

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF NOVEMBER 25, 2018

SUNDAY/NOVEMBER 25

26th Sunday After Pentecost

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

MONDAY/NOVEMBER 26

7:00p.m. Compline & Akathist to Icon of
The Kursk-Root (Nov. 27)

THURSDAY/NOVEMBER 29

7:00p.m. Parish Council Meeting

SATURDAY/DECEMBER 1

St. Philaret the Merciful

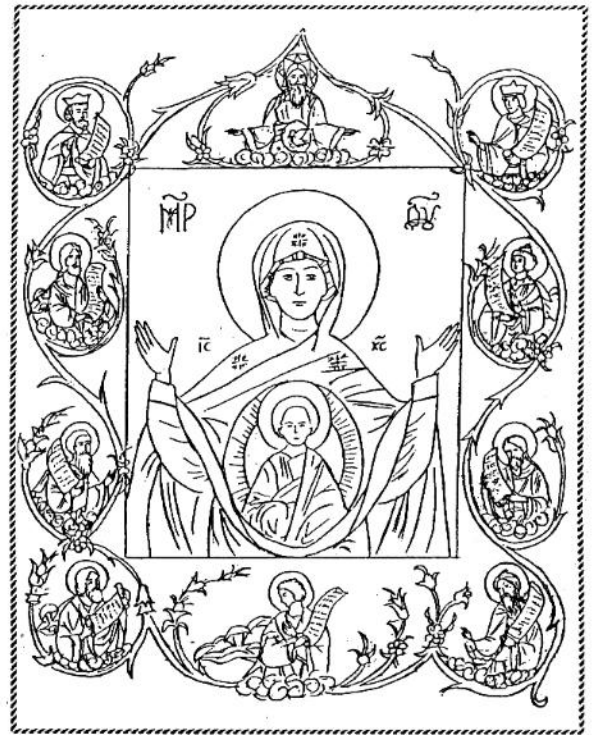
9:30a.m. Akathist to St. Philaret; Confessions
10:15a.m. General Church Cleaning
5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

SUNDAY/DECEMBER 2

27th Sunday After Pentecost

St. Porphyrios of Athos (+1991)

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



**THE WONDERWORKING
KURSK ROOT ICON
OF THE MOTHER OF GOD**

Teachings of St. Porphyrios of Athos (+1991)

Take delight in all things that surround us. All things teach us and lead us to God. All things around us are droplets of the love of God – both things animate and inanimate, the plants and the animals, the birds and the mountains, the sea and the sunset, and the starry sky. They are little loves through which we attain the great Love that is Christ.

All things are holy – the sea, swimming and eating. Take delight in them all. All things enrich us, all lead us to the great Love; all lead us to Christ.

Offerings Week of November 25

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

Olive Oil: in memory of Sarchisian & Bocai families; in memory of Nicholas; in memory of Richard.

Wine: for the health and protection of Alexander (birthday).

Flowers: giving thanks to God for all things; for the health of Basil.

Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Nov. 25, 1968 Michael Spotts
Nov. 25, 1971 Julia Hansen
Nov. 26, 1950 Metrophan Saffron
Nov. 26, 1953 Sauka Greunther
Nov. 26, 2002 Mary Gavlick
Nov. 27, 1979 John Skwarla
Nov. 27, 1992 Mary Bozinta
Nov. 27, 2012 John Kachek
Nov. 28, 1974 Anna Perchisin
Nov. 29, 1921 Alexander Khvechin
Nov. 29, 1934 Fr. Peter Shemashko
Nov. 29, 1981 Mary Fetchina
Nov. 30, 1930 Athanasius Klebanovich

Coffee Hour Schedule

Nov. 18-Dec. 23 *Nativity Lent: No meat
and no dairy products, fish okay.*
Nov. 25 Chirnoaga, Moldoveanu, Vajda
& Sue
Dec. 02 Peterson, Bakaletz, Mattei,
Erkman & Stone

Counters Schedule

Nov. 25 Larissa M. & Paulina N.
Dec. 02 Rebecca O. & Ekaterini M.

Ushers Schedule

Nov. 25 Edward S. & Kahka K.
Dec. 02 Timothy S. & Peter B.

Readers Schedule

Nov. 25 Zachary S. / Dec. 02 Austin K.

Names Day Greetings: Many Years!

St. Andrew/Nov. 30: Robert Andrew Erkman,
Andrei Moldoveanu & Andrea Hunchar

The Mysteries of Confession & Communion

The faithful that are regular communicants, to continue to receive Holy Communion, should avail themselves of Confession in the month of November or December, prior to Nativity Feast (Dec. 25th). If you do not go to Confession in this period of time, you may not approach the Chalice for Communion on or after Nativity Feast. This includes children of Confession age. Questions? Speak with Father James.

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. 15th

A 40 Day fast in spiritual preparation for the Nativity of our Lord (Dec. 25th) began 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. 25/Sun. fish, wine & oil
Nov. 27/Tues. wine & oil
Nov. 29/Thurs. wine & oil
Nov. 30/Fri. wine & oil
Dec. 01/Sat. fish, wine & oil
Dec. 02/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.sppoc.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
- Dec. 01/Sat. Church Cleaning 10:15a.m.
- Dec. 01/Sat. Annual St. Philaret Appeal
- 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

**To Strengthen Stewardship
Remarks by Archbishop Michael**

We need to be sure that in following the legacy of our forefathers and ask ourselves: am I coming to church as much as our founders; am I using my talents in the same measure they did; am I contributing as much as I can, remembering that they founded our churches with meager immigrant wages and gave abundantly of the little they had. If in all honesty I am not giving in time, talent and treasure, in the same measure, than I need to strengthen my stewardship.

Stewardship is not simply about money but more importantly about love. How much do I love my parish church, Orthodox faith and our Lord and Saviour. The answer to those questions measure the strength our giving in time, talent and treasure.

In "first fruits" – we need to be more faithful, more loving and more generous.

WORDS EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD KNOW

Holiness consists not only in the absence of evil or sin: holiness is the presence of higher spiritual values, joined to purity from sin. God is the only one holy by nature. He is the Source of holiness for angels and men. Men can attain holiness only in God, "not by nature, but by participation, by struggle and prayer" (St. Cyril of Jerusalem).

Asceticism is man's struggle to keep the commandments of Christ. It encompasses not only his bodily and spiritual effort, but also the method by which he passes through the three stages of the spiritual life, namely: purification, illumination, and deification (union with God).

Purification refers to the process by which one is cleansed from the passions through: 1) the rejection of all evil thoughts and desires from the mind and heart, 2) the turning of the soul's three powers (reason, desire, and will) towards God, and 3) the overcoming of self-love by love for God and neighbor.

Illumination refers to the process by which the grace of the Holy Spirit, received in Baptism, enlightens the person purified (or at least being purified) of the passions to the true knowledge of God and creation. Illumination is seen primarily in the gift of discernment by which one distinguishes between 1) what is from God or above nature, 2) what is according to nature or good, and 3) what is unnatural or evil.

Deification is union with God, the goal of Christian life; experienced in part during this life, but more fully and unendingly in the next. Scripture says that God is a consuming fire. When man is united with God in the state of pure prayer, he becomes entirely engulfed in the flame of divine love and sees the Uncreated Light of Divinity. This state cannot be described in words but is known only through experience. Union with God imparts immeasurable love, humility, and thankfulness. Deification is what man was created for from the beginning; it is what makes man truly man.





SAINT PHILARET THE MERCIFUL

Commemorated on December 1st from the Prologue by St. Nikolai

Philaret was from the village of Amnia in Paphlagonia. Early in life, Philaret was a very wealthy man, but by distributing abundant alms to the poor he himself became extremely poor. However, he was not afraid of poverty, and, not heeding the complaints of his wife and children, he continued his charitable works with hope in God, Who said: Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy (Matthew 5:7). Once, while he was plowing in the field, a man came to him and complained that one of his oxen had died in the harness and that he was unable to plow with only one ox. Philaret then unharnessed one of his oxen and gave it to him. He even gave his remaining horse to a man who was summoned to go

to war. He gave away the calf of his last cow, and when he saw how the cow pined for her missing calf, and the calf for the cow, he called the man and gave him the cow too. And thus the aged Philaret was left without food in an empty house. But he prayed to God and placed his hope in Him. And God did not abandon the righteous one to be put to shame in his hope. At that time the Empress Irene reigned with her young son, Constantine. According to the custom of that time, the empress sent men throughout the whole empire to seek the best and most distinguished maiden to whom she could wed her son, the emperor. By God's providence, these men happened to stay overnight in Philaret's house, and they saw his most beautiful and modest granddaughter Maria, the daughter of his daughter Hypatia, and took her to Constantinople. The emperor was well pleased with her, married her, and moved Philaret and all his family to the capital, giving him great honors and riches. Philaret did not become proud as a result of this unexpected good fortune, but, thankful to God, he continued to perform good works even more than he had before, and thus he continued until his death. At the age of ninety he summoned his children, blessed them, and instructed them to cleave to God and to God's law, and with his clairvoyant spirit he prophesied to all of them how they would live out this life, as once had Jacob. After that he went to the Monastery of the Last Judgment and gave up his soul to God. At his death his face shone like the sun, and after his death an unusual, sweet fragrance came forth from his body and miracles took place at his relics. This righteous man entered into rest in the year 797. His wife, Theosevia, and all his children and grandchildren lived a God-pleasing life and reposed in the Lord.

More About St. Philaret

Virtue is like a thirst. When a man begins to drink of it, he becomes more thirsty and seeks to drink of it all the more. He who begins to exercise the virtue of compassion knows no measure and acknowledges no limit. St. Philaret was no less generous when he was impoverished than when he was wealthy. When his granddaughter became empress, he became a rich man once again, but no less generous. One day, he told his wife and children to prepare the best feast that they could and said: "Let us invite our King and Lord, with all His noblemen, to come to the feast." Everyone thought that



the old man was thinking of inviting to dinner his son-in-law, the emperor, and they all worked as hard as they could and prepared the feast. Meanwhile, Philaret went around the streets and gathered all the needy, the beggars, the blind, the outcasts, the lame and the infirm, and brought them to the feast. Placing them at the table, he ordered his wife and sons to serve at the table. After the feast was completed, he put a gold coin in the hand of each guest and dismissed them. Then everyone understood that by "the King" he meant the Lord Christ Himself, and by "the noblemen" he meant beggars and those in need. He also said that one need not look at the money that one gives to beggars, but rather one should mix up the money in one's pocket and give only what the hand removes from the pocket. The hand will draw out whatever God's providence ordains.



PRAYER FOR THE WHOLE WORLD

Our Lord Jesus Christ:

Do not abandon Thy servants who live far away from the Church. May Thy love convict them and bring them back to Thee.

Lord have mercy on Thy servants who are suffering from cancer.

Lord have mercy on Thy servants who suffer either from small or serious ailments.

Lord have mercy on Thy servants who suffer from physical infirmities.

Lord have mercy on Thy servants who suffer from spiritual infirmities.

Lord have mercy on our leaders and inspire them to govern with Christian love.

Lord have mercy on children who come from troubled homes.

Lord have mercy on troubled families and those who have been divorced.

Lord have mercy on all the orphans of the world, on all those who are suffering pain and injustices since losing their spouses.

Lord have mercy on all those in jail, on all anarchists, on all drug abusers, on all murderers, on all abusers of people, and on all thieves. Enlighten these people and help them to straighten out their lives.

Lord have mercy on all those who have been forced to emigrate.

Lord have mercy on all those who travel on the seas, on land, in the air, and protect them.

Lord have mercy on our Church, the bishops, the priests and the faithful of the Church.

Lord have mercy on all the monastic communities, male and female, the elders and eldersses and all the brotherhoods of Mt. Athos.

Lord have mercy on Thy servants who find themselves in the midst of war.

Lord have mercy on Thy servants who are being pursued in the mountains and on the plains.

Lord have mercy on Thy servants who are being hunted like birds of prey.

Lord have mercy on Thy servants who were forced to abandon their homes and jobs and feel afflicted.

Lord have mercy on the poor, the homeless and the exiled.

Lord have mercy on the nations of the world. Keep them in Thy embrace and envelope them with Thy holy protection. Keep them safe from every evil and war. Keep our beloved homelands in Thy protective embrace day and night. Embrace her with Thy holy protection defending her from all evil and war.

Lord have mercy on those who have been abandoned and have suffered injustice. Have mercy on families that are going through trying times. Pour Thy abundant love upon them.

Lord have mercy on Thy servants who suffer from spiritual and bodily problems of all kinds.

Lord have mercy on those who are despairing. Help them and grant them peace.

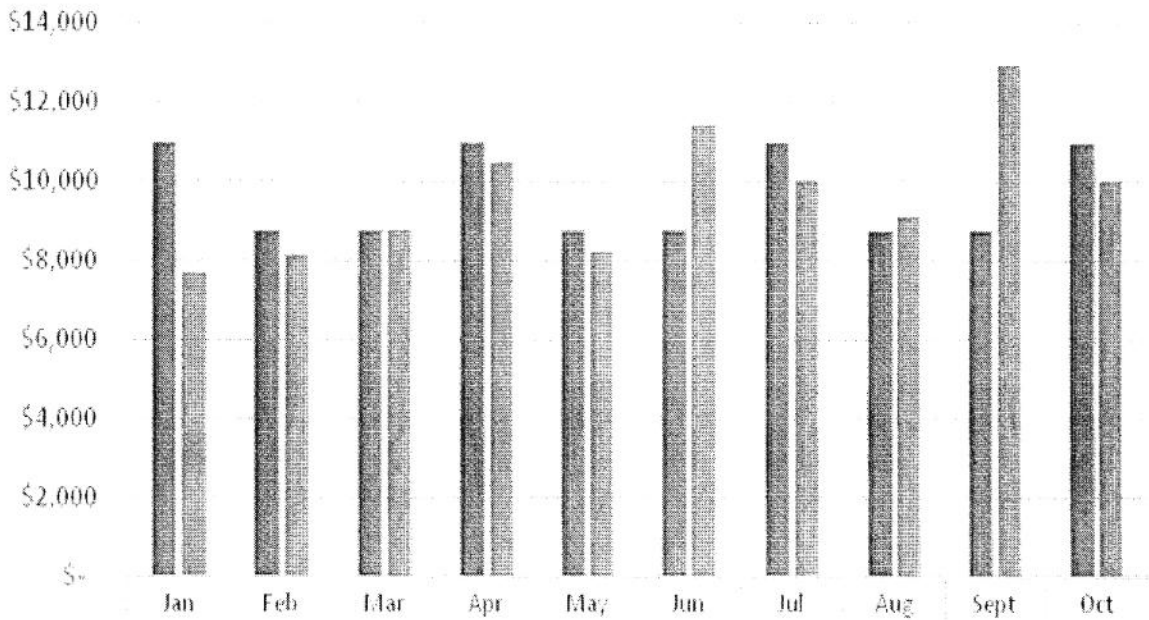
Lord have mercy on those that have requested that we pray for them.

Lord grant eternal rest to all those who have passed on to eternal life throughout the ages. Amen.

This prayer of St. Paisius of Mt. Athos was given to a convent which had asked the Elder for a prayer rule that could be used by the nuns in their evening vigils. This directive was given to them during the final years of his life. It would be correct to add intentions as your heart directs, and to say this prayer as part of your daily rule.

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	15,942	(6,200)	10,962	7,699	(3,263)
February	10,415	12,359	(1,944)	8,769	8,159	(610)
March	10,145	14,627	(4,482)	8,769	8,746	(23)
1st Quarter	30,303	42,928	(12,625)	28,500	24,604	(3,896)
April	19,010	9,994	9,016	10,962	10,489	(473)
May	9,412	18,329	(8,917)	8,769	8,210	(559)
June	12,868	13,771	(903)	8,769	11,394	2,625
2nd Quarter	41,290	42,093	(804)	28,500	30,093	1,593
July	11,906	13,394	(1,488)	10,962	10,009	(953)
August	10,800	22,014	(11,214)	8,769	9,092	323
Sept	15,279	9,827	5,451	8,769	12,932	4,163
3rd Quarter	37,984	45,235	(7,251)	28,500	32,033	3,533
Oct	11,737	10,085	1,652	10,962	10,032	(930)
YTD	121,314	140,341	(19,027)	96,462	96,762	300

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



■ Sunday Envelope Budget	\$10,962	\$8,769	\$8,769	\$10,962	\$8,769	\$8,769	\$10,962	\$8,769	\$8,769	\$10,962
■ Sunday Envelope	\$7,699	\$8,159	\$8,746	\$10,489	\$8,210	\$11,394	\$10,009	\$9,092	\$12,932	\$10,032

Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church

Presents Our Annual

Christmas Cookie Sale

Sunday, December 16th

11:20am Sharp!

Arrive on-time to choose your own wonderful selection of home-baked cookies from around the world. Cookies sell out quickly so don't be late!

***Location: 605 Washington Avenue,
Manville, NJ (Lower Parish Hall)***

Visit our website for directions:

www.ssppoc.org