

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

605 Washington Avenue, Manville, New Jersey 08835-1856

Voice: 908-685-1452 Email: frjames@ssppoc.org Website: www.ssppoc.org

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

Diocese of NY-NJ: www.nynjoca.org

BULLETIN OF DECEMBER 30, 2018

SUNDAY/DECEMBER 30

Sunday after Nativity

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour & Christmas Carols

DECEMBER 31/MONDAY

5:30p.m. Vespers & Blessing of St. Basil Bread

JANUARY 1/TUESDAY

Circumcision of our Lord

St. Basil the Great (+379)

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

JANUARY 2/WEDNESDAY

St. Seraphim of Sarov (+1834)

9:30a.m. Akathist to St. Seraphim

FRIDAY/JANUARY 4

7:00p.m. Royal Hours of Theophany

SATURDAY/JANUARY 5

Eve of Theophany – Strict Fast Day

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

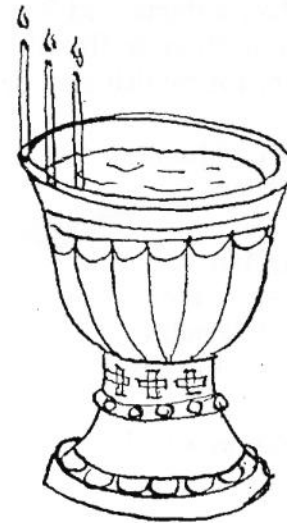
SUNDAY/JANUARY 6

Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
With Great Blessing of Waters; Coffee Hour
Food Basket Day

Fast Free Period: December 25 thru
January 4th.

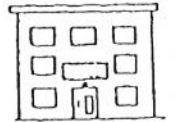
Eve of Theophany: January 5th, Saturday
Strict Fast Day



Cross



Icon



Business

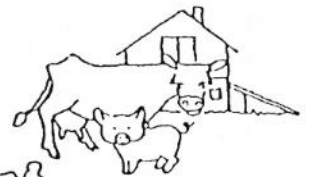
What Gets Blessed?



Car



Food



Animals



Produce



House



Offerings Week of December 30

Relics Candle: in honor of Ivanna; in memory of Michael, Justina, Rosalia, Anastasia and Ivanna; health of family; health of Mark; in honor of the Holy Theotokos

Olive Oil: in memory of Sarchisian & Bocai families; for the health of Christina, Carol and Kyle (birthdays); in memory of Gabriela, Floarea, Gheorghe, Elena, Petre, Valeria and family.

Wine: for the health of Nichole (birthday); for the newly-illuminated Luke; for health and prosperity of Kaliashvili family.

Flowers: in memory of Melanie; for the health of Stone And Oliver families.

Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

- Jan. 25, 2019 (40th Day – Helen Lapchuk)
- Dec. 31, 1942 Tikhon Yakovlev
- Dec. 31, 1950 Nicholas Chmelik
- Dec. 31, 1962 Jacob Hriniak
- Jan. 01, 1963 Peter Romanowski
- Jan. 01, 1995 Michael Hobora
- Jan. 01, 2010 Paul Lebedz
- Jan. 02, 1947 Chariton Kucher
- Jan. 02, 1966 Mary Knaff
- Jan., 02, 1989 Charles Specian
- Jan. 02, 2012 Vera Wilhousky
- Jan. 03, 1962 Mary Tarby Adamcio
- Jan. 04, 1963 Christine Sudillo
- Jan. 04, 1970 Mary Dzurich
- Jan. 04, 1978 Peter Wilhousky
- Jan. 04, 2016 Alice Kulina
- Jan. 05, 1964 Nicholas Senko
- Jan. 05, 2005 Anna Sudia
- Jan. 06, 1952 Michael Kuzmiak
- Jan. 06, 2016 Frank J. Bongiorno

Coffee Hour Schedule

- Dec. 30 Chirnoaga, Moldoveanu, Sue & Vajda
- Jan. 06 Peterson, Bakaletz, Mattei, Erkman & Stone

Counters Schedule

- Dec. 30 Jill P. & Peter B.
- Jan. 06 Rebecca O. & Ekaterina M.

Ushers Schedule

- Dec. 30 Edward S. & Kahka K.
- Jan. 06 Timothy S. & Peter B.

Readers Schedule

- Dec. 30 Peter G. / Jan. 06 ?

Scrip Fund-Raising Program

Is on-going. Speak with Pam Stone for cards.

Names Day Greetings – Many Years!

- St. Basil/Jan. 1: Basil Kulick
- St. Juliana/Jan. 2: Juliana Bakaletz

Forth-Coming Calendar –Dates to Mark

Check On-Line Calendar on website

- Jan.08-Feb. 28 Blessing of Homes Season
- Jan. 18/Fri. March For Life in DC
- Jan. 24/Thurs. Parish Council Meeting
- Feb. 02/Sat. Meeting of Lord/ Blessing of candles
- Feb. 03/Sun. Scout Recognition Day
- Feb. 03/Sun. Souper Bowl of Caring
- Feb. 10/Sun. Annual Parish Meeting 12:00p.m.
- Feb. 13/20/27 Wed. Study Classes 7-8:30p.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

The Blessing of Homes Season for 2019

The season is from Jan. 7th thru Feb. 28th. 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

December Month Winter Coat Drive

This year, some 15 new coats and 26 used coats were donated. The Lord bless your response!

Glory to Jesus Christ!

December 2018

Parishioners and Friends of Ss. Peter & Paul Church,

Thank you for all that you do in maintaining and supporting Ss Peter and Paul. We have had a busy year in upgrading and beautifying our church. As you all are aware several capital improvement projects have taken place, some planned and some unexpected which have placed us in a low financial standing, and we must now embark on a Debt Collection plan for 2019. The purpose of this is to recover and allow us to replenish our capital project account. A special envelope has been issued for this purpose for this coming **YEAR ONLY**.

The Church Flooring

This 'Great Project' was completed in July. Sincere thanks to all for their contributions of time, labor and financial support, which made this possible. The total cost was **\$31,796**. Donations were received in the amount of **\$25,980**. The remaining balance of **\$5,186** was taken from the Capital Improvement Fund.

Church Repair, Painting and Cleaning Project

In the process of removing the icons from the sacristies and the vestibule of the church it became evident that the walls were in dire need of painting. The rest of the church professionally cleaned due to the dust created by the flooring project. This cost of **\$2,372** was taken from the Capital Improvement Fund.

Church Door Emergency Handle Upgrade

The back door to the church had been rotting away due to age, weather and general wear and tear, and a new one was installed for safety reasons. Unfortunately, the local fire inspector required a special emergency exit door handle. This was unplanned but needed to be done in order to pass inspection. The cost of **\$945** was taken from the Capital Improvement Fund.

Rectory Air-Conditioning

In July, the midst of the heat wave, the 33-year old central air-conditioning unit died. The Parish Council upon careful consideration chose the bid from Cool-O-Matic in Manville. The cost of this unexpected but necessary expense was **\$6,200**.

Rectory Closet Expansion and Painting

With Cool-O-Matic in process of installing the new handler in the rectory attic, it became evident that the new equipment was too large to fit through the 18-inches wide closet space and reconstruction of the closet and walls had to be done along with some other minor repairs. The cost for this was **\$2,240**.

Parking Lot Tree Removal

The large tree in the far end of the parking lot is 100 years old, approx. 45% dead and had to be removed before this coming winter, as it is a danger to our parishioners, neighbors and a tremendous liability to our church. The cost for this is **\$1,600**.

Total Capital Improvement Expenses - \$18,543.

The church very much depends on your generosity for its upkeep and maintenance. Please use the extra envelope provided for any assistance that you may be able to offer. Thank you for all for your faith and loyalty to our spiritual home.

Yours in Christ,
Ss Peter and Paul Council

ST. BASIL THE GREAT

Commemorated on January 1st

Basil was born during the reign of Emperor Constantine. While still unbaptized, Basil spent fifteen years in Athens where he studied philosophy, rhetoric, astronomy and all other secular sciences of that time. His colleagues at that time were Gregory the Theologian and Julian, later the apostate emperor. In his mature years he was baptized in the river Jordan along with Euvlios his former teacher. He was Bishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia for almost ten years and completed his earthly life fifty years after his birth. He was a great defender of Orthodoxy, a great light of moral purity, a religious zealot, a great theological mind, a great builder and pillar of the Church of God. Basil fully deserved the title "Great." In liturgical services, he is referred to as the "bee of the Church of Christ which brings honey to the faithful and with its stinger pricks the heretics." Numerous works of this Father of the Church are preserved; they include theological, apologetical, ascetical and canonical writings as well as the Holy and Divine Liturgy named after him.

This Divine Liturgy is celebrated ten times throughout the year: the First of January, his feast day; on the eve of the Nativity of our Lord; on the eve of the Epiphany of our Lord; all Sundays of the Honorable Fast [Lenten Season], except Palm Sunday; on Great and Holy Thursday and on Great and Holy Saturday. St. Basil died peacefully on January 1, 379 A.D., and was translated into the Kingdom of Christ.



The Tradition of Saint Basil's Coin

dates to the fourth century, when St. Basil the Great, the father of philanthropy, wanted to distribute money to the poor in his diocese. He commissioned some women to bake sweetened bread, in which he placed gold coins. Thus the poor families in cutting the bread to nourish themselves were pleasantly surprised to find the coins. This custom is kept to this day among Orthodox Christians, who on Saint Basil's Day, January 1st, place gold coins inside a loaf of sweetened bread in honor of the Saint's care for the poor. The one who finds the coin in his or her piece is considered commissioned by St. Basil to carry on his work for the poor, and in exchange he will ask the Lord for whatever is needful for the New Year.

ON HOLY COMMUNION

St. Cyril of Alexandria (5th century)

If the poison of pride is swelling up in you, turn to the Eucharist; and that Bread, Which is your God humbling and disguising Himself, will teach you humility. If the fever of selfish greed rages in you, feed on this Bread; and you will learn generosity. If the cold wind of coveting withers you, hasten to the Bread of Angels; and charity will come to blossom in your heart. If you feel the itch of intemperance, nourish yourself with the Flesh and Blood of Christ, Who practiced heroic self-control during His earthly life; and you will become temperate. If you are lazy and sluggish about spiritual things, strengthen yourself with this heavenly Food; and you will grow fervent. Lastly, if you feel scorched by the fever of impurity, go to the banquet of the Angels; and the spotless Flesh of Christ will make you pure and chaste.



The Schism Deepened Due to a New Schism

Source: Orthodox Life (Russian) <<https://pravlife.org/ru/content/raskol-uglublen-za-schet-novogo-raskola>>

Metropolitan Anthony (Pakanich) spoke on who is against church unity and why.

METROPOLITAN ANTHONY (PAKANICH) <http://www.pravmir.com/author/user_1450406051/> | 27 DECEMBER 2018

Today we observe with sadness how the "healing" of the schism promised by Phanar became a rough and cynical aggravation of it, that inflicts deep wounds on the body of the Church of Christ and provokes enmity and tension both in the church and secular society.

Is this how fatherly love and care are manifested?

"If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?"(Luke 11:11) the Gospel says.

Such a "father" for the Orthodox Church and Its flock is the Patriarchate of Constantinople. The one who in the union of brotherly love with other Local Orthodox Churches should protect church unity and take care of Its canons.

Since the beginning of its formation, the long-suffering Ukrainian Orthodox Church has been tormented by schism, and now former brothers in Christ joined offenders and impostors in the struggle against the Truth.

Flawless

The Church doesn't fight just for the purity of doctrine and dogmas throughout Its existence. It does this in order to preserve and provide Christians with the full possibility of a mystical union with God. This is the meaning of human life.

Earlier divisions occurred because of the heresies i.e. dogmatic and religious disputes of the Nestorians and the Monophysites, the iconoclasts and the Monothelite and so on. However, today the reasons for modern church splits, including those happening before our eyes are centered around another issue.

The bottom line in the splits of recent times is not the religious aspect, but political, social and ethnic interests, which became the key factors determining the life of the Church.

This is purely a secular approach without taking into account the religious and mystical nature of the Church. It is considered by the Orthodox Church heresy and is known as phyletism that is based on political, ethnic or cultural interests.

Today we are witnessing a gross violation of the canons established over the centuries and accepted by Orthodoxy.

The Church has been held hostage to political games, ambitions, lies, slander, and geopolitical divisions.

But this by no means diminishes It. The Church is only getting stronger and stronger. New confessors and intercessors appear.

It was always like this in the times of persecution and will be forever.

One for All, All for One

Firstly, Church unity lies in the communion of the Local Churches, which is manifested in the Eucharistic communion and in a brotherly, friendly attitude towards each other in solving common and internal issues.

Secondly, it lies in an effort to preserve the purity of faith from false teachings and schisms and to protect it from enemies.

According to the famous theologian Vladimir Lossky, "The catholicity of the Church, far from being the privilege of any see or specific centre, is realized rather in the richness and multiplicity of the local traditions which bear witness unanimously to a single Truth: to that which is preserved always, everywhere and by all. Since the Church is catholic in all her parts, each one of her members—not only the clergy but also each layman—is called to confess and to defend the truth of tradition; opposing even the bishops should they fall into heresy."

Betrayal

History repeats itself. There have always been brave men, risking their lives in the name of truth, faith, love, and loved ones.

And there were those who didn't stand the test of temptations and betrayed everything they once held dear.

This is a terrible human tragedy. As a rule, a person doesn't realize what they have done and hides their wrongdoing in the guise of "pious effort", justifying and whitewashing themselves in every possible way.

But if one can deceive a person with tales, the Lord cannot be deceived. Therefore, let's leave to Him the Last Judgement and the last word.

The Church, as a loving Mother, suffers from the mistakes of Her children and worries about every child, even if they reject and persecute Her.

But if a person prefers not good, but evil, not truth, but lie, not the real Church, but a surrogate, then this is their personal choice that they themselves are responsible for.

If such a person convinces others of their rightness, let us recall the words of F. Dostoevsky, "If someone proved to me that Christ is outside the truth and that in reality the truth were outside of Christ, then I should prefer to remain with Christ rather than with the truth."

Salvific Ark

The main goal of the Church is to help a person achieve union with God. In the Church everything is wisely thought out, tested by time, and confirmed by the lives of many saints in order to contribute to this goal.

The Church encourages a person to have a constant spiritual acuity and opposition against wiles of the devil from the outside and inner passions.

As a result of the proper guidance of the Church, human nature changes and transforms. And therefore the spiritual endeavor of each of us is very important for the entire Orthodox world.

In order to know God, one must approach Him, and it is impossible to understand Him without uniting with Him. The path of the knowledge of God is becoming like Him. And this should be the biggest concern for Christians. Everything else should be just a background, nothing more. And the Church faithfully and selflessly leads us to our intended goal.

This is the main difference between the true Church – the salvific ark – from the false churches.



SAINT JOHN OF SAN FRANCISCO ON MATTHEW 1:25

And [Joseph] knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called His name JESUS.



The word "until" does not signify that Mary remained a virgin only until a certain time. In the Bible, the word "until" and words similar to it often signify eternity. It is said of Christ: "In His days shall shine forth righteousness and an abundance of peace, *until* the moon be taken away" (Psalm 71:7), but this does not mean that when there shall no longer be a moon at the end of the world, God's righteousness shall no longer be; precisely then, rather, will it triumph. And what does it mean when it says: "For He must reign, *until* He hath put all enemies under His feet?" (1 Cor. 15:25). Is the Lord to reign only for a time until His enemies shall be put under His feet?! The Savior in the Gospel says to the Apostles (Matt: 28:20): "Lo, I am with you always, even *until* the end of the world." Are we to believe that the Lord will no longer be with the disciples in the age to come? While there are plenty more such examples of the use of the word "until", the above are sufficient to prove that Matt 1:25 does not argue against the life-long virginity of the Mother of God.



BLESSED THEOPHYLACT ON MATTHEW 1:19

Then Joseph her husband, being a righteous man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to divorce her secretly.

The law decreed that the adulteress be exposed and punished publicly. How, then, was Joseph righteous since he intended to cover up her sin and thus transgress the law? The answer is, first, that he was righteous for intending to do this very thing. He did not wish to be harsh, but in his great goodness took compassion on her, showing himself to be above the law, and already living in a manner superior to the decrees of the law. Secondly, since he himself knew that she had conceived not by adultery but of the Holy Spirit. Behold what the evangelist says: "She was found to be with child." Found by whom? By Joseph; that is, he discerned that she had conceived of the Holy Spirit. Therefore he "was minded to divorce her secretly," for he no longer dared to take as a wife her who had been deemed worthy of such grace.