

# SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## BULLETIN OF AUGUST 19, 2018

### SUNDAY/AUGUST 19

#### 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

#### Post-feast of Dormition

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy  
Prayers for New Academic Year;  
Coffee Hour

### SATURDAY/AUGUST 25

Diocese Church School Conference at Christ  
the Saviour Church in Paramus (for parents  
as well)

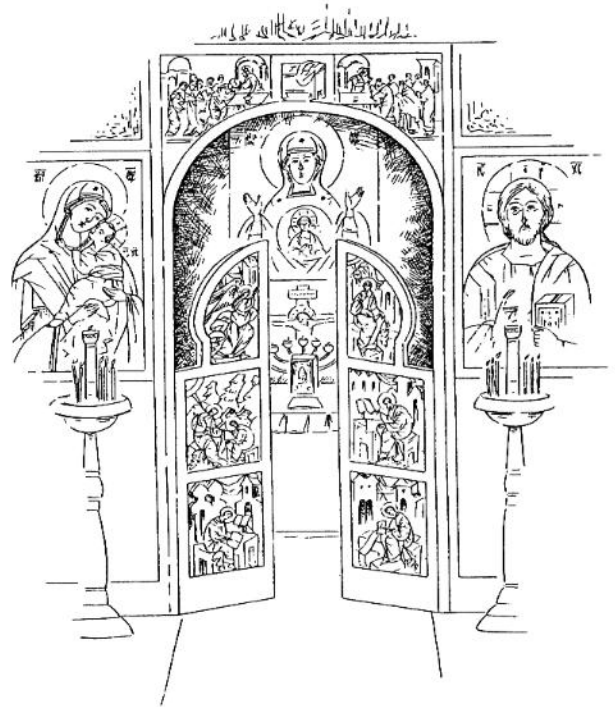
9:30a.m. Akathist to our Lord; Confessions  
5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

### SUNDAY/AUGUST 26

#### 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

#### Vladimir Icon of Theotokos

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy  
Coffee Hour; Presentation on the 19<sup>th</sup>  
All-American Council by Proto-deacon Paul



#### HUMILITY – A KEY TO BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING

*From the writings of Bishop Ignatius*

One elder passed seventy weeks in fasting, eating food only twice a week, as he begged the Lord to reveal to him the meaning of a passage in Holy Scripture. But God would not reveal it to him. Seeing this, the elder said to himself, "I have labored long and hard, and I have accomplished nothing. I will go to my brother and ask him."

When he had left his cell and locked the door behind him, an angel from the Lord appeared and said to him: "Seventy weeks of fasting did not bring you nearer to God. Now, however, when you have humbled yourself and resolved to go to your brother with your question, I have been sent to you to explain the meaning of this passage." And fulfilling this, the angel departed.

#### ON THE BENEFITS OF ATTENDING THE LITURGY

*St. Maximos the Confessor*

It is necessary for every Christian to spend time in the holy church of God, and never to miss the celebration of the Divine Liturgy – for here, the holy angels have custody – they register the people going in each time and offer their angelic intercessions on their behalf. Each person who is found present at the Divine Liturgy, the grace of the Holy Spirit transforms, remolds, and truly remodels into a more divine image, conforming to Himself.



### **Offerings Week of August 19**

**Relics Candle:** for parishioners; in honor of St. John of San Francisco; in memory of Michael, Justina, Rosalia and Ivanna.

**Olive Oil:** in memory of Bocai and Sarchisian families; in memory of Floarea, Gabriela, Gheorghe, Alexandru, Valeria, Mihail, Elena, Petre, Anicuta, Anastasia, Grigore, Rosaalia, Maria and family; for the health of Andrew, John (birthday) and Barbara.

**Wine:** for the health of Magdalena Dao (birthday); for Alexandra, Corneliu, Ioan, Elena, Ceazar-Maria; for the health of Priest Samuel and Julitssa and their family.

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

Aug. 19, 1925 Helen Wawrenchuk  
Aug. 19, 1942 Constantine Yancevich  
Aug. 19, 1948 John Shander  
Aug. 19, 1957 Samuel Barnosky  
Aug. 19, 2005 Helen Perry  
Aug. 20, 1965 Natalie Laga Salevanik  
Aug. 20, 1008 Sophie Wassel  
Aug. 21, 1980 Mary Pegene  
Aug. 21, 2001 Anna Cherniak  
Aug. 22, 1978 Anna Recketz  
Aug. 23, 1926 John Mlinets  
Aug. 23, 1938 Semeon Dutko  
Aug. 24, 1954 John Wasevich  
Aug. 24, 1958 John Galida  
Aug. 24, 1990 Michael Sudia  
Aug. 25, 1977 Tekla Barna

### **Coffee Hour Schedule**

Aug. 19 Inga, Eka, Marina & Nona  
Aug. 26 Sokol, Nasledysheva, Staina  
& Sarchisian

### **Counters Schedule**

Aug. 19 Irina S. & Lisa K.  
Aug. 26 Larissa M. & Paulina N.

### **Ushers Schedule**

Aug. 19 Dennis F. & Robert E.  
Aug. 26 Edward S. & Kahka K.

### **Readers Schedule**

Aug. 19 Peter G. / Aug. 26 Daniel T.

### **For Those who enter this Holy House with faith, reverence and the fear of God.....**

- The pious are not late for the Divine Liturgy;
- The pious do not attend to their cell phones while in church;
- The pious understand that they don't come to church just for their children but understand that they, as adults need the Holy Liturgy and therefore arrive on time and desire to participate in the entire Divine Liturgy;
- The pious speak with God in church by prayer and speak with others in conversation after, but not at any time during the Divine Liturgy;
- The pious participate in the Liturgy by singing, praying, bowing their heads, kissing the holy icons, lighting candles, using Commemoration Books, crossing themselves, standing properly (Let us stand aright!) paying attention (Let us Attend!); they do not come to the Divine Liturgy as attendees but come as worshippers.
- The pious understand that candles are lighted before the Liturgy, not during the Liturgy;
- The pious do not go in and out during the Divine Liturgy by bad habit, but only if most necessary;
- The pious leave the church only after venerating the Holy Cross.
- Pious discipline and order needs to be taught, corrected if necessary and respected as righteous conduct.

### **The Calendar**

Aug. 29/Wed. Beheading of the Baptist (Fast)  
Sept. 01/Sat. Church New Year  
Sept. 02/Sun. Food Basket Sunday  
Sept. 08/Sat. Nativity of Theotokos  
Sept. 14/Fri. Elevation of Holy Cross  
Sept. 20/Thurs. Parish Council Meeting  
Oct. 01/Mon. Protection of Theotokos  
Oct. 06/Sat. Abp. Michael at Vigil with us  
Oct. 07/Sun. Abp. Michael serves Liturgy in our parish; festal meal to follow

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## HOW CAN WE OVERCOME OUR BAD HABITS?

By Fr. Victor Potapov – From Pravmir.com

At the root of our woes lie our bad habits. Habits (or passions) are never passive. They fight against us, and against our happiness and love. If we do not overcome bad habits, they overcome us.

Who we are and what we do, are not one and the same thing. We want to be charitable, but instead we are greedy. We want to be generous, but we are afraid to be so. We want to be free, but we remain dependent. We want to become stronger and better, but we wreak havoc upon ourselves. We want to forgive, but instead we take offense. We want to rejoice over others' success, but instead we envy. We want to love others, but instead are jealous of, and hate them.

What, in our better moments, we want to do, is who we are. Deep down inside, we are real, perfect creatures after the likeness of God.

Love lies at the foundation of the very highest expressions of the human soul. The miracle of creative love elevates man above nature. Love turns us into what we are: in our true, normal condition, we love.

What we do not want to do, but yet do, are bad habits or passions. Voluptuousness, laziness, envy, greed, avarice, and miserliness, distrust, lying, selfishness, taking umbrage, enmity, slander, rancor or remembrance of wrongs, dependency on tobacco, narcotics, games, vanity, and other bad habits are in part inherited, and in part are acquired over the course of life.

There is something pleasing or at least entertaining in many bad habits; otherwise, we would not so easily succumb to them. But ultimately, each of those habits interferes with our being what we are, i.e. with being loving creatures. After all, we can understand that love cannot be conjoined with hatred, envy, avarice, etc. If you think that you hate everyone, envy everyone, are sorry for everyone, and that you love only this person, or those three people, you are fooling yourself. Your feeling is not love. To be a loving person is a faculty of the entire,

whole person. One cannot be internally divided, for some a loving person, and for others, a mean one.

This is something easily noted in life. As a rule, someone with a real family, a family filled with love, has an excellent, warm relationship not only with his wife, but also with his children, his parents, his friends, and his co-workers. This is because he is a loving person.

If, to the contrary, love for one's parents and friends is not in evidence, there will be no real love for one's wife or husband, for [such a person] is a slave to bad

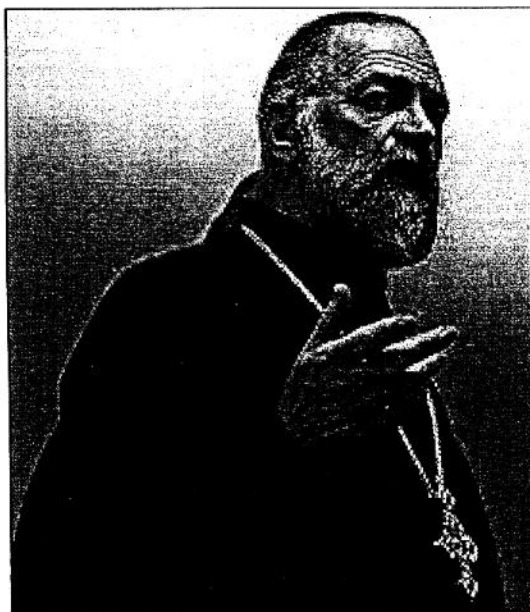
habits, to passions. Yes, God can send him a spark of infatuation, of being in love. However, when under close surveillance by bad habits, that spark will soon die out, and will not burst into the flame of true love.

Passions, bad habits, are a sickness of the soul, and like any sickness, bad habits intensify, with one bad habit intensifying another. A person's soul cannot remain static; it is constantly in motion, moving either toward good or toward evil.

Therefore, to become a true, loving person, one capable of building up and bringing joy to others, it is essential to struggle against one's bad habits, to overcome one's passions and not allow new evil habits to appear.

If we do not defeat our habits, they overcome in us all that is good. The province of slaves to bad habits is a twisted attitude towards things, is slavery and suffering.

Anyone can overcome his bad habits. Every believer who has suffered from some passion or from attacks of obsessive thoughts, knows how much prayer helps in that time of trial. However, he also knows that even more helpful than prayer is confession of that passion, followed by Communion of the Holy Gifts of Christ. The Mystery is a miracle! Mankind possesses nothing more powerful in resolving spiritual problems.





### A PATTERN IN MAKING DISCIPLES

- 1) Christ teaches the Word of God, and the Word of God stirs listeners to initial faith.
- 2) Christ involves the new believer in a specific challenge, and the new believer personally experiences the grace of God; he or she feels unworthy, yet amazed.
- 3) Christ calls the new believer to become a permanent disciple and co-worker with God. The new believer freely and totally gives over his or her life to the Lord and has a new sense of mission as Christ's disciple.

### FROM THE DESERT FATHERS

Abba David said, "Abba Arsenius told us the following, as though it referred to someone else, but in fact it referred to himself. An old man was sitting in his cell and a voice came to him which said, 'Come, and I will show you the works of men.' He got up and followed. The voice led him to a certain place and showed him an Ethiopian cutting wood and making a great pile. He struggled to carry it but in vain. Instead of taking some off, he cut more wood which he added to the pile. He did this for a long time.



Going on a little further, the old man was shown a man standing on the shore of a lake drawing up water and pouring it into a broken receptacle, so that the water ran back into the lake. The voice said to the old man, 'Come and I will show you something else.' He saw a temple and two men on horseback, opposite one another, carrying a piece of wood crosswise. They wanted to go in through the door but could not because they held their piece of wood crosswise. Neither of them would draw back before the other, so as to carry the wood straight; so they remained outside the door. The voice said to the old man, 'These men carry the yoke of righteousness with pride, and do not humble themselves so as to correct themselves and walk in the way of Christ. So they remain outside the Kingdom of God. The man cutting the wood is he who lives in many sins and instead of repenting he adds more faults to his sins. He who draws the water is he who does good deeds, but mixing bad ones with them, he spoils even his good works. So, everyone must be watchful of his actions, lest he labor in vain.'



### GUIDELINES FOR RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

The Orthodox Church offers certain guidelines for members 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.