

# SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Diocese of NY-NJ: [www.nynjoca.org](http://www.nynjoca.org)

## BULLETIN OF APRIL 07, 2019

**SUNDAY/APRIL 07** *Wine & oil*

**Fourth Sunday of Great Lent**

**St. John of Sinai (+649)**

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

Food Basket; Church School

4:00p.m. Vespers at St. Spyridon Church,  
Perth Amboy

**MONDAY/APRIL 08**

7:00p.m. Vespers

**TUESDAY/APRIL 09**

7:00p.m. Vespers; Confession

**WEDNESDAY/APRIL 10** *Wine & oil*

9:30a.m. Akathist; Confession

7:00p.m. Canon of St. Andrew

**THURSDAY/APRIL 11** *Wine & oil*

6:30p.m. Pre-sanctified Liturgy

**FRIDAY/APRIL 12** *Wine & oil*

7:00p.m. Matins & Akathist; Confession

**SATURDAY/APRIL 13** *Wine & oil*

**Laudation of Theotokos**

9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confession

**SUNDAY/APRIL 14** *Wine & oil*

**Fifth Sunday of Great Lent**

**St. Mary of Egypt (+530)**

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

Church School & Teen Class

4:00p.m. Vespers at Holy Cross in  
Medford with Abp. Michael



### **Offerings Week of April 07**

Relics candle: in memory of Ivanna; in memory of Michael, Justina, Rosalie, Anastasia, Mary and Ivanna; in memory of Nicholas, Eleanore, Jerome, John, & Ann Marie.

Olive Oil: in memory of Sarchisian and Bocai families; for the health of Zachary

Wine: for the health of Jerome & Joseph; for Elena, Corneliu, Ioan, Jenita & Vasile.

Flowers: in honor of the Theotkos, our Great Protectress.

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

Apr. 07, 1968 Fr. Basil Dziama  
(rector 1918-1920)  
Apr. 09, 1937 George Huzinec  
Apr. 09, 1953 Anna Romanovich  
Apr. 10, 1960 Mary Romanovsky  
Apr. 11, 1919 Jacob Cherniak  
Apr. 11, 1959 Anna Skwarla  
Apr. 11, 1966 Paul Adamcio  
Apr. 13, 1961 Frank Yurchuk  
Apr. 13, 1964 Igor Mushta  
Apr. 14, 1921 Procopius Kostik  
Apr. 14, 1941 Maria Huzinec  
Apr. 14, 1955 Peter Leich  
Apr. 14, 1965 Miron Urichuck  
Apr. 14, 2008 William Davidovich

### **Coffee Hour Schedule**

**From March 17 thru Apr. 21**

**No meat, fish or dairy products**

Apr. 07 Kita, Keller, Turri, Torrisi  
& Kachek  
Apr. 14 Inga, Eka, Marina & Nona

### **Counters Schedule**

Apr. 07 Katrina G. & Ekaterini M.  
Apr. 14 Ciprian C. & Jill P.

### **Ushers Schedule**

Apr. 07 Timothy S. & Peter B.  
Apr. 14 Jerome S. & Adrian M.

### **Readers Schedule**

Apr. 07 Austin K. / Apr. 14 Zachary S.

### **Pussy Willows**

Please deposit in our hall. Thanks.

### **Check On-Line Calendar on website**

Apr. 07/Sun. 4:00p.m. Vespers at St. Spyridon Church in Perth Amboy

Apr. 14/Sun. 4:00p.m. Vespers at Holy Cross Church, Medford with Archbishop Michael

Apr. 20/Sat. 11:00a.m. Work Party for Pussy willows and Palms.

Apr. 21/Sun. Palm Sunday (Western Easter)

Apr. 22/Mon. Great & Holy Week Begins

Apr. 26/Fri. Youth Good Friday Program, 6:30p.m to 9:00p.m. (supper, reading, crafts)

Apr. 28/Sun. Holy Pascha (Orthodox Easter)

Apr. 29/Bright Mon. Festal Parish Meal after 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

May 01/Wed. 7:00p.m. Paschal Vespers with Abp. Michael at Christ the Saviour Church, Paramus

May 06/Mon. 6:30p.m. Paschal Memorial at cemetery (Rain date: Tues. 6:30p.m.)

May 11& 12/ Sat. & Sun. 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Orthodoxy in America – Rocky Hill Church

May 11/Sat. No Vespers in Manville, 5:00 Vespers at Mother of God Church in Princeton.

May 16/Thurs. Parish Council Meeting 7:00p.m.

May 24-27/ Fri. – Mon. 115<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Pilgrimage to Monastery of St. Tikhon

May 25/Sat. Entrance into Church of Timothy Z. & Daniel D.

June 01/Sat. 10:00a.m. Workshop for Parish Council Members at Ss. Peter & Paul, So. River

June 1&2/Sat. & Sun. Archbishop Michael Visitation to our parish

### **2019 Lenten Charities**

- St. Philaret Poor Basket: for local charitable needs.
- OCMC Mission boxes: for mission work throughout the world.
- St. Andrew's Camp Offering: for new building of our NY-NJ Diocesan Camp.

### **Our Vestibule Stand Has a Variety of New Religious Items**

Before or after a service check them out. You may speak with Katherine Mantzafos.

### **Registration Is Now Open for Orthodox Summer Camps**

- St. Tikhon's: July 7-13 (one week)  
[info@sttikhonscamp.org](mailto:info@sttikhonscamp.org)
- St. Andrew's: June 30-August 03  
[www.saintandrewscamp.org](http://www.saintandrewscamp.org)
  - Art Week: June 30 – July 06
  - Horse Week: July 07- July 13
  - Music Week: July 14- July 20
  - Ecology Week: July 21- July 27
  - Teen Week: July 28- Aug. 03

### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Autocephaly of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) – Opening Symposium May 11-12 You Are Invited!**

The Church of the Mother of God in Rocky Hill will host a symposium celebrating the 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Missionaries from Valaam Monastery to America and the kickoff of the 50<sup>th</sup> Year of Granting Autocephaly to the OCA. Metropolitan Tikhon of Washington and Bishop David of Alaska, will be make presentations.

On Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated by Metropolitan Tikhon, Archbishop Michael and Bishop David; after a banquet will be held. You are invited to these events. **To reserve your seat for banquet (\$55), please see Pam Stone with your payment and choice of menu offering.**

(Be mindful that this is also “Mother’s Day”)

### **Increase of Prices for Graves in Cemetery**

The present cost of a grave for a parishioner is \$1,200. As of June 1, the new cost will be \$1,500. For purchase of grave, see Father James.

### **In Regard to Service Dogs & Therapy Dogs in the Church**

A question had been raised about dogs in the church. The rules (canons) of the Church forbid this. (When they were written centuries ago there was no idea of dogs being of service). Archbishop Michael has instructed the clergy of our diocese that Certified Service Dogs may be allowed in the church (but not on the ambo). Therapy dogs and

other therapy animals are not permitted, even if prescribed by a therapist. Particular concerns in this regard, talk to your priest.

### **The Mysteries of Holy Confession and Holy Communion During the Forty Days of Lent**

All the faithful – adults as well as children of Confession age – ought to have partaken of these two Holy Mysteries in this Great Lenten Season. Confessions are not scheduled in Great & Holy Week (April 21-27). Confessions should be made no later than Lazarus Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. College students, returning home from out of State, may make arrangements any time for their Confession, including Great & Holy Week.

### **The Mystery of Holy Unction – April 18<sup>th</sup>**

On this evening, at 7:00p.m., we will celebrate the Holy Mystery of Holy Unction. Those of the faithful that wish to be anointed must have already received Holy Confession & Holy Communion sometime in the period from at least the Pre-Lenten season (Feb. 17, 2019) to the present date of April 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **The State of NJ Recognizes Religious Holydays That Are Excused For Students**

Parents are reminded that Orthodox Holy Thursday (Apr. 25) Holy Friday (Apr. 26) and Bright Monday (Apr. 29) are days in which students are entitled to official absence for religious observance. All you need to do is for the parent to have a written note submitted to the school.

### **Scrip Fund-Raising Program**

This is an on-going fund raiser. By purchasing these cards for your own use or as gifts, the church receives back a percentage. All kinds of cards: Weis, Shop-Rite, Dunkin Donuts, Wawa, Walmart, Bed, Bath & Beyond, etc. etc. See Larissa Mattei or Pam Stone.

### **The Film “Unplanned,” Now Showing**

Archbishop Michael brings to your attention to a film, about a true story of one woman’s personal transformation from abortion provider to pro-life advocate. <https://www.unplannedfilm.com>



### ABOUT THE LADDER OF DIVINE ASCENT

In the sixth century, a monk of Mount Sinai named John wrote a book outlining the stages of the spiritual life. He based his entire work on the image of a ladder of thirty rungs, stretching from earth to heaven. Each rung described a step in the pursuit of virtue and the spiritual life. Since it was first written, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent* has been an essential part of the formation of Orthodox monastics, and a mainstay of Orthodox ascetic spirituality. However, *The Ladder* is not just for monks and nuns because all Christians are called to make an ascent to the heights of heaven. For this reason the Church places the commemoration of Saint John and his Ladder on the 4th Sunday of the Great Fast, as the faithful continue their ascent with the Lord to Golgotha and through Golgotha to His Heavenly Kingdom.

#### The 30 Steps of the Ladder of Divine Ascent

- ❖ Steps 1–4: renouncement of the world and obedience to a spiritual father
- ❖ Steps 5–7: penitence and affliction as paths to true joy
- ❖ Steps 8–17: the defeat of vices and acquisition of virtue
- ❖ Steps 18–26: avoidance of the traps of asceticism (laziness, pride, mental stagnation)
- ❖ Steps 27–29: acquisition of stillness or peace of the soul, of prayer, and of dispassion
- ❖ Step 30: the union of faith, hope, and love



### ABOUT CHRISTIAN AS KINGS AND PRIESTS

By St. Nicholai Velimirovich

"You made them a kingdom and priests for God"  
Revelation 5:10

The Lord Jesus wants to make all men similar to Himself. As the Son of God, He wants all men to become the adopted sons of God. As a King, He wants them to be co-kings with Him. As a Priest, to be co-priests with Him. As Almighty, to share in His strength. As Eternal, to share in His immortality. As Holy, to share in His holiness. As the Resurrected One, to all be the children of the resurrection.

This, the Lord desired and that is why He descended to earth: to separate us from the animals and to elevate us above the life of the animals and to give us dignity over His visible creation, a dignity which Adam had in Paradise before the Fall. Because of this, His love for mankind and His salvatory plan for all people, the Lord was crucified on the cross by the Jewish elders. And even from us Christians today, He reaped the thorns of ingratitude and misunderstanding countless times. We show ourselves to be ungrateful and unreasonable whenever we undermine and trample His commandments. By his sins every sinner plait a new wreath of thorns and places it on His Sacred Head. When did He ever offend us, that we did this to Him? When did He ever think evil about anyone of us, that we return Him evil? He lowered Himself into our rotten pit where we have become accustomed to live with snakes and scorpions and pulled us higher to the heights, to light and purity in the kingdom. He wants to make us kings and priests, and we drive away His saving hand and return to the pit with snakes and scorpions.

O brethren, enough and more than enough of this humiliation of Him and destruction of ourselves. Let us firmly grab the hand of our Savior and follow Him. He desires good for us. He does good for us. For our good, He suffered. He is our One and Only Friend Who does not change.



## AN EXPLANATION OF THE ORTHODOX THREE-BAR CROSS

By Fr. Theodore Jurewicz

### The Top Bar - The Explanation:

The top bar is the title-board, which Pilate ordered to be hung in mockery over Christ's head on the Cross. On this board was inscribed: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews" in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin (abbreviated to the Greek initials 'INBI' or the Latin initials 'INRI' in the Western tradition). This is replaced with the Christian inscription: "King of Glory" – below the knees of the angels. On the title-board is inscribed the initials 'IC XC', being the first and last letters of Christ's name in Greek. In addition, just above Christ's arms we see the inscription: 'NIKA', which in Greek means: "He conquers" or "He is victorious." Frequently, we see these last two inscriptions together: 'IC XC NIKA', meaning: "Jesus Christ is victorious" (over death and sin).



### The Middle Bar - The Explanation:

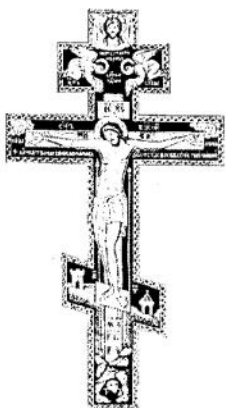
The middle bar is that on which the Lord's hands were nailed. On either top corner we see the depiction of the sun (left) and the moon (right), for "The sun hid its light, and the moon turned to blood." (Joel 2:31)



The inscription: "Son of God" is placed on both sides of Christ's head, and below His arms we read the inscription: "Before Thy Cross we bow down, O Master, and Thy holy Resurrection, we glorify". The halo of Christ is inscribed with three Greek letters meaning "The Being" or "He Who Is", to remind us that Christ is the same God Who identified Himself with those words to Moses in the Old Law.

### The Bottom Bar - The Explanation:

The slanted bottom bar is the footrest. There is some question of whether it was actually on the Cross of Christ, but it is acknowledged to be a necessary attribute of the Cross, worthy of veneration and prophetically alluded to in the words [Let us] worship the footstool of His feet... (Ps. 98:5). In prayers for the Ninth Hour, the Church likens the Cross to a type of balance of righteousness: "Between two thieves Thy Cross did prove to be a balance of righteousness: wherefore one of them was dragged down to Hades by the weight of his blasphemy whereas the other was lightened of his transgressions unto the comprehension of theology. O Christ God, glory to Thee." The meaning of this prayer is as follows: the Cross of Christ stood for a scale of justice between the two thieves: for one of them sank in to hell, dragged down by his blasphemous words; and the other, the wise thief, ascended into heaven, because of his repentance. The church fathers attempted to render tangible the thought of the unfaithful thief going to hell for his blasphemy through the just judgment of God (the lower end of the bar), and of the wise thief going to heaven for his repentance and his praise of God (the upper end).



### The Images - The Explanation:

On the Cross is our Savior, Jesus Christ. Note that He does not wear a crown of thorns, and that His feet are nailed with two nails. Behind the body of Christ, on either side, are a lance (which pierced Him) and a sponge (which was soaked with gall and offered to Christ to drink) on a pole made of reed or cane. On the body of Christ is depicted blood and water flowing forth from His side. Below the feet of Christ is four Slavonic letters meaning: "The place of the skull became Paradise". Hidden in a cave under the earth is 'the skull of Adam'. We are thus reminded that Adam our forefather lost Paradise through the tree from which he wrongly partook; Christ is the new Adam, bringing us Salvation and Paradise through the tree of the Cross. The city of Jerusalem is depicted in the background, for He was crucified outside the city walls.

## ON HOLY BAPTISM

*St. Theophan the Recluse*

Baptism according to Apostle Peter is the answer of a good conscience toward God (I Pet. 3:21).[1] He who has been baptized gives a vow to live the rest of his time according to a pure conscience, according to the whole breadth of the Lord's commandments, accepted in his conscience. Moral purity is a characteristic of one who is baptized. The Apostle Paul compares the brightness of this life with the brightness of the resurrected Lord. That like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:4). In baptism, the old sin-loving man dies and a new man arises, zealous to do good works. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves, ye who are baptized, to be dead indeed unto sin but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you (Rom. 6:11-14).



## ON HELPING TO QUENCH ANGER

*St. John of Kronstadt*

A man who is wrathful with us is a sick man; we must apply a plaster to his heart - love; we must treat him kindly, speak to him gently, lovingly. And if there is not deeply-rooted malice against us within him, but only a temporary fit of anger, you will see how his heart, or his malice, will melt away through your kindness and love - how good will conquer evil. A Christian must always be kind, gracious, and wise in order to conquer evil by good.



## ON THE POWER OF LOVE

*St. Nikolai Velimirovich*

A scholar attracts by his knowledge, a wealthy man by riches, a handsome man by beauty, an artist by his skill. Each of these attracts a limited number of individuals. Only love attracts all human beings. The attraction of love is unlimited. And educated or uneducated, rich or poor, skilled or unskilled, beautiful or ugly, healthy or sick, and young or old - all want to be loved. Christ spread His love on everyone, and lovingly drew all to Himself. With His great love he encompassed even the dead, long decomposed and forgotten by men.



## ON THREE DEGREES OF EATING

*St. Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain*

According to St. Gregory the Sinaite there are three degrees in eating: temperance, sufficiency, and satiety. Temperance is when someone wants to eat some more food but abstains, rising from the table still somewhat hungry. Sufficiency is when someone eats what is needed and sufficient for normal nourishment. Satiety is when someone eats more than enough and is more than satisfied. Now if you cannot keep the first two degrees and you proceed to the third, then, at least, do not become a glutton, remembering the words of the Lord, 'Woe to you that are full now, for you shall hunger' (Lk. 6:25). Remember also that rich man who ate in this present life sumptuously every day, but who was deprived of the desired bosom of Abraham in the next life, simply because of this sumptuous eating.

