

## SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

605 Washington Avenue, Manville, New Jersey 08835-1856

Voice: 908-685-1452 Email: [frjames@ssppoc.org](mailto:frjames@ssppoc.org) Website: [www.ssppoc.org](http://www.ssppoc.org)

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

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

### BULLETIN OF NOVEMBER 18, 2018

#### SUNDAY/NOVEMBER 18

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

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

#### TUESDAY/NOVEMBER 20

7:00p.m. Vigil

#### WEDNESDAY/NOVEMBER 21

##### Entrance of Theotokos Into Temple (One of "12 Great Feasts")

9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

#### THURSDAY/NOVEMBER 22

9:30a.m. Akathist Glory to God

#### SATURDAY/NOVEMBER 24

##### St. Katherine

9:30a.m. Akathist to St. Katherine  
and anointing with oil from her tomb;

Confessions

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

#### SUNDAY/NOVEMBER 25

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

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy  
Church School; Coffee Hour with Question  
& Answer Period



The Virgin fed by an angel.

#### *Teachings of St. Porphyrios of Athos (+1991)*

Fanaticism has nothing to do with Christ. Be a true Christian. Then you won't leap to conclusions about anybody, but your love will cover all things. Even to a person of another religion you will always act as a Christian. That is to say, you will show respect for him in a gracious manner irrespective of his religion.

### **Offerings Week of November 18**

Relics Candle: for parishioners; in honor of St. John Maximovitch; in memory of Michael, Justina, Rosalia, Panteleimon, Ela, Anastasia and Ivanna; in memory of Jerome

Olive Oil: in memory of Sarchisian & Bocai families; for the health of Mark & Libbye (anniversary); in honor of St. Alexander Nevsky.

Wine: for Hamlet and Giorgi

Flowers: in honor of the Theotokos, our Great Protectress; in memory of Richard and Ralph.

Litya Breads: for the health of Ekaterina.

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

Nov. 19, 1941 Mary Skwarla  
Nov. 19, 1959 Andrew Panacek  
Nov. 19, 1978 Mary Suseck  
Nov. 19, 2007 Archbishop Peter  
Nov. 19, 2007 Vera Somoluk  
Nov. 20, 1977 Mary Kachorsky  
Nov. 20, 2002 Raymond Bolash  
Nov. 21, 1997 George Zvenchenko  
Nov. 21, 2004 Ann Zeban  
Nov. 22, 2008 Anastasia Barna  
Nov. 23, 1968 Daniel Podobed  
Nov. 23, 2015 Zinaida Neudachin

### **Coffee Hour Schedule**

Nov. 18-Dec. 23 *Nativity Lent: No meat and no dairy products, fish okay.*  
Nov. 18 Sokol, Nasledysheva, Sarchisian & Staina  
Nov. 25 Chirnoaga, Moldoveanu, Vajda & Sue

### **Counters Schedule**

Nov. 18 Irina S. & Lisa K.  
Nov. 25 Larissa M. & Paulina N.

### **Ushers Schedule**

Nov. 18 Dennis F. & Robert E.  
Nov. 25 Edward S. & Kahka K.

### **Readers Schedule**

Nov. 18 Ciprian C. / Nov. 25 Zachary S.

### **Names Day Greetings: Many Years!**

St. Alexander/Nov. 23: Alexander Torrisi, Cameron (Alexander) Poluszek

St. Katherine/Nov. 24: Kathryn Motoviloff, Ekaterine Margiani, Katerina Gedevani & Ekaterina Mantzafos

### **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.

### **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. 15<sup>th</sup>**

A 40 Day fast in spiritual preparation for the Nativity of our Lord (Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>) began on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>. 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. 18/Sun. fish, wine & oil  
Nov. 20/Tues. wine & oil  
Nov. 21/Wed. fish, wine & oil  
Nov. 22/Thurs. wine & oil  
Nov. 24/Sat. fish, wine & oil  
Nov. 25/Sun. fish, wine & oil

### ***Ss. Peter & Paul E-Mail List***

All parishioners are encouraged to sign-up on our web page to our mailing list. We cannot subscribe you, you must do it from your computer. This will enable you to have timely information and changes to the schedule due to weather conditions.

### ***Parish Website: [www.ssppoc.org](http://www.ssppoc.org)***

The on-line schedule for the entire year of 2019 is posted on our website (monthly calendar). Please make reference to it as you plan your family calendar for 2019.

### ***Forth-Coming Calendar – Dates to Mark***

Nov. 25/Sun. End of Winter Coat Drive  
Nov. 29/ Thurs. Study Class, 7-8:30p.m.  
Dec. 01/Sat. Church Cleaning 10:00a.m.  
Dec. 02/Sun. Food Basket Day  
Dec. 06/Thurs. Study Class, 7-8:30p.m.  
Dec. 08/Sat. Baptism of Zachariah C. 11:00a.m.  
Dec. 15/Sat. Christmas Cookie Walk Set-Up  
Dec.16/Sun. Christmas Cookie Walk 11:20a.m.  
Dec. 29/Sat. Baptism of Luke Parsells 10:00a.m.  
Dec. 30/Sun. Christmas Carols at Coffee Hour  
Jan.08-Feb. 28 Blessing of Homes Season  
Jan. 18/Fri. March For Life in DC  
Jan. 24/Thurs. Parish Council Meeting  
Feb. 03/Sun. Scout Recognition Day  
Feb. 03/Sun. Souper Bowl of Caring  
Feb. 10/Sun. Annual Parish Meeting 12:00p.m.  
Mar. 11/Mon. Great Lent Begins  
Apr. 28/Sun. Holy Pascha (Orthodox Easter)  
June 1-2 Sat/Sun. Archbishop Michael Visits

### ***OCMC – Orthodox Christian Mission Center: [www.ocmc.org](http://www.ocmc.org)***

#### ***A Prayer For Missionaries***

O God, Who sent Thy Only-Begotten Son for our salvation, send down Thy Holy Spirit upon those Thy servants that they may proclaim Thy Good News and share Thy love. Travel with them and deliver them from all agitation and slander and all devices of the evil one. Keep them strong in body and soul so that they may be a light to those still in darkness. Grant that they may fulfill Thy command to make disciples of all nations. May their service be pleasing in Thy sight, glorifying Thy Holy and magnificent Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



### **MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION** *by Metropolitan Anthony*

We cannot partake deeply of the life of God unless we change profoundly. It is therefore essential that we should go to God in order that He should transform and change us, and that is why, to begin with, we must all become converts. Conversion in Latin and

Hebrew means a turn, a change in the direction of things.

Conversion means that instead of spending our lives in looking in all directions, we should follow one direction only. It is a turning away from a great many things that we know are ultimately not good for us. The first impact of conversion is to modify our sense of values: God being at the center of all, everything acquires a new position and a new depth. All that is God's, all that belongs to Him, is positive and real. Everything that is outside of Him ultimately has no value or meaning.

But it is not a change of mind alone that we can call conversion. We can change our minds and go no further; what must follow is an act of will and unless our will comes into motion and is redirected God-wards, there is no conversion; at most there is only an incipient, still dormant and inactive change in us.

Repentance must not be mistaken for remorse, it does not consist in feeling terribly sorry that things went wrong in the past; it is an active, positive attitude, which consists in moving in the right direction.

It is made very clear in the parable of the two sons (Mt. 21 :28) who were commanded by their father to go to work in the vineyard. The one said, "I am going," but did not go. The other said, "I am not going," and then felt ashamed and went to work.

This was real repentance, and we should never lure ourselves into imagining that to lament one's past is an act of repentance. It is part of it, of course, but repentance remains unreal and barren as long as it has not led us to doing the will of the Father. We have a tendency to think that it should result in fine emotions and we are quite often satisfied with emotions instead of real, deep changes.

*Metropolitan Anthony, a highly respected bishop in the Russian Orthodox Church, was one of the last direct heirs to Russia's spiritual revival of the early 20th century. While living in London, he was known for his religious broadcasts into the Soviet Union. Metropolitan Anthony died in London after a long illness at age 89 on August 4, 2003.*

# “Whaddyamean Fasting? It’s The Holidays!”

Source: Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, New Britain, CT <<http://www.htocnb.org/files/Newsletter/Nov2016NLc.pdf>>

MAREK SIMON <[http://www.pravmir.com/author/user\\_1479465380/](http://www.pravmir.com/author/user_1479465380/)> | 18 NOVEMBER 2016

Christmas parties, good ole’ St. Nick, & shop, shop, shop! Our Christmas list is prepared well in advance and –look out! – lights and trees up in November! These are a few things that begin to consume many of our minds as the holiday season approaches. We can’t wait until Christmas and the array of fashionable clothes, iPhones, and decisions, decisions! LCD or Plasma? Mac or Windows? And who knows what else! It’s a time to eat, drink and be merry, right? But wait a minute. Did I hear someone say that we are supposed to be fasting???

For us Orthodox Christians, November 15 marks the beginning of a 40-day fast that concludes on the Feast of our Lord’s Nativity (a.k.a., Christmas). The Nativity Fast is a time of preparation for the birth of our Lord. We are taught to fast from meat, dairy products and fish. Let’s be honest. Many of us go to schools and live in homes where we do not observe any sort of fast during this time, and for those of us who do, it’s pretty difficult to say the least! How can we possibly go to a Christmas party and not eat meat or cheese or drink eggnog? Why would someone choose to fast during this time when it seems like everyone else is doing the opposite? In reality, the answer is pretty simple: Jesus Christ. We are taught to fast during this time, not as a punishment or because the Church doesn’t want us to have fun, but because the Church is concerned with one thing and one thing only, our salvation.

Think about it. The world we live in today teaches us to continually seek to do one thing – love ourselves. Jesus Christ, through the Church, teaches us to continually seek to do another thing – love our neighbor. Society teaches us to order the best-tasting, most expensive steak. Christ teaches us to forget about the steak, eat a plate of spaghetti or some lentil soup, and use the money to buy a meal for someone who hasn’t eaten in days. Society teaches us to spend time and money on Christmas trees, Christmas lights, and expensive gifts. Christ teaches us to be a tree that bears fruit, to be a light in the darkness, and to put on the gifts of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Gal 5.22-23).

There are no easy answers to the situations we may face this holiday season if we choose to follow the narrow way of the Gospel. One thing that must be said is that we cannot do it alone. We need each other! Our friends, families and our churches should be fasting together as best we can. We also need prayer. Fasting is of no value unless we pray also. Encourage your family and friends to pray together at meals and even ask your priest if he will have extra services during the fasting period. Perhaps most importantly, talk with your priest or spiritual father about how to approach the Fast. He will be your guide and source of wisdom to help during this time. Each day is an opportunity for us to choose to live as a Christian and accept the responsibility that goes along with it. Rather than just spending hours at the mall looking for the perfect gift, we could spend a couple of hours serving at a soup kitchen and a few dollars on clothes for people who cannot afford to clothe themselves. What a wonderful project this would be for your OCF group this fasting season. We are all quite capable of fasting beginning November 15. As stated above, talk to your priest about how to start, especially if you’ve never done it before. Approach the days ahead not as the “holiday season”, but as preparation for a “Holy Day”, the day of the birth our Lord. May Christ strengthen and guide you in the upcoming months!

## COUNSELS FOR LIFE

*From the teachings of the Elder Epiphanius of Athens (+1989)*

### **Psychiatric Illness, Demonic Influence, and Holiness**

Many Christians maintain that psychiatric illnesses are due to demonic influence and, with this viewpoint, they reject the use of psychiatric medicines. What do you have to say about this position?

A certain percentage and, furthermore, a small percentage of psychiatric patients are really possessed. The majority, however, of the psychiatric patients are not possessed nor are the manifestations of their psychiatric illnesses due to demonic influence. And how can we tell that there is a possession, when it is such? The Church diagnoses possession from the position of the sufferer as regards the sacred Sacraments: Divine Communion, Confession, etc. Or as regards the Gospel, the precious Cross, the sacred relics or the holy icons and, in general, the sacred things. Father ----- tells me that at St. Gerasimus of Kephalaria they used to place the Holy Scriptures or some icon on the back of a possessed person lying face down – that is, without him seeing – in order to exclude the possibility of suggestion – and then the possessed person would tremble, a thing which would not occur when they would place other types of books or objects on him.

Do we have an example of psychosis among the saints?

Certainly. I will off-hand mention to you St. Olympiada, the deaconess. After the exile of St. John Chrysostom, her spiritual father, she suffered depression and this saint consoled her with his letters reminding her of the divine reward for those who are persecuted in the name of the Lord.



## ***STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE***

### *Nine Points For Consideration*

1. The Parish Church of Ss. Peter & Paul in Manville, is supported only by our parishioners. 85% of the total income is received by means of the 52 Sunday Envelopes.
2. All parishioners receive bi-monthly envelopes in the mail. If you are not receiving envelopes, you are not registered as a parishioner.
3. In terms of financial support of the parish, there is no required or suggested amount in dollar value of your offering. There are no minimal or maximal guidelines.
4. Parishioners are strongly encouraged to adopt the proportionate giving model of offering that has been implemented in our parish since 2006.
5. In adopting the proportionate giving model, you self-determine what percentage (%) of your income you will offer as a “first-fruit” offering on a regular basis, offered in thanksgiving using the Sunday envelope system.
6. The percentage of an offering may be the standard “tithe” (10%) or it may be a “proportionate offering” of any meaningful self-determined percent as for example, 3%, 5%, 7%, 12 % etc.
7. The Parish Church does not examine or keep records on who is or is not a proportionate giver, this is between you and God. Total amounts of offerings are kept only for tax purposes.
8. The concept of “first offering” means that we dedicate to the Lord the first portion of our income as an offering of thanksgiving. We understand and separate this offering from our latter obligations and needs, food shelter, mortgage, utilities, entertainments, etc. which belong to the realm of paying bills.
9. Any gift offered to the Lord and His work through His Church is an acceptable offering inasmuch as the one offering the gift offers “oneself” as the primary gift. Our offerings are tokens expressive of our love and commitment to the Lord and are made in a cheerful, generous and sacrificial manner.

For reference and further reading: *“The Theology of Stewardship.”* This 19 page booklet by the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) gives a complete examination of proportionate giving. This is the key document that guides our parish understanding of financial offerings. The booklet may be found on the vestibule stand or picked-up in the hall office.

| Determining Your Proportate Giving |          |          |           |           |           |           |           |
|------------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Weekly Giving Amount               |          |          |           |           |           |           |           |
| If Your Annual Gross Income Is:    | 2%       | 3%       | 5%        | 7%        | 10%       | 12%       | 15%       |
| \$ 20,000                          | \$ 7.69  | \$ 11.54 | \$ 19.23  | \$ 26.92  | \$ 38.46  | \$ 46.15  | \$ 57.69  |
| \$ 30,000                          | \$ 11.54 | \$ 17.31 | \$ 28.85  | \$ 40.38  | \$ 57.69  | \$ 69.23  | \$ 86.54  |
| \$ 40,000                          | \$ 15.38 | \$ 23.08 | \$ 38.46  | \$ 53.85  | \$ 76.92  | \$ 92.31  | \$ 115.38 |
| \$ 50,000                          | \$ 19.23 | \$ 28.85 | \$ 48.08  | \$ 67.31  | \$ 96.15  | \$ 115.38 | \$ 144.23 |
| \$ 60,000                          | \$ 23.08 | \$ 34.62 | \$ 57.69  | \$ 80.77  | \$ 115.38 | \$ 138.46 | \$ 173.08 |
| \$ 70,000                          | \$ 26.92 | \$ 40.38 | \$ 67.31  | \$ 94.23  | \$ 134.62 | \$ 161.54 | \$ 201.92 |
| \$ 80,000                          | \$ 30.77 | \$ 46.15 | \$ 76.92  | \$ 107.69 | \$ 153.85 | \$ 184.62 | \$ 230.77 |
| \$ 90,000                          | \$ 34.62 | \$ 51.92 | \$ 86.54  | \$ 121.15 | \$ 173.08 | \$ 207.69 | \$ 259.62 |
| \$ 100,000                         | \$ 38.46 | \$ 57.69 | \$ 96.15  | \$ 134.62 | \$ 192.31 | \$ 230.77 | \$ 288.46 |
| \$ 110,000                         | \$ 42.31 | \$ 63.46 | \$ 105.77 | \$ 148.08 | \$ 211.54 | \$ 253.85 | \$ 317.31 |
| \$ 125,000                         | \$ 48.08 | \$ 72.12 | \$ 120.19 | \$ 168.27 | \$ 240.38 | \$ 288.46 | \$ 360.58 |
| \$ 150,000                         | \$ 57.69 | \$ 86.54 | \$ 144.23 | \$ 201.92 | \$ 288.46 | \$ 346.15 | \$ 432.69 |

## Two Mites

The relationship of a person and his money is fundamentally a spiritual matter: it reveals as much about his relationship with God as does his discipline of prayer or any other "religious" activity. Jesus said in Matthew 6:21, "*Where your treasure is there shall your heart be also.*" Somehow, in some way, what a person does with his money, how he thinks about it, where he spends it, what he will do to earn it, and the things to which he will give it, are some of the real clues to who he is inside, to what is essentially important to him, to what is really in his heart... The places where we make our most serious investments are the places where our real self, our inner self, is going to be most interested, most teachable, most responsive, and most open. To deal with a person in terms of what he does with his money is to deal with most people where they really live.