

## SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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### *BULLETIN OF DECEMBER 2, 2018*

#### **SUNDAY/DECEMBER 2**

**27<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

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

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

Food Basket Day; Coffee Hour

#### **MONDAY/DECEMBER 3**

7:00p.m. Compline & Akathist to

**St. Barbara (Dec. 4)**

#### **WEDNESDAY/DECEMBER 5**

7:00p.m. Vespers

#### **THURSDAY/DECEMBER 6**

**St. Nicholas of Myra (+343)**

9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:30p.m. Compline

7-8:30p.m. Study Class: *"What the Incarnation Accomplished"*

#### **SATURDAY/DECEMBER 8**

9:30a.m. Akathist; Confessions

11:00a.m. Baptism of Zachary C.

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

#### **SUNDAY/DECEMBER 9**

**Conception of the Theotokos**

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

Church School & Teen Class



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

- Look on all things as opportunities to be sanctified.
- What is Paradise? It is Christ. Paradise begins here and now.

### **Offerings Week of December 2**

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

Olive Oil: in memory of Sarchisian & Bocai families; for the health of Nicholas (names day); for the health of Nicole.

Flowers: in honor of the Theotokos, our great protectress; for the health of Nichole, Nicholas and Nicholas (names day).

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

Dec. 05, 1941 Anastasia Rilik  
Dec. 05, 1978 Stefan Syubiak  
Dec. 06, 1997 John Suseck Jr.  
Dec. 06, 2010 John Chabra  
Dec. 06, 2011 Howard Bozinta  
Dec. 07, 1929 Felix Kshanovsky  
Dec. 07, 1972 Gregory Hriniak  
Dec. 07, 1999 Fr. Jaroslav Roman  
Dec. 09, 1965 Max Horbel

### **Coffee Hour Schedule**

Nov. 18-Dec. 23 *Nativity Lent: No meat and no dairy products, fish okay.*  
Dec. 02 Peterson, Bakaletz, Mattei, Erkman & Stone  
Dec. 09 Kita, Keller, Turri, Torrissi & Kachek

### **Counters Schedule**

Dec. 02 Rebecca O. & Ekaterini M.  
Dec. 09 Ciprian C. & Jill P.

### **Ushers Schedule**

Dec. 02 Timothy S. & Peter B.  
Dec. 09 Jerome S. & Adrian M.

### **Readers Schedule**

Dec. 02 Austin K. / Dec. 09 Cameron P.

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

Dec. 04/St. Barbara: Barbara Kulick & Barbara Erkman  
Dec. 05/St. Sava: Saba Kasliashvili  
Dec. 06/St. Nicholas: Nicholas Mattei, Nicholas Stucka & Nicholas Silvestre

### **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. 25<sup>th</sup>). 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.

### **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.

Dec. 02/Sun. fish, wine & oil  
Dec. 04/Tues. wine & oil  
Dec. 05/Wed. fish, wine & oil wine & oil  
Dec. 06/Thurs. fish, wine & oil  
Dec. 08/Sat. fish, wine & oil  
Dec. 01/Sat. fish, wine & oil  
Dec. 09/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**

- Dec. 01/Sat. Annual St. Philaret Appeal Begins
- 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. 21/Sun. Western Easter
- Apr. 28/Sun. Holy Pascha (Orthodox Easter)
- June 1-2 Sat/Sun. Archbishop Michael Visits

### **Quotes of St. Porphyrios of Athos**

*"This is the way we should see Christ. He is our friend, our brother; He is whatever is good and beautiful. He is everything. Yet, He is still a friend and He shouts it out, 'You're my friends, don't you understand that? We're brothers. I'm not...I don't hold hell in my hands. I am not threatening you. I love you. I want you to enjoy life together with me.'"*

*"Christ is Everything. He is joy, He is life, He is light. He is the true light who makes man joyful, makes him soar with happiness; makes him see everything, everybody; makes him feel for everyone, to want everyone with him, everyone with Christ."*

*"Love Christ and put nothing before His Love. Christ is Everything. He is the source of life, the ultimate desire, He is everything. Everything beautiful is in Christ."*

*"Somebody who is Christ's must love Christ, and when he loves Christ he is delivered from the Devil, from hell and from death."*

#### **ON JUDGING OTHERS**

*From "Unseen Warfare" by Saint Theophan the Recluse*

Since the enemy watches you constantly, waiting for an opportunity to sow evil in you, be doubly watchful over yourself, lest you fall in the nets spread for you.

As soon as he shows you some fault in your neighbor, hasten to repel this thought, lest it take root in you and grow. Cast it out, so that no trace is left in you, and replace it by the thought of the good qualities you know your neighbor to possess, or of those people generally should have. If you still feel the impulse to pass judgment, add to this the truth, that you are given no authority for this and that the



moment you assume this authority you thereby make yourself worthy of judgment and condemnation, not before powerless men, but before God, the all-powerful Judge of all. This reversal of thoughts is the strongest means, not only for repelling accidental critical thoughts, but also for completely freeing yourself of this vice...

Even if a person's sin is not only obvious, but very grievous and comes from a hardened and unrepentant heart, do not condemn him, but raise your eyes to the wondrous and incomprehensible judgments of God; then you will see that many people, formerly full of iniquity, later repented and reached a high degree of sanctity, and that, on the other hand, others, who were on a high level of perfection, fell into a deep abyss. Take care, lest you also suffer this calamity through judging others.



#### **WHAT IS TRUTH?**

Truth is not a thought, not a word, not a relationship between things, not a law. Truth is a Person. It is a Being which exceeds all beings and gives life to all. If you seek truth with love and for the sake of love, she will reveal the light of His face to you inasmuch as you are able to bear it without being burned.

~ St. Nikolai Velimirovich



### **DON'T LET ANYTHING DEPRIVE YOU OF HOPE**

*St. Nectarios of Aegina*

We have within us deeply rooted weaknesses, passions, and defects. This cannot all be cut out with one sharp motion, but patience, persistence, care and attention. The path leading to perfection is long. Pray to God so that he will strengthen you. Patiently accept your falls and, having stood up, immediately run to God, not remaining in that place where you have fallen. Do not despair if you keep falling into your old sins. Many of them are strong because they have received the force of habit. Only with the passage of time and with fervor will they be conquered. Don't let anything deprive you of hope.

### **ON VIRTUE AND THE PASSIONS**

*St. Peter of Damascus*

Each virtue lies between the unnatural passions. Moral judgment lies between guile and thoughtlessness; self-restraint, between stubbornness and lawlessness; courage, between arrogance and cowardice; justice between over-frugality and greed. The four virtues constitute an image of the heavenly man, while the eight unnatural passions constitute an image of the earthly man (see I Corinthians 15:49).



### **ON REFUSING TO JUDGE OTHERS**

*St. John of the Ladder*

Fire and water do not mix, neither can you mix judgment of others with the desire to repent. If a man commits a sin before you at the very moment of his death, pass no judgment, because the judgment of God is hidden from men. It has happened that men have sinned greatly in the open but have done greater deeds in secret...

### **FOUR TYPES OF COMMUNION WITH GOD**

*By Elder Cleopa of Romania*

Our union with God in general terms comes about in two ways: through the mystical communion of the Body and Blood of the Lord and through spiritual communion.



1. The first and most important communion with Christ takes place through the partaking of His Body and Blood at the Divine Liturgy.
2. The second way of communion and union with Christ is in the prayer of Jesus, during which the intellect is plunged into the heart and there says unceasingly, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner."
3. The third way of communion with God our Creator takes place through the keeping of His commandments and the acquisition of the virtues.
4. And the fourth way of communion with Christ takes place through the reading and hearing of the Word of God in the Holy Scriptures.

Our Orthodox Church is the special, most holy place in which is realized our many-sided communion with Christ. Therein, all of our faithful, approaching the divine services with piety and faith, dwell in a mystical atmosphere and communion by the mind, heart, prayer and participation in the divine communion of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.



# Saint Nicholas

by Joseph Purpura

*Illustrated by Yves Babich*

Have you ever wondered if there was a saint who is especially known for his love for children?

St Nicholas of Myra is one saint who was particularly fond of children. He showed his love in many ways and, as we shall see, still does today by helping and protecting them.

What would you do if your brother, sister, or friend were kidnapped? On December sixth long ago, a family was celebrating St. Nicholas Day. They were unwrapping some of their presents when the door flew open. Two men ran in and carried away the youngest child. What would you have done if you were there? What could you do? Every day the family prayed to God. They prayed also to

St. Nicholas, asking him to work a miracle. For a whole year the family prayed for the child's safe return. Exactly one year later, on St. Nicholas Day, the child who had been kidnapped was returned home safely. St. Nicholas and God had heard the family's prayer. The child was safe.

St. Nicholas was born around the fourth century. That is nearly 1600 years ago. He was the archbishop of Myra, which today is located in Turkey. We celebrate his feast-day on December 6. We celebrate it by going to Church. It is a custom in many Orthodox homes around the world for children to put their shoes out on the night before St. Nicholas Day. The next morning they find them filled with candy, an icon, and a pencil or a pen (or with coal if they've been naughty). This custom reminds us of the gifts St. Nicholas left secretly for the poor when he was alive.

Like the family of the kidnapped child, we also can pray to St. Nicholas for help. Christian sailors know St. Nicholas to be their protector when they are out to sea. He is also the patron saint of those who study and he protects those who travel from robbers.

We, too can ask St. Nicholas to pray for us each day to help us do that which is good for ourselves and for others.





## TWO MITES

*From OCA Stewardship Resource Kit*

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.

## 11 THOUGHTS ON THE NATIVITY FAST

*Patriarch Daniel of Romania*

1. We fast not to be seen and praised by men, but to draw nearer to God.
2. We fast because we love God more than His material gifts which we can consume.
3. Forgiveness is a good way to begin the Fast. No one can enter upon a spiritual struggle for purification without forgiveness.
4. Fasting supports the prayer of believers who consider their connection with God to be the center, light, and nourishment for their souls.
5. True fasting is not simply abstaining from animal products, but also to abstain from material greed and the pursuit of selfish domination over others, and also the limiting of any thoughts, words, or deeds which diminish your love for God and others.
6. If the Fast is accompanied by deeds well-pleasing to God, then fasting makes us light for others and chosen vessels of God's glory.
7. The Fast is not only a material, but a spiritual condition—that is, a fast of the eyes, mouth, and heart.
8. Fasting is the spiritual condition of sacrifice or offering of those who fast freely and in accordance with their powers.
9. During the Fast, the amount of our material food decreases, but spiritual food increases.
10. Fasting supports prayer, while fasting without prayer is not a spiritual work.
11. Fasting calms egotistical passions, enlightens the mind, sanctifies emotions, and changes our attitudes and behavior towards others and nature, placing all in the life of the presence of God's love.

Wise men  
still seek  
HIM

