may study, it is not possible to come to know God unless we live according to His commandments, for God is not known by science, but by the Holy Spirit. Many philosophers and learned men came to the belief that God exists, but they did not know God. It is one thing to believe that God exists and another to know Him. If someone has come to know God by the Holy Spirit, his soul will burn with love for God day and night, and his soul cannot be bound to any earthly thing."

~ St. Silouan the Athonite



### **Offerings Week of July 8 & 15**

**Relics Candle:** for parishioners; in honor of St. John of San Francisco; in memory of Ivanna; in memory of Gheorghe, Floarea, Gabriela and family  
**Olive Oil:** in memory of Sarchisian and Bocai families; in memory of Michael, Justina, Anastasia, Rosalie, & Ivanna; in memory of family members.

**Wine:** for protection during travel for Mariana and Stefan and for salvation of Simona, Gabriel, Tabitha, Kurt and Constantin.

**Flowers:** for Larissa (birthday) for Mark (anniversary).

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

July 15, 1951 Wojciech Bogusiewsky  
July 16, 1968 Pelagia Holovach  
July 16, 1982 Stephen Kulina  
July 17, 1928 Elias Kozich  
July 17, 1958 Elias Bartushak  
July 17, 2005 Barbara Tutolo  
July 18, 1960 Vladimir Fedarka  
July 19, 1989 Louise Chabra  
July 19, 2004 Anna Lebeda  
July 20, 1925 Maria Simonovich  
July 20, 2007 Ronald Kavchok  
July 21, 1922 Luke Amximovitch  
July 21, 1925 Theodosius Horbel  
July 22, 1989 Helen Stashkevetch

### **Coffee Hour Schedule**

July 15 Inga, Eka, Marina & Nona  
July 22 Sokol, Nasledysheva, Staina & Sarchisian

### **Counters Schedule**

July 15 Irina S. & Lisa K.  
July 22 Larissa M. & Paulina N.

### **Ushers Schedule**

July 15 Dennis F. & Robert E.  
July 22 Edward S. & Kahka K.

### **Readers Schedule**

July 15 Ciprian C. / July 22 Daniel T.

### **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](http://www.ocmc.org/donate) (Guatemala November Health Team) or directly to Lisa.

### **Names Day Greetings**

St. Margaret (Marina)/July 17: Margaret Ploof, Marianna Vajda, and Cregunta Chirnoaga  
Many Blessed Years!

### **A Most Sincere thanks!**

The event of the installation of the new church flooring required many hands to pack, move things out and subsequently move things back into the church. Father James and the Parish Council are very appreciative for your contribution of time and muscle in this project. The Lord bless!

### **Appreciation Also...**

To all those who provided foods for the luncheon at Holy Ghost Church, last Sunday. The selection was marvellous.

### **Donations for New Church Flooring**

As of July 14<sup>th</sup>, a total of \$26,270 has been offered (86%) of \$30,000. Presently we are \$3,730 short of our goal. Thank you for all your offerings!

### **Photos of Our New Flooring**

Face Book Friends of Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church has a series of postings per day of work. The parish website also has postings. Share the news and photos. The Church looks glorious!

### **Summer Vacation Check List**

- Pack an icon and prayer book.
- Book for spiritual reading.
- Observe Fasting Days.
- For Sundays, locate Orthodox Church.
- Make your parish offerings before you go.
- Ask for a Prayer of Travelers.
- Find and seek Jesus Christ Everywhere.
- Be thankful to God for All Things!

# LAYING ASIDE OUR IDEOLOGICAL WEAPONS

Fr. Ted Bobosh

*Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has also rejected you ... (1 Samuel 15:23)*

The political polarity and party spirit which so divides America is becoming so deeply ingrained in the minds of some as to cause them even to judge the Scriptures as being too liberal or too conservative. When Christians view Christianity or the Scriptures through a political lens they lose sight of God's Word as being literally above partisan politics. God's word is meant to challenge us in our thinking so that we consider things not just from an earthly or human point of view but to also take God's own viewpoint into consideration.

*From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once regarded Christ from a human point of view, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself ... (2 Corinthians 5:16-18)*

*And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers. (1 Thessalonians 2:13)*

Today even Orthodox Christians can be heard commenting on and judging the Scriptures or a prayer of the Church or a message from Church leadership not from the point of view of God but from that of a political party. We begin to hear people say that scripture sounds liberal or conservative acting as if the American political viewpoint is the standard for measuring God's word. When we "hear" the Scripture as sounding liberal or conservative, we have already adopted a worldly mind about the Word of God.

We may not like what we read in Scriptures. We may not agree with it. We may not want to do it, but it still remains as God's word to us. We have to wrestle with what God revealed.

*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the LORD. (Isaiah 55:8)*

We have to listen to God's word and allow it to come deep into our hearts and minds in order to either live it or wrestle with it. Otherwise we are at risk to do and to become exactly what the people were in the days when Jesus walked on earth and He warned them that they had ears but could not hear and eyes but could not see.

When we come into the church, we need to lay aside our political prejudices and allow God to speak to us so that we hear God's word and do it or begin to wrestle with it. But if we accept as a filter for reading the scriptures a political party's point of view then we have stopped our ears with partisan politics and we will never hear God's word.

Roman Emperor Theodosius issued an edict in 431AD at the Church Council in Ephesus. Emperor Theodosius was an Orthodox Christian, an Orthodox emperor and is even listed as an Orthodox saint. The Emperor said:

*Although we are always surrounded by the lawful imperial weaponry, and it is not fitting for us to be without weapon-bearers and guards; when, however, entering the churches of God, we shall leave our weapons outside and take off the very diadem, emblem of our imperial dignity.*

The Emperor said he and his entourage were to leave their weapons and emblems of the imperial dignity outside the church. They entered the church just like everyone else – as sinners in need of salvation. The only way they could truly hear God was to lay aside all their political thinking, their earthly status and even the signs of their political power.

Today we need to do this by laying aside our ideological weapons when we enter the church, so that we can hear the Gospel. We should Leave our ideological attacks and political grenades and partisan weapons outside the church so that we don't look at God's word from an earthly point of view, but rather we enter the church with open hearts and minds to hear God fully.

Whether we are on the political left or on the political right, whether we are politically right or wrong, we need to hear the Word of God and to take it home with us and to judge ourselves based on God's word. We need to pull the liberal and conservative plugs from our ears and remove the conservative and liberal lens from our eyes so that we can see the world as God proclaims it.

*For this people's heart has grown dull, and their ears are heavy of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should perceive with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and turn for me to heal them. (Matthew 13:15)*

Jesus told us that we cannot serve God and mammon. We cannot serve God if we come to the Scriptures or to the Church to judge God by a political ideological point of view. Listen to God first. Don't react to what God says until you understand His teachings and comandments.

St. Paul said: *For though we live in the world we are not carrying on a worldly war, for the weapons of our warfare are not worldly but have divine power to destroy strongholds. (2 Corinthians 10:3-4)*

In Acts 4:15-31, the Apostles were arrested by the temple authorities and told not to speak about Jesus any more. They replied: *"Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge; for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."* Political parties love it if we take their point of view in order to measure and judge the Scriptures and the Church. We however are not to see the world from that human point of view but rather are to view every human point of view from the perspective of God's own will. In the Church we must speak the word of God and hear it whether we like it or not. Listen to what God says and allow it to enter into your mind and willful choices. Obey it if that is in your heart, and if not, then wrestle with it and ask God why He says things that you find so difficult to do. Carry His Word in your heart so you can take it into your life and home to become a doer of God's word.

#### **ON THE CHURCH TEMPLE**

*By St. John Chrysostom*

Just as a calm and sheltered harbor provides great security to the ships moored there, so does the temple of God: when people enter it, it snatches them away from worldly affairs as from a storm, and gives them the capacity to stand and listen to God's words in calm and security. This place is the bedrock of virtue and the school of spiritual life...You need only set foot on the threshold of a church, and at once you are liberated from the cares of daily life. Go on into the church, and spiritual dew will envelop your soul. The stillness there moves you to awe, and teaches you how to live spiritually. It elevates your thoughts and prevents you from remembering things or matters belonging to the present life. It transports you from earth to heaven. And if there is such great gain from simply being in church when no service is going on, then how much benefit will people derive from being present...when the holy Apostles proclaim the Gospel, Christ stands in our midst, God the Father receives the Mysteries that are performed and the Holy Spirit gives His own joy.





**ON DEVELOPING THE HEART**  
*By Saint Theophan the Recluse*



Developing the heart means developing within it a taste for things holy, divine, and spiritual, so that when it finds itself amidst such things it would feel as though it were in its element. Finding them sweet and blessed, it would be indifferent to all else, with no taste for anything else; and even more -- it would find anything else revolting. All of man's spiritual activity centers in the heart. The truths are impressed in it, and good dispositions are rooted into it. But its main work is developing a taste for the spiritual, as we have shown. When the mind sees the whole spiritual world and its different components, various good beginnings ripen in the will. The heart, under their influence, should taste sweetness in all of this and radiate warmth. This delight in the spiritual is the first sign of the regeneration of a soul deadened by sin. Therefore the heart's development is a very important point even in the early stages. The work directed at it is all of our Church services in all forms -- common and personal, at home and in church -- and it is mainly achieved through the spirit of prayer moving within it. Church services, that is, all the daily services, together with the entire arrangement of the church's icons, candles,



censing, singing, chanting, movements of the clergy, as well as the services for various needs; then services in the home, also using ecclesiastical objects such as sanctified icons, holy oil, candles, holy water, the Cross, and incense -- all of these holy things together acting upon all the senses -- sight, hearing, smell, touch, and taste -- are the "cloths that wipe clean" the senses of a deadened soul. They are the strongest and the only reliable way to do it. The soul becomes deadened by the spirit of the world, and possessed by sin that lives in the world. The entire structure of our Church services, with their tone, meaning, power of faith, and especially the grace concealed within them, have an invincible power to drive away the spirit of the world. In freeing the soul from the world's onerous influence, it allows the soul to breathe freely and to taste the sweetness of spiritual freedom. Walking into church we walk into a completely different world, are influenced by it, and change according to it. The same thing happens when we surround ourselves with holy objects. Frequent impressions of the spiritual world more effectively penetrate within and more quickly bring about a transformation of the heart.



**DON'T BLACKMAIL GOD!**  
 Elder Porphyrios (+1991)

We shouldn't blackmail God with our prayers. We shouldn't ask God to release us from something, from an illness, for example, or to solve our problems, but we should ask for strength and support from Him to bear what we have to bear. Just as He knocks discreetly at the door of our soul, so we should ask discreetly for what we desire, and if the Lord does not respond, we should cease to ask. When God does not give us something that we ask for insistently, then He has His reasons. God, too, has

His "secrets." Since we believe in His good providence, since we believe that He knows everything about our lives, and that He always desires what is good, why should we not trust Him?

Let us pray naturally and gently, without forcing oneself and without passion. We know that past, present and future are all known, "open and laid bare" before God. As St. Paul says, "Before Him no creature is hidden, but all are open and laid bare to His eyes." We should not insist; such persistence does harm instead of good. We shouldn't continue relentlessly in order to acquire what we want; rather, we should leave things to the will of God. Because the more we pursue something, the more it runs away from us. So what is required is patience, faith and composure. And if we forget it, the Lord never forgets; and if it is for our good, He will give us what we need, when we need it.

2018 Saints Peter & Paul Parish Fiscal Summary	Total Income	Total Expense	Year to Date Profit (Loss)	Sunday Envelope Budget	Sunday Envelope Actual	Surplus/Loss
January	\$9,742.37	\$15,941.95	(6,200)	\$10,961.54	\$7,699.00	(3,263)
February	\$10,414.91	\$12,359.23	(1,944)	\$8,769.23	\$8,159.00	(610)
March	\$10,145.33	\$14,626.92	(4,482)	\$8,769.23	\$8,746.00	(23)
1st Quarter	\$30,302.61	\$42,928.10	(12,625)	\$28,500.00	\$24,604.00	(3,896)
April	\$19,009.69	\$9,993.57	9,016	\$10,961.54	\$10,489.00	(473)
May	\$9,412.40	\$18,329.03	(8,917)	\$8,769.23	\$8,210.00	(559)
June	\$12,862.00	\$13,770.89	(909)	\$8,769.23	\$11,394.00	2,625
2nd Quarter	\$41,284.09	\$42,093.49	(809)	\$28,500.00	\$30,093.00	1,593
YTD	\$71,586.70	\$85,021.59	(13,435)	\$57,000.00	\$54,697.00	(2,303)

Sunday Envelope - Budget vs Actual - 2018 Year-to-Date

