

# SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

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## BULLETIN OF DECEMBER 9, 2018

### SUNDAY/DECEMBER 9

#### Conception of the Theotokos

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

### TUESDAY/DECEMBER 11

7:00p.m. Compline & Akathist to  
**St. Spyridon (Dec. 12)** and anointing  
with oil from his tomb; Confessions

### WEDNESDAY/DECEMBER 12

7:00p.m. Vespers; Confessions

### THURSDAY/DECEMBER 13

#### St. Herman of Alaska

9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy  
6:00p.m. Christmas Cookie Baking

### SATURDAY/DECEMBER 15

9:30a.m. Akathist to Our Lord; Confessions  
5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

### SUNDAY/DECEMBER 16

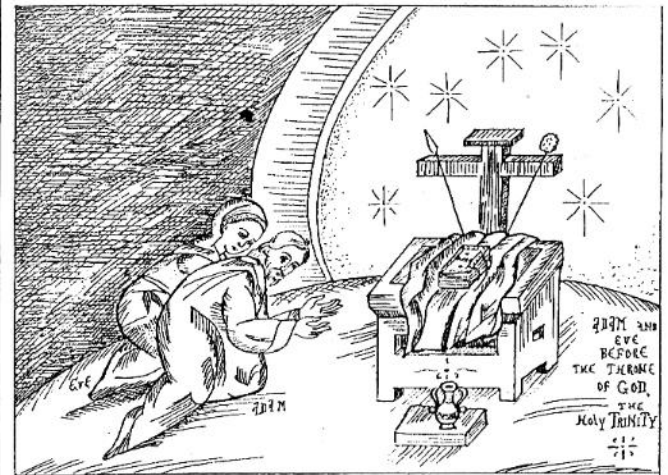
#### Sunday of Holy Forefathers

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy  
11:20a.m. Christmas Cookie Walk  
Coffee Hour  
5:30p.m. Vespers & anointing with oil  
from tomb of **St. Dionysios of Zakynthos**

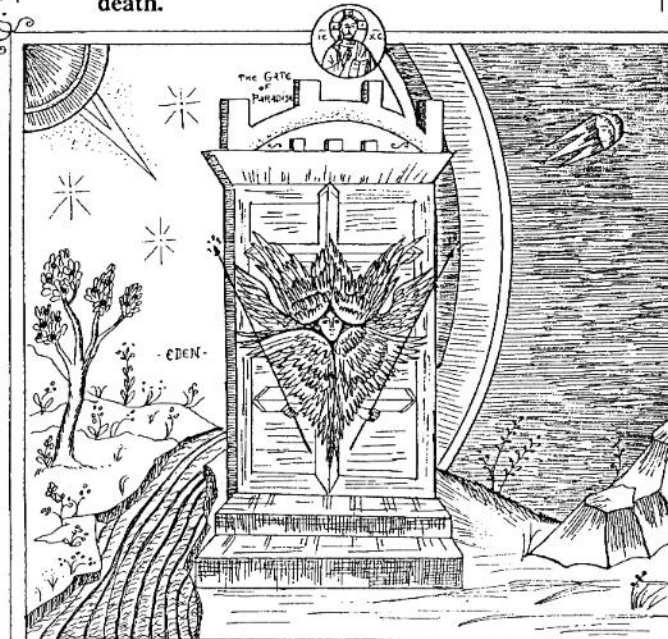
### MONDAY/DECEMBER 17

#### St. Dionysios of Zakynthos

8:00a.m. Divine Liturgy



Adam and Eve, the parents of all mankind, were shut out of Paradise because they had disobeyed God. For a very long time after this, people suffered in darkness and the shadow of death.



All mankind waited for the coming of Christ the Saviour, who would open up the gates of Paradise.

### ***Offerings Week of December 9***

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

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

Wine: for the health of Alexander (birthday); in honor of St. Spyridon and St. Herman.

Flowers: in honor fo the Theotokos, our great Protectress.

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

Dec. 10, 1946 David Gerasmchuk

Dec. 10, 1956 Anthony Pawlik

Dec. 10, 1988 Michael Sofko

Dec. 10, 2004 Ann Kralovich

Dec. 11, 1961 Paul Romanovich

Dec. 12, 1976 Christian Swidonovich

Dec. 14, 1976 Pauline Jackowlew

Dec. 16, 1933 Vladimir Shultz

Dec. 16, 1993 Ann Warin

### ***Coffee Hour Schedule***

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

Dec. 09 Kita, Keller, Turri, Torrisi & Kachek

Dec. 16 Inga, Eka, Marina & Nona

### ***Counters Schedule***

Dec. 09 Ciprian C. & Jill P.

Dec. 16 Irina S. & Lisa K.

### ***Ushers Schedule***

Dec. 09 Jerome S. & Adrian M.

Dec. 16 Dennis F. & Robert E.

### ***Readers Schedule***

Dec. 09 Cameron P. / Dec. 16 Ciprian C.

### ***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. The Nativity Fast ends after the Divine Liturgy on December 25<sup>th</sup>.

Dec. 09/Sun. fish, wine & oil

Dec. 11/Tues. wine & oil

Dec. 13/Thurs. fish, wine & oil

Dec. 15/Sat. fish, wine & oil

Dec. 16/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.

### ***Forth-Coming Calendar –Dates to Mark Check On-Line Calendar on website***

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 Visitation

*Various Thoughts On Spiritual Struggle by St. Porphyrios of Athos (+1991)*

There are two paths that lead to God: **the hard** and debilitating path of fierce assaults against evil and the **easy path** with love. There are many who chose the hard path and “shed blood in order to receive Spirit” until they attained virtue. I find the **shorter and safer route** is the path with love.

The easy path is a different kind of effort. Study and pray, and have as your aim to advance in the love of God and of the Church. Do not fight to expel the darkness from the chamber of your soul. Open a tiny aperture for light to enter, and the darkness will disappear. The same holds for our passions and weaknesses. **Do not fight them, but transfigure them into strength**, by showing disdain for evil.

Do not choose negative methods to correct yourselves. There is no need to fear the devil, hell or anything else.

I have found the bloodless path is the best mode of sanctification.

**The easy path?** In your spiritual life engage in your **daily contest** simply, easily and without force. The soul is sanctified and purified through the memorization of the psalms and of portions of Scripture, through the singing of hymns and through the repetition of the Jesus Prayer.

Everything should be done in a natural way, calmly and freely. Nor should you pray: “O God free me from my anger, my sorrow, etc.” **it is not good to pray about or think about the specific passion**; something happens in our soul and we become even more enmeshed in the passion. Attack your passion head on, and you will see how strongly it will entwine you and grip you and you won’t be able to do anything.

God has placed a power in man’s soul. But it is up to him how he channels it - **for good or evil**. If we imagine **the good** as a garden full of flowers, trees and plants and **the evil** as weeds and thorns and **the power** as water, then what can happen is as follows: when the water is directed towards the flower-garden, then all the plants grow, blossom and bear fruit; and at the same time, the weeds and thorns, because they are not being watered, wither and die. And the opposite, of course, can also happen. It is not necessary, therefore, to concern yourself with the weeds. **Don’t occupy yourself with rooting out evil**. Christ does not wish us to occupy ourselves with the passions, but with the opposite. Channel the water, that is all the strength of your soul, to the flowers (virtues) and you will enjoy their beauty, their fragrance and their freshness.

In my own life, I have never employed those methods which are exhausting, cause a negative reaction and often produce the opposite of the desired effect.

**Satan does not go away** with force and coercion. He is sent away with meekness and prayer. He retreats when he sees the soul showing contempt for him and turning in love towards Christ. When you struggle against the devil, he flies at you like a tiger or a wild cat. When you shoot a bullet at him, he lobbs a hand-grenade at you. And when you throw a bomb at him, he launches a rocket against you.

When something bothers you – a seductive thought, a temptation, an assault – **ignore all these things**, and turn your attention, your eyes to Christ. **Christ will then take over the task of raising you up.**

All you need to do is make **a tiny little effort**. The human contribution in all this represents only a millionth of a millionth part – **a small inclination**, that is. Take a step in God's direction, and in **a split second divine grace will come.**

When you go towards good, you cease to remember evil. This is the secret: show contempt for evil. But you are unable to do this unless you turn to Christ. We say, "show contempt for evil!" It's an easy thing to say, but it is not easy to do. This contempt is a great art.

Contempt for the evil spirit **is possible only with the grace of God.** Turn to Christ, **run** to Christ, **open your arms** to Christ, **get to know** Christ, to **love** Christ and to **feel** Christ. And through this effort, when your motives are pure and sincere, grace opens your soul and says to you: *Awake you sleeper and rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you (Eph. 5:14).*

Make a **new start every day**, with new resolution, with enthusiasm and love, prayer and silence – not with anxiety so that you get a pain in your chest.

Look at all things as opportunities to be sanctified.

See everything without anxiety, without depression, without strain and without stress. There is no need to exert yourselves and strain yourselves.

All the unpleasant things which are within your soul and cause anxiety can become occasions for the glorification of God.

Love Christ and His light, and evil will retreat.

***Wounded By Love: The Life and Wisdom of St. Porphyrios***