

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF NOVEMBER 11, 2018

SUNDAY/NOVEMBER 11

24th Sunday After Pentecost

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

WEDNESDAY/NOVEMBER 14

7:00p.m. Vespers

THURSDAY/NOVEMBER 15

Beginning of 40 Day Nativity Fast

St. Paisios of Moldavia

8:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
7:00p.m. Parish Council Meeting

SATURDAY/NOVEMBER 17

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

SUNDAY/NOVEMBER 18

25th Sunday After Pentecost

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

There is one
body and one
Spirit, just as
you were
called to the
one hope that
belongs to
your call, one
Lord, one faith,
one baptism,
one God and
Father of us
all, who is
above all and
through all
and in all."

Eph. 4.4-6



Teachings of St. Porphyrios of Athos (+1991)

- The most important weapon to use against the devil is the Holy Cross, of which he is terrified. But make the sign of the cross correctly: with the three fingers of the right hand joined together, touch your forehead, your stomach, your right shoulder and finally your left shoulder.
- Pray for others more than for yourself. Say, "Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me," and you will always have others in mind. We are all children of the same Father, we are all one. And so, when we pray for others, we say, "Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me," and not "have mercy on them." In this way we make them one with ourselves.

Offerings Week of November 11

Relics Candle: for parishioners; in memory of Infant Ivanna; in memory of Michael, Justina, Rosalia, Anastasia and Ivanna.

Olive Oil: in memory of Sarchisian & Bocai families; in honor of the Theotokos and for health of all parishioners.

Wine: in memory of Jan and for the health and protection of Daniel.

Flowers: in honor of the Theotokos, our Great Protectress; for the health of Sarah (birthday).

Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Nov. 12, 1916 Peter Kliaga

Nov. 12, 2004 Olga Skopak

Nov. 13, 1969 Peter Chabra

Nov. 15, 1929 Fr. Nikita Borisoff
(rector 1920-1922)

Nov. 16, 1950 Francis Romanofsky

Nov. 16, 1965 Anastasia Kuzmiak

Nov. 16, 1977 Michael Putyrske

Nov. 16, 2009 Mary Romanak

Nov. 17, 1951 Vladimir Pasechnik

Nov. 17, 1977 Stanley Bozinta

Coffee Hour Schedule

Nov. 11 Inga, Eka, Marina & Nona

Nov. 18-Dec. 23 *Nativity Lent: No meat
and no dairy products*

Nov. 18 Sokol, Nasledysheva, Sarchisian
& Staina

Counters Schedule

Nov. 11 Ciprian C. & Jill P.

Nov. 18 Irina S. & Lisa K.

Ushers Schedule

Nov. 11 Jerome S. & Adrian M

Nov. 18 Dennis F. & Robert E.

Readers Schedule

Nov. 11 Cameron P./ Nov. 18 Ciprian C.

Names Day Greetings: Many Years!

St. Matthew/Nov. 16: Matthew Todd Peterson,
Matei Moldoveanu.

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).

Scrip Fund-Raising Program

This is a new endeavor for our parish. It is a no-selling program that allows families to raise \$ for Ss. Peter & Paul Church. Scrip is just another way to pay for everyday purchases using gift cards in place of cash, checks and credit cards. Check out the information on the vestibule stand.

Gifts & Talent Survey & Questionnaire

Please take the time out to fill and return these forms. Copies are on the vestibule stand. Thanks

Annual Winter Coat Drive Now Under Way

For the entire month of November you may deposit in the lower hall entrance in boxes provided winter coats, gloves, mittens, and hats. These clothing items will be delivered to those in need.

Nativity 40 Day Lent – Begins Nov. 15th

A 40 Day fast in spiritual preparation for the Nativity of our Lord (Dec. 25th) begins on Nov. 15th. A fast is observed from meat, dairy, fish products. On Saturdays and Sundays, fish is permitted. Other days allow for wine & oil. Make reference to the Sunday Bulletin, the on-line monthly bulletins or your parish wall calendar for modifications to the fast.

Nov.15/Thurs. wine & oil

Nov.16/Fri. fish, wine & oil (St. Matthew)

Nov.17/Sat. fish, wine & oil

Nov.18/Sun. fish, wine & oil

Many Thanks!

Our Dinner of Thanksgiving last Sunday was marvelous! Appreciation to Ekaterini Margiani, Pam Stone and all those that helped in the preparation, serving and clean-up. The Lord bless! Photos are posted on parish website and face book.

Why fast before the Nativity?

Question

I was wondering why we fast before Nativity. The Lenten fast seems more obvious. Also, from what foods do we normally fast from during the Nativity fast?

Answer

We fast before the Great Feast of the Nativity in order to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Our Lord's birth. As in the case of Great Lent, the Nativity Fast is one of preparation, during which we focus on the coming of the Savior by fasting, prayer, and almsgiving.

By fasting, we "shift our focus" from ourselves to others, spending less time worrying about what to eat, when to eat, how much to eat, and so on in order to use our time in increased prayer and caring for the poor. We learn through fasting that we can gain control over things which we sometimes allow to control us—and for many people, food is a controlling factor.

[We live in the only society in which an entire TV network is devoted to food!] While fasting from food, however, we are also challenged to fast from sin, from gossip, from jealousy, from anger, and from those other things which, while well within our control, we all too often allow to control us.

Just as we would refrain from eating a lot before going to an expensive restaurant for dinner—if we "ruin our appetite" we will enjoy the restaurant less—so too we fast before the Nativity in order to more fully feast and celebrate on the Nativity itself.

During the Nativity Fast, we are called upon to refrain from meat, dairy, fish, wine, and olive oil. At the same time, we are challenged, within this framework, to fast to the best of our ability, and to do so consistently.

If we must modify the extent to which we fast within this framework, it is of course possible, but in every instance our fasting should be consistent and regular, for Christ does not see fasting as an option, but as a "must."

In Matthew Christ says, "WHEN you fast, do not be like the hypocrites," not "IF you fast" or "IF YOU CHOOSE to fast."

Finally, it seems quite odd that in our society—a society in which people gladly and freely spend huge sums of money for diets, most of which recommend that one refrain from red meats and dairy products—fasting is not more widely embraced. How odd that a Jenny Craig consultant or diet guru or physician will tell us to refrain from eating meat or cheese or butter and we will gladly embrace—and pay large sums of money for—his or her advice, while when the Church offers the same advice [at "no cost"] we tend to balk, as if we were being asked to do the impossible.





THE ICON CORNER – THE HEART OF THE FAMILY CHURCH

Every Sunday, feastday and other holy day, when we go into our parish temple, we see the heart of the parish which is the sanctuary, where the Holy Table is. When we go into an Orthodox home, we hope to see the heart of the family, which is the icon corner.

Just like the sanctuary is the heart of the parish church, the icon corner is the heart of the family church. In the parish church, the parish family prays together before the sanctuary and the iconostas; in the family church, the family prays together before the icon corner.

What is an icon corner? An icon corner is a shelf or table or cabinet, where icons are placed and where a lamp is kept burning. Many people have icons of Jesus Christ, the Theotokos and icons of the patron saints of the family members. There are many ways to set up the icons and the important thing is just to do it. The icon corner doesn't have to be a corner, it can be a wall or other place in the house where the family can go to pray. It is best if the icon corner faces the east, to remind us of the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Besides the icons and the lamp, it is traditional for pious Orthodox people to keep a Bible and prayer book, holy water, and blessed bread from church. Many people also have holy oil, the palms or wil-



lows from Palm Sunday, and other holy things from the services of the church year. The icon corner can be very simple or very fancy but the main thing is that the icon corner is not just a decoration

for the house but that it is the heart of the family and that the family uses it. In many pious Orthodox homes, the icon corner is arranged so that it can actually be used for celebrating the Divine Liturgy, if the priest needs to do this. This reminds us of the history of our Orthodox Faith and that we must always be ready for times when the churches suffer from those who are not believers.



If you do not have an icon corner, ask your priest to help you start one in your home. Members of the family can use it at any time. If you are not able to read the prayers from the prayer book because there is not enough time, then, at least go to the icon corner and ask for God's blessing before beginning whatever it is that you are doing.

Try to begin each day by going to the icon corner and reading the prayers from the prayer book for the morning, take some, holy bread and holy water. In this way, you are getting God's blessing for the new day. If you cannot read the prayers for some reason, still go to the icon corner, make the sign of the cross and take the holy bread and holy water, still asking God to bless the new day.

You will see that the icon corner makes a big difference in your home. When you see the lamp burning, you will remember that God is always near and that the saints are always praying for your family. When you use the icon corner every day, you will see that God is kept close to your heart and mind and this will help you to be closer to Him and His Orthodox Faith.

REVERENCE FOR LIFE IS GIVEN TO US

Time spent on meaningful pursuits such as developing our talents and increasing our knowledge are worthy goals. However, the noblest use of time that will give meaning to our lives is practicing reverence for life by personal involvement with those who need our help desperately. True greatness lies in qualities of the heart, in charity and in love. Have you noticed that our happiest times are those in which we forget ourselves, usually in being kind to someone else?

