

# 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 DECEMBER 16, 2018

### 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. Compline & anointing with oil  
from tomb of **St. Dionysios of Zakynthos**

### MONDAY/DECEMBER 17

#### St. Dionysios of Zakynthos (+1622)

8:00a.m. Divine Liturgy

### WEDNESDAY/DECEMBER 19

7:00p.m. Compline; Confessions

### THURSDAY/DECEMBER 20

#### St. John of Kronstadt (+1908)

7:00p.m. Compline; Confessions

### FRIDAY/DECEMBER 21

3:00p.m. Confessions

7:00p.m. Compline; Confessions

### SATURDAY/DECEMBER 22

9:30a.m. Akathist; Confessions

3:00p.m. Confessions

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

### SUNDAY/DECEMBER 23

#### Sunday Before Nativity

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

Coffee Hours; Church School

5:30p.m. Compline; Confessions



## JOHN

## WONDERWORKER

## OF KRONSTADT

*Troparion in the 4th Tone:*

*With the apostles thy sound hath gone forth unto the ends of the world; / with the confessors thou didst endure sufferings for Christ; / thou didst liken thyself unto the holy hierarchs in thy preaching of the Word; / and with the venerable hast thou shone forth in the grace of God. / Therefore, the Lord hath exalted the depths of thy humility higher than the heavens, / and hath given us thy name as a source of most wondrous miracles. / Wherefore, O wonderworker, who livest in Christ forever, / lovingly have mercy upon those amid misfortunes, / and hearken unto thy children that call upon thee with faith, / O Righteous John, // our beloved pastor.*

### **Offerings Week of December 16**

Relics Candle: for parishioners; in honor of St. John of San Francisco; in memory of Michael, Michael, Anna, Justina, Rosalia, Anastasia and Ivanna; for the health of Mark; in honor of the Holy Theotokos

Olive Oil: in memory of Sarchisian & Bocai families;

Flowers: for the health of Nicholas (birthday) in honor of the Holy Theotokos, our Protectress.

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

Dec. 18, 1980 Joseph Pituck  
Dec. 20, 1962 Michael Popko  
Dec. 20, 1980 Anna Martin  
Dec. 21, 1946 Helen Semoskovich  
Dec. 21, 1997 Nadia Marchuk  
Dec. 21, 2006 Nicholas Chabra  
Dec. 23, 1950 Gregory Persurance

### **Coffee Hour Schedule**

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

Dec. 16 Inga, Eka, Marina & Nona  
Dec. 23 *No fish*  
Dec. 23 Sokol, Nasledysheva, Staina & Sarchisian

### **Counters Schedule**

Dec. 16 Irina S. & Lisa K.  
Dec. 23 Larissa M. & Paulina N.

### **Ushers Schedule**

Dec. 16 Dennis F. & Robert E.  
Dec. 23 Edward S. & Kahka K.

### **Readers Schedule**

Dec. 16 Ciprian C. / Dec. 23 Zachary S.

### **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. December 16<sup>th</sup> is last day for fish. 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. 16/Sun. fish, wine & oil  
Dec. 18/Tues. wine & oil  
Dec. 20/Thurs. wine & oil  
Dec. 22/Sat. wine & oil  
Dec. 23/Sun. wine & oil

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. Before Nativity/Holy Ancestors: Sarah Oliver, Rebecca Oliver, Rachael Oliver, Sarah Fedechko.

Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>/St. Anastasia: Anastasia Mickel & Anastasia Kita

### **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  
Dec. 31/Mon. Blessing of St. Basil Bread  
Jan. 01/Tues. Circumcision & St. Basil Feasts  
Jan. 06/Sun. Theophany & Blessing of Waters  
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

## QUOTES FROM ST. JOHN OF KRONSTADT

Commemorated on December 20<sup>th</sup>

"When you are praying alone, and your spirit is dejected, and you are wearied and oppressed by your loneliness, remember then, as always, that God the Trinity looks upon you with eyes brighter than the sun; also all the angels, your own Guardian Angel, and all the Saints of God. Truly they do; for they are all one in God, and where God is, there are they also. Where the sun is, thither also are directed all its rays. Try to understand what this means."

"There is nothing impossible unto those who believe; lively and unshaken faith can accomplish great miracles in the twinkling of an eye. Besides, even without our sincere and firm faith, miracles are accomplished, such as the miracles of the sacraments; for God's Mystery is always accomplished, even though we were incredulous or unbelieving at the time of its celebration. "Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?" (Rom. 3:3). Our wickedness shall not overpower the unspeakable goodness and mercy of God; our dullness shall not overpower God's wisdom, nor our infirmity God's omnipotence."

"Oh, what great happiness and bliss, what exaltation it is to address oneself to the Eternal Father. Always, without fail, value this joy which has been accorded to you by God's infinite grace and do not forget it during your prayers; God, the angels and God's holy men listen to you."

"The enemy of our salvation especially strives to draw our heart and mind away from God when we are about to serve Him, and endeavors to adulterously attach our heart to something irrelevant. Be always, every moment, with God, especially when you pray to Him. If you are inconstant, you will fall away from life, and will cast yourself into sorrow."

"Do not be despondent when fighting against the invisible enemy, but even in the midst of your afflictions and oppression praise the Lord, Who has found you worthy to suffer for Him, by struggling against the subtlety of the serpent, and to be wounded for Him at every hour; for had you not lived piously, and endeavored to become united to God, the enemy would not have attacked and tormented you."

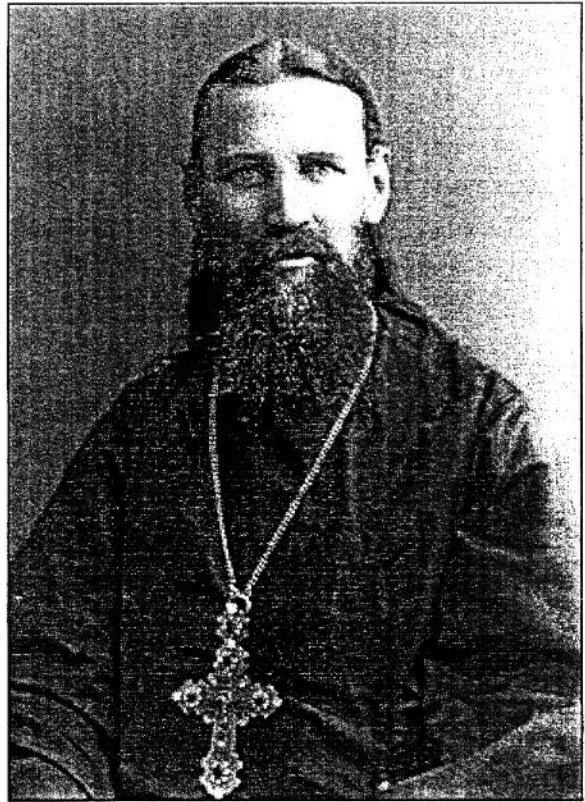
"Do not fear the conflict, and do not flee from it; where there is no struggle, there is no virtue. Our faith, trust, and love are proved and revealed in adversities, that is, in difficult and grievous outward and inward circumstances, during sickness, sorrow, and privations."

"Prayer for others is very beneficial to the man himself who prays; it purifies the heart, strengthens faith and hope in God, and arouses love for God and our neighbor."

### About St. John of Kronstadt

*Saint John of Kronstadt was a Russian Orthodox archpriest. He was a striking and somewhat unconventional figure in his personality but was deeply pious and immensely energetic. He was one of the most internationally famous and beloved Orthodox Christian clerics of his time.*

*He was born as Ivan Ilyich Sergiyev (Russian:Иван Ильич Сергиев) in 1829. From 1855, he worked as a priest in Saint Andrew's Cathedral in Kronstadt. Here, he greatly committed himself to charity, especially for those who were outside the church, and travelled extensively throughout the Russian empire. He was a member of the right Union of the Russian People, but did not commit himself politically. In the early 1990s Father John became well known, and people from all over Russia came to him every day in thousands. Even bishops treated him with high respect. He was already greatly venerated at the time he died. He was canonized by the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia in 1964 and by the Russian Orthodox Church in 1990.*



### ***Nativity Fast Free Period***

There is no fasting or kneeling during the period of the Nativity Feast- Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> thru Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>. In this same time period the Church does not permit the celebration of Marriages or the performance of Memorial Services.

### ***The Baptism of Luke Parsells***

Will take place on Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>, Saturday at 10:00a.m. All are invited for the brunch to follow in the Lower Hall. If you can, please indicate on the sheet in the vestibule your attendance for ample food preparation.

### ***The Blessing of Homes Season for 2019***

The season is from Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> thru Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>. Homes are blessed by appointment with Fr. James. You are requested to have your home blessed earlier rather than later in the season. You can make your appointment presently.

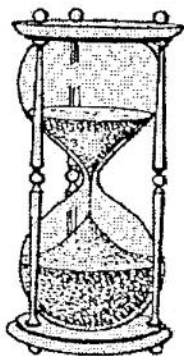
### ***Inclement Weather Changes to Calendar***

If it is necessary to cancel or change something on the parish schedule, this will be indicated through 1) the Parish E-Mail; 2) Friends of Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church Face Book; 3) and on the Parish Website – [www.ssppoc.org](http://www.ssppoc.org)

### **ON TIME AND ETERNITY**

*By St. Tikhon of Zadonsk*

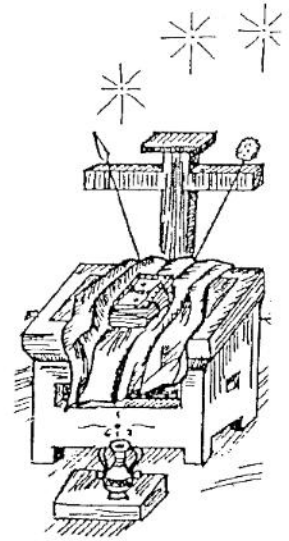
"We see the water of a river flowing uninterruptedly and passing away, and all that floats on its surface, rubbish or beams of trees, all pass by. Christian! So does our life. . . I was an infant, and that time has gone. I was an adolescent, and that too has passed. I was a young man, and that too is far behind me. The strong and mature man that I was is no more. My hair turns white, I succumb to age, but that too passes; I approach the end and will go the way of all flesh. I die that I may live. Remember me, O Lord, in Thy Kingdom!"



### **BEING CLOSE TO GOD BY GOING TO CHURCH – WHY DO WE STRESS CHURCH ATTENDANCE?**

*By Hieromonk John (Anderson)*

The Church is literally the Body of Christ. This means that corporately, not individually, we are Christ Himself still incarnate in the world doing His work. If a person desires with their whole heart one can unite to Christ and become a member of His Body. Ideally, this is motivated by a simple desire to know God and to be where He is. Out of this love for God comes the desire to follow his commands and to worship Him. However, this happens in a context which is not our own.



Orthodoxy maintains the ancient Jewish belief that God is manifest in the temple. We believe that the



same glorious presence of God, the Shekinah Glory, that dwelt on the Ark of the Covenant now resides on each altar in every Orthodoxy Temple. "God is with us, understand all ye nations." Isaiah 8:10, as the hymn from Great Compline says. If we truly understood what this means --

that the God "who is a consuming fire" is literally present in the Church -- we would strive to worship before Him frequently.

Church attendance is not merely about obligation, guilt, or nostalgia. It is about being where the beloved is and worshipping Him simply because we love Him. It is about being the Body of Christ in oneness. By going to Church we learn to lay aside ego, we learn to love, we learn to live, and we learn how to be truly human. Christ Himself told us to make God the absolute center of our lives and to make all else secondary. Eternal life begins at the altar where we remain in His Presence without distractions, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Matt 6:21.

*A Reflection on the OCMC Medical Mission to Guatemala,  
In which one of the participants was our parishioner, Lisa Keller  
The Lord bless your ministry, Lisa!*

The Psalms talk about healing, and in Matthew 4:33, Jesus went about healing every disease and affliction among the people. In Matthew 10:1, Jesus gave authority to His disciples to "...*heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, heal every disease and heal every affliction*". Jesus, in Matthew 10:8; He counseled us that freely we received and freely we should give. Jesus Christ, before he ascended to heaven, commanded not only his apostles, but for us to go to preach, teach and heal; healing and caring for the mind, body and soul are essential parts of Orthodox missions.

I went on this mission to witness for others who could not join me. Exciting things are happening in northwestern Guatemala and southern Mexico; I wanted to be part of the exciting Orthodox transformation happening in Guatemala!

From November 9-18, 2018, our OCMC medical mission team of nine from Seattle, Pittsburgh, Denver, New Jersey and northern Virginia, travelled to Aguacate, Guatemala and southern Mexico. Led by Dr. Henry Van Zanten, MD, our team included three medical doctors, two registered nurses, an Emergency Medical Technician (Mike Bosworth), a Dental Technician, an Occupational Therapist and an OCMC board member (Betty Slanta).

When we arrived, we were met by Fr. Evangelos, who now leads Guatemalan Orthodox Church, under Metropolitan Athenagoras of Mexico and Central America. At the Fr. Andrés Giron Medical Clinic in Aguacate, Guatemala, the team were welcomed by OCMC missionaries Fr. John and Presvytera Alexandra (Sandy) Chakos, Fr. Juvenaly, Jesse Brandow and Jennifer Rice, Fr. Evangelos (parish priest for Aguacate and other villages), and six Aguacate-based seminarians.

The primarily Mayan highlands region has approximately 40,000 recent Orthodox converts and over 100 parishes, was initially led by Fr. Andreas Giron (+2014). The region is currently served by six indigenous clergy, two missionary clergy and three lay OCMC missionaries, who minister to the underserved primarily rural farmers and their families; a mission couple, Thomas and Elizabeth Manuel, will begin service in late January 2019 to augment the mission support. Medical and teaching teams come four times a year to the region.

Fr. Andrés Girón, for whom the Aguacate Medical Clinic is named, promised his people they would have medical care. Fr. Girón, a priest, political activist and politician, likened to his idols Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, fighting for agrarian and social rights after the Guatemalan Civil War (1960-1996). Originally Roman Catholic, he served in the Guatemalan Senate and was a candidate for President of Guatemala. Fr. Girón brought the mainly Mayan people into the Orthodox Christian in 2010, mainly due to disagreements with Catholic beliefs on ways of worship.

On Sunday morning, we attended church, which is adjacent to the clinic and missionary/mission team housing. A half hour before the liturgy began, the church was almost full; an organist and singers, the seminarians, sang before the Doxology and during communion. The front rows of seats were filled with excited girls and boys, who sang the Divine Liturgy from memory.

Having no formal medical training for this mission did not hinder me (though my first aid, CPR, and experience setting up the Culmore Clinic examination rooms did give me a sense of what an efficient clinic should look like). I was able to organize the clinic, and with help of Spanish and Chuj (Mayan language) translators, register patients..."What are your symptoms? ¿Qué síntomas tienes?". Typical complaints were headache, diabetes, cough, pneumonia, stomach ache, infections, feminine issues, tooth ache and vision problems, though several people did have serious illnesses and required follow up care.

Mike handled the triage and patient vitals (medical screening, temperature, blood pressure and a diabetes check). His conversational knowledge of the Spanish language worked well with the patients, most of whom had not ever seen a doctor.

Medical and dental interns assigned to the clinic from medical schools throughout Guatemala staff the clinic when there is no medical mission team at the clinic. Our medical team members also guided the medical care offered by the intern doctor and intern dentist for follow-up

On the last day of the clinic, nine year old Marcos came to the clinic on his own, suffering from pneumonia and was having trouble breathing. We seated him at a dental chair and IV administered; his breathing was fast. The nurses and doctor got him stabilized and administered antibiotics. We calmed him with my iPad video and sent him home with relatives; he was better the day we departed.

The team aided **255 medical patients and 111 dental patients** during the five and a half days of operation.

Our medical team enjoyed delicious food prepared by family of Fr. Evangelos and the seminarians, who are housed at the first floor of the clinic. During dinner on the final evening in Aguacate, we were surprised with a fish dinner, balloons, signs, decorations, and were serenaded by the seminarians; mission team members also serenaded with their own songs.

There is much left to do: a short term "handyman" cadre team, including plumbers, electricians and carpenters, is being proposed to make necessary repairs to the clinic and missionary and mission team housing. The team will leave behind a locked tools and tool chest in a parts room/closet for Aguacate village tradesman follow-up. Also proposed is purchase of a portable Basic Life Support (BLS) bag and a medical cot for use in the clinic vehicle. Look for mission service and funding opportunities in the months to come.

Thank you for your prayers and love upon my return from mission service in Guatemala.