

# SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## BULLETIN OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

### SUNDAY/SEPTEMBER 30

18<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

St. Michael of Kiev

(Names Day of Abp. Michael)

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

Coffee Hour; Church School

Q. & A. Period on Church in Ukraine

5:30p.m. Vespers

### MONDAY/OCTOBER 1

Protection of Holy Theotokos

8:00a.m. Divine Liturgy

### THURSDAY/OCTOBER 4

6:30p.m. Compline

7-8:30p.m. Study Class: *"Let's Look at What the Orthodox Study Bible Offers Us"*

### SATURDAY/OCTOBER 6

St. Innocent of Alaska (+1879)

9:30a.m. Akathist to St. Innocent; Confessions

5:00p.m. Confessions

5:30p.m. Vigil with Archbishop Michael

7:30p.m. Supper in Hall with Archbishop  
(all invited)

### SUNDAY/OCTOBER 7

19<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

9:00a.m. Entrance of Abp. Michael with  
Vesting & Hours

9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy; festal meal to  
Follow (all invited)

#### ON LONGING FOR GOD

By Fr. John Breck

Within the depths of every human being there exists an insatiable longing for God. This is an inner force, a holy desire or yearning, that can move us out of the torpor of our daily life and lift us to a painful yet sublime level of being... The tragedy of our life lies in our constant temptation to lose the focus of that longing and to desire something less than God... The longing itself becomes perverted, twisted into a

self-serving drive for something that will satisfy the corrupted passions rather than nourish the hungry soul... Partial fulfillment does come in the form of gratifying personal relationships and accomplishments. We find satisfaction and pleasure in family, friends and enjoyable activities, yet even there, the pleasure and sense of fulfillment are diminished by a terrible yearning. We are consumed by a burning desire for something more, something that touches our heart, something of ineffable beauty that creates in us a response of pure joy.



### **Offerings Week of September 30**

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

Olive Oil: in memory of Sarchisian & Bocai families.

Wine: for safe travel.

Flowers: in honor of the Theotokos, our Great Protectress

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

Oct. 02, 1990 Stella Labay

Oct. 03, 1922 John Milanich

Oct. 03, 1946 Stephen Blisak

Oct. 03, 1971 Dimitri Pegene

Oct. 03, 1978 Pauline Andreyko

Oct. 06, 1961 Michael Gorobetz

Oct. 06, 1963 Daniel Victorenko

### **Orthodox Study Bibles On Sale**

**(New Testament & Book of Psalms)**

At the vestibule stand \$25. Limited supply.

### **Coffee Hour Schedule**

Sept. 30 Sokol, Nasledysheva, Staina & Sarchisian

Oct. 07 Festal Meal

### **Counters Schedule**

Sept. 30 To be determined

Oct. 07 Rebecca O. & Ekaterini M.

### **Ushers Schedule**

Sept. 30 Dennis F. & Robert E.

Oct. 07 Timothy S. & Peter B.

### **Readers Schedule**

Sept. 30 Austin K. / Oct. 07 John Z.

### **Adult Study Classes: The Four Thursdays of October – “The Orthodox Study Bible”**

Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>: An Introduction & Survey of the book

Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>: Reading & Studying Are Different

Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>: Historical, Typological & Transformation

Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>: Expanding sources of Scripture Study

In Conference Room 7-8:30p.m. Join us! Bring your Orthodox Study Bible.

### **Names Day Greetings**

Oct. 1/Holy Theotokos: Marie Turri and Pam Stone;

Oct. 04/St. Dyoynsios: Dennis Fedechko  
Many Blessed Years!

### **The Supper at the Reformed Church on September 19<sup>th</sup>, hosted by our Parish**

Appreciation is extended to Jill Peterson and all of our parishioners who helped prepare the foods, did the serving and the clean-up for this event. There were many donations of food and money, as well as offering of hours of time. It was especially good to see so many of our children and teens helping out. Some 51 plates were served and 30 take home container of food were taken home by those attending. There was a broad cross section of guests at the dinner and they all greatly appreciated the good food and warmth they received. The amount of \$251 was left over and contributed to the food pantry for supplies. Again, thanks to all! Photos are posted on our parish website.

### **Reminder to Those Approaching for Holy Communion on a Regular Basis**

If, you are absent from the Sunday Divine Liturgy for 3 weeks or more in a row, you must go to Holy Confession in order to continue receiving the Holy Eucharist. This applies to both adults and children of Confession age (8 and up).

### **Recalling the Words of Archbishop Michael Addressed to our Parish on our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in October 2015**

“The future will be bright for us only if we are willing to devote our time and efforts to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a society that has strayed from His path. Our Lord must be the object of our worship, the theme of our sermons, the pattern of our lives, and the inspiration of our ideals. Others must experience His presence when they visit our church. For this to happen, every member of Ss. Peter & Paul parish must be totally dedicated to servicing the Lord and His church.”

## SAINT INNOCENT OF ALASKA (†1879)

*Commemorated October 6<sup>th</sup>*

Saint Innocent first arrived in America in 1821. Fr. John Veniaminov, as he was then known, had made the grueling 2200-mile journey from his home deep in Siberia together with his mother, his wife Elizabeth, their infant son Innocent, and his brother Stephan. There on desolate and wind-swept Unalaska Island, over a period of ten years the Veniaminovs were bitterly tried and ultimately found equal to all the challenges and privations which nature and a truly "frontier" life could throw against them.

A man of prodigious physical and mental strength, massively built and a natural jack-of-all-trades (carpenter, joiner, stone mason, clock-maker, naturalist, meteorologist, navigator and much more), Fr. John Veniaminov built or supervised the building virtually from nothing of everything his family and his village would need, including housing and a school—but first of all, a church. Dedicated to the deep and thorough Christianization of the souls entrusted to his care, he quickly mastered the difficult Aleut language, taught his people to read, and in time provided them a rich legacy of Christian literature in their own tongue. He translated the Gospel and catechism for them and went on to write the first original composition in their language, his remarkable *Indication of the Pathway into the Kingdom of Heaven*. In the course of his work he made ethnological and other scientific observations which still underlie much of the scholarly studies of the region. Furthermore, in yearly travels in frail native kayaks over long stretches of frigid ocean waters he placed his safety and comfort below his concern for the most isolated members of his flock, and even those who technically were not yet numbered among his flock. Above and beyond the call of duty, so to speak, he planted the precious seed of faith throughout the island district of Alaska.

In the end these labors took their toll. The contemporary reference to Fr. Veniaminov as a "Paul Bunyan in a cassock" indicates more the strength of his spirit than of his body, for long trips with his legs held immobile in frigid waters crippled them within a few years, and when he felt that he would no longer be able to adequately perform all the functions his ministry in the islands required, he asked with great sorrow to move on to a physically less demanding job in Sitka. There, in the capital city of Russian America he began the more challenging and difficult task of evangelizing the ever-hostile Tlingit Indians while continuing to polish his Aleut writings. Five more years thus passed before Fr. Veniaminov left Alaska in order to personally supervise publication of his works in Russia.

Extensive travel can surely be said to be a mark of "modern man," and St. Innocent certainly did his share. Having sent the rest of his family home to Irkutsk to await his return, he set sail with his youngest daughter on a round-the-world voyage which touched ashore at Honolulu, Tahiti, and Rio de Janeiro en route to St. Petersburg.

In the Russian capital, while awaiting permission to publish his theological works, Fr. Veniaminov received word from Siberia that his wife had died. His shock and grief passed long before his concern for his orphaned children, and it was only after their care and education was guaranteed by the tsar himself that his own future as a missionary could be arranged. He accepted monastic tonsure and was preparing to return to his work in Sitka when a surprise call to an even higher ministry came. On December 15, 1840, he was consecrated "Bishop of Kamchatka, the Aleutian and Kuril Islands," and on September 26, 1841, America met its first Orthodox hierarch.

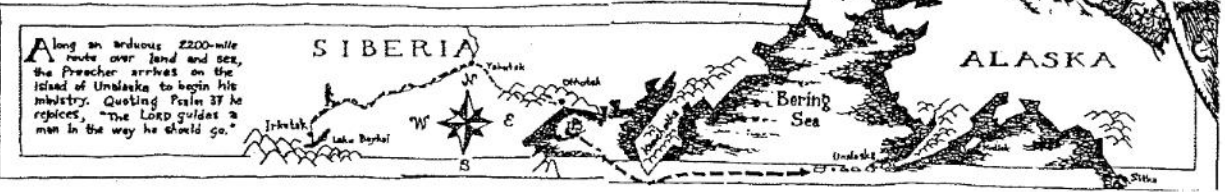
Even then, at age 45 and in a new, exalted rank, he shunned all comfort and decorum to oversee personally the life of his far-flung diocese. By ship, by kayak, by dogsled, on the backs of reindeer and even bulls, he made his way, village by isolated village, among the people. And, as Russia's territorial holdings along the Pacific seaboard continued to grow, so did the size of Innocent's diocese, bringing under his spiritual care peoples of new languages and customs. He continued to use his financial prowess, and whenever necessary his own hands and talents, to overcome the limitations which nature and government policies placed upon the region in order to further the spiritual and material well-being of his flock. His pace never slackened until he was well into his sixties. Then, only because blindness threatened to make him—he felt—a



burden upon his flock, he made plans to retire quietly to a monastery in the capital. This, however, was not the will of God for him, for in 1868 the aged hierarch was appointed to the ancient see of Moscow as successor to his friend, the great Metropolitan Philaret.

The eleven years which St. Innocent spent in Moscow—where such elements of the "modern world" as rail transportation, anesthetic surgery and photography were gaining increasing prominence—were, amazingly, among his most fruitful for America. He supervised and guided the establishment of an independent see in San Francisco and founded the Orthodox Missionary Society, whose chapters throughout Russia provided for the financial needs of his former flock. By the time he died in, 1879, St.

Innocent had laid the cornerstone for the Orthodox Church in America, financially (until, 1917) through his Society, and ideologically by his declaration in 1867 that as a mission to bring the Truth of Christ to all the peoples of America it should evolve into an English-speaking body, train English-speaking clergy, translate the service books into the



**ON THE WITNESS OF INNER PEACE IN A CHAOTIC WORLD**

*From eadiocese.org*

The following question was posed to Abbot Seraphim (Voepel) of Holy Cross Monastery in West Virginia, one of the most rapidly growing monastic communities in America.

**One would have to be spiritually blind not to notice that the world around us is rapidly spiraling out of control. Secularism, modernism, and liberalism are eating away at the Christian roots of this great nation and many of us find**

**ourselves feeling hopeless. Sometimes as Orthodox Christians, we feel that since we are not of this world, we are not relevant to it. How should we react to the changes that are happening around us, specifically the various and increasingly successful liberal and progressive movements, without losing ourselves and our inner spiritual peace?**

I understand and share in your concern, but the only answer is the one St. Seraphim of Sarov gave: "Acquire the peace of God in your heart and a thousand souls around you will be saved." You as an individual Orthodox Christian cannot change the course of the world, but you can change yourself. It is, in fact, easier to think about changing the world than to try to change ourselves. If we find the world around us increasingly filled with hatred, then we must try to love; if we find the world running after material goods and pleasure, then we must try to live a simpler life; if we find the world has become preoccupied with carnal things, then we must try to be pure and chaste.

The inner peace that Christ gives us is not the peace of the world. It is not dependent upon proper social conditions or environmental factors. The early Christians would walk into the arena peacefully singing hymns as the lions attacked them. In the lives of the early martyrs, we read over and over again how bystanders and even Roman soldiers were converted by witnessing the firm faith and peaceful resolve of these early martyrs.



**AN INTERESTING COMPARISON**

A woman was asked by a coworker, 'What is it like to be a Christian?' The coworker replied, 'It is like being a pumpkin.' God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then He cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, and greed. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see.'

**SS. PETER & PAUL CHURCH – RECTOR’S REPORT  
TO THE PARISH COUNCIL  
CHURCH LIFE: JULY 13 – SEPTEMBER 20, 2018**

**Census:** of 79 adults, 25 children (under age of 12)

**Year to Date 2018:** Baptisms (-) Receptions into Church (-) Funerals of Parishioners (-) Funerals of Non-Parishioners (-) Marriages (-) Removed from census (-) Added to census (2)

**Church Attendance**

July 15 (63) July 22 (53) July 29 (65) Aug. 05 (64) Aug. 12 (65) Aug. 19 (60) Aug. 26 (63) Sept. 02 (76) Sept. 09 (68) Sept. 16 (63)

**Activities July 13 thru September 20**

- July 14 Sat. Regular church service commence (5:30p.m. Vespers & Compline)
- July 15 Sun. Prayers for Renovation of Temple
- July 22 Sun. Blessing of Autos after Liturgy
- July 28 Sat. Blessing of Apples, St. Irene of Cappadocia
- July 29 Sun. Question & Answer Period at Coffee Hour (9)
- July 31 Tues. Installation of New Central Air-Conditioning in Rectory (\$6,200)
- Aug. 01-14 Holy Dormition Lent
- Aug. 05 Sun. Food Basket Day for Manville Food Pantry
- Aug. 06 Mon. Transfiguration Feast – Blessing of Fruits (Vigil 19/32 Liturgy)
- Aug. 15 Wed. Dormition Feast – Blessing of Flowers (Vigil 22/26 Liturgy)
- Aug. 19 Sun. Prayers for Beginning of Academic Year
- Aug. 23 Thur. Diocesan Youth Day NYC (2)
- Aug. 25 Sat. Church School Teacher’s Conference in Paramus (0)
- Aug. 26 Sun. Presentation of All-America Council by Proto-Deacon Paul Sokol and Rebecca Oliver
- Aug. 29 Wed. Beheading of St. John the Baptist (Vespers 11/13 Liturgy)
- Sept. 01 Sat. Church New Year (Vespers 11/ 13 Liturgy)
- Sept. 02 Sun. Food Basket Day for Manville Food Pantry
- Sept. 04 Tues. Installation of New Carpeting in Conference Room (\$1,300)
- Sept. 05-06 Diocesan Clergy Conference in Wappinger Falls, NY
- Sept. 08 Sat. Nativity of the Theotokos (Vigil 14/34 Liturgy)
- Sept. 09 Sun. Church School
- Sept. 09 Sun. Distribution of Offerings Statements (May – August)
- Sept. 14 Fri. Elevation of Holy Cross (Vigil 14/18 Liturgy)
- Sept. 19 Sun. Church School and Teen Class (13)
- Sept. 18 Tues. Food Preparation for Dinner Presentation on Sept. 19
- Sept. 19 Wed. Hosted Dinner for Needy at Reformed Church in So. Bound Brook (52 meals served and 31 take-home dinners)

**Forth-Coming Calendar**

Sept. 23 Sun. Church School


Sept. 30 Sun. Q. & A. Period devoted to Church Problem in Ukraine  
 Sept. 30 Sun. Service for Racial Harmony at St. Simon Mission in N. Brunswick 5:30  
 Oct. 04 Thurs. Study Class I: *"Let's Look at the Features of Orthodox Study Bible"*  
 Oct. 06 Sat. Vigil (5:30) & Supper (7:30) with Abp. Michael  
 Oct. 07 Sun. Divine Liturgy with Archbishop Michael and Festal Meal  
 Oct. 07 Sun. Food Basket Day for Manville Food Pantry  
 Oct. 11 Thur. Study Class II: *"About Reading & Studying Scriptures"*  
 Oct. 14 Sun. Church School  
 Oct. 14 Sun. Blessing of Iconographers  
 Oct. 18 Thurs. Study Class III: *"The Historical, Typological & Transformational"*  
 Oct. 21 Sun. Church School & Teen Class  
 Oct. 21 Sun. Youth Outing to Norz Hill Farm  
 Oct. 22 Mon. 7:00 Vespers; 7:30-9:30 Refreshments at rectory (Names Day Fr. J)  
 Oct. 25 Thurs. Study Class IV: *"Expanding Sources of Scripture Study"*  
 Oct. 28 Sun. Church School & Q. & A. Period  
 Oct. 30-31 Diocesan Assembly at Annunciation Church in Brick  
 Nov. 03 Sat. Diocesan Bible Quiz in Yonkers, NY  
 Nov. 04 Sun. Food Basket Day for Manville Food Pantry  
 Nov. 04 Sun. Prayers for Those in the Healing Ministries  
 Nov. 06 Tues. Study Class  
 Nov. 09-16 Lisa Keller on OCMC Medical Mission in Guatemala  
 Nov. 09-11 Diocesan Girl's Retreat (grades 7-12) in Garrison, NY  
 Nov. 11 Sun. Church School  
 Nov. 15 Thurs. Beginning of 40 Day Nativity Fast  
 Nov. 15 Thurs. Parish Council Meeting

**2018 Major Tasks:** 1) Upper Hall Reconditioning; 2) church flooring; 3) Parish Ministries Development; 4) Parish Survey

**Next Parish Council Meeting:** Nov. 15, Thurs., 7:00p.m. All Parish Council Meetings are open to all parishioners to attend.

**Cemetery Report** (verbal remarks)

**Process of Becoming a Parishioner** (verbal comments)

  
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 Rector