

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF MAY 12, 2019

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

SUNDAY/MAY 12

3rd Sunday of Pascha

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour Church School

TUESDAY/MAY 14

7:00p.m. Compline & Akathist to the
Risen Jesus

THURSDAY/MAY 16

7:00p.m. Parish Council

SATURDAY/MAY 18

9:30a.m. Akathist to Life-Giving Tomb;
Confessions
5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

SUNDAY/MAY 19

4th Sunday of Pascha

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour; Ch. School & Teen Class



WHAT CAN WE DELIGHT IN?

Take delight in all things that surround us. All things teach us and lead us to God. All things around us are droplets of the love of God — both things animate and inanimate, the plants and the animals, the birds and the mountains, the sea and the sunset and the starry sky. They are little loves through which we attain to the great Love that is Christ. Flowers, for example, have their own grace; they teach us with their fragrance and with their magnificence. They speak to us of the love of God. They scatter their fragrance and their beauty on sinners and on the righteous.

~ St. Porphyrios

Offerings Week of May 12

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

Olive Oil: in memory of Sarchisian and Bocai families; in memory of Maria, Doina, Floarea, Gheorghe, Gabriela, Elena, Grigore, Maria, Mihail and Anicuta

Wine: for safe travel for Zachary.

Flowers: for the health of Anthoula (birthday).

Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

May 13, 1933 Maria Yaskovsky
May 13, 1958 Jacob Popko
May 14, 1933 Peter Chromoho
May 14, 1953 Della Marchisin
May 14, 1956 Pelagia Carko
May 14, 1965 Metropolitan Leonty
May 15, 1925 Maria Barna
May 15, 2005 Olga Shemansky
May 16, 1953 Michael Hobora
May 16, 1962 Theodore Janushenko
May 18, 1975 Wasil Kosticz

Coffee Hour Schedule

May 19 Kita, Nevitt, Keller, Turri, Torrisi & Kachek
May 26 Inga, Eka, Marina & Nona

Counters Schedule

May 19 Irina S. & Lisa K.
May 26 Larissa M. & Paulina N.

Ushers Schedule

May 19 Dennis F. & Robert E.
May 26 Edward S. & Kahka K.

Reader's Schedule

May 19 Ciprian C. / May 26 Daniel T.

Cemetery Grave Price Increase

Parishioners may still purchase a grave at the cost of \$1,200. On June 1st, the price becomes \$1,500.

Names Day Greetings

St. Susan/3rd Sun. of Pascha
Susan Gorbatuk, Many Blessed Years!

Check On-Line Calendar on website

May 18/Sat. St. Andrew's Camp Fund-Raiser at Ss. Peter & Paul Church South River 6-10p.m.

(see posted flyers)

May 22/Wed. Mid-Pentecost (25th Day of the 50 Days) 8:00a.m. Divine Liturgy

May 23/Thurs. Study Class: "What was accomplished by Christ in the Three Days - Friday, Saturday and Sunday"

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

May 25/Sat. Entrance into Church of Timothy Z. & Daniel D. 11:00a.m.

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

June 8/Sat. Liturgical Music Workshop in Rahway from 9:30 to 3:00p.m. Pre-registration required

(see posted flyer with registration forms)

Honoring Graduates - June 9th, Sunday

Please give Fr. James the names of those graduating as soon as possible.

May Month Is Cemetery Care Offering

Every May month, we ask your support in providing for the up-keep of our cemetery. Please use the Cemetery Care Envelope. The Lord bless!

The Holy Fire From Jerusalem of 2017

This Paschal Fire from the Tomb of Christ brought to America has been kept burning in our altar for two years. You are welcome to partake of this blessed fire for your home, simply ask after any divine service.

Flowers You May Bring to Church

It is always wonderful to have many flowers in church. While you may subscribe to them on the Offering sheet, you may also bring them yourself to the church. St. Luke of Crimea says: "The fragrance of flowers is an incense to God. Flowers are censers."

ON SITTING IN CHURCH

St. Ignatius (Bryanchaninov)

In the church, when you find it necessary to sit down, sit down, because God does not hearken to the one who sits or stands, but to the one whose mind is directed to Him with due reverence. The desire for God, reverence for God and the fear of God are acquired by attention to oneself.

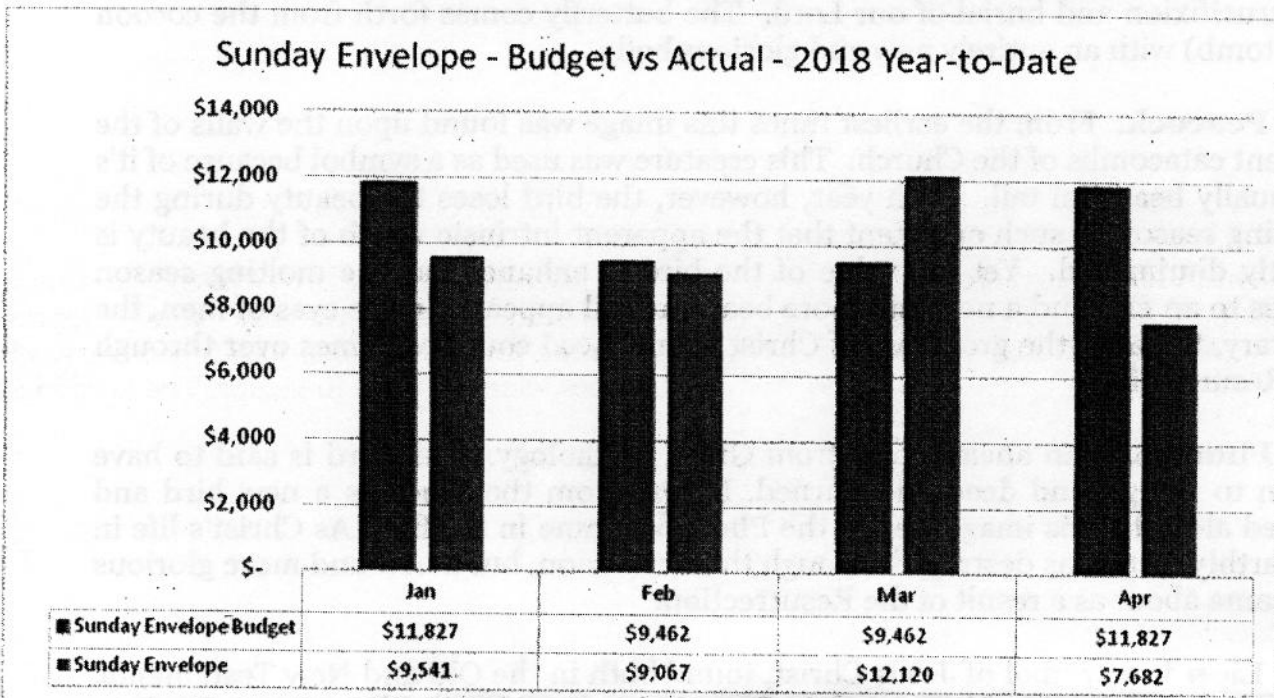


2019 Saints Peter & Paul Parish Fiscal Summary	Total Income	Total Expense	Year to Date Profit (Loss)	Sunday Envelope Budget	Sunday Envelope Actual	Surplus/Loss
January	11,649	11,296	353	11,827	9,541	(2,286)
February	11,031	11,452	(422)	9,462	9,067	(395)
March	12,352	24,426	(12,074)	9,462	12,120	2,658
1st Quarter	35,032	47,174	(12,142)	30,750	30,728	(22)
April	19,871	5,323	14,548	11,827	7,682	(4,145)
YTD	54,903	52,497	2,406	42,577	38,410	(4,167)

Note:

Year-to-Date income higher compared to expense due to Increase in Hall Rental, Religious Resale items, Altar Wine and Candle sales.

Sunday Envelope: First 3 months of year actual match budget. April collection down vs budget.



NOTATIONS:

- a) Please be regular in your offerings.
- b) Adopt the proportionate giving model, giving a percentage rather than dollar amount.
- c) Use the envelopes mailed to your home.
- d) Secure envelopes as a parishioner, if you do not have offering envelopes.
- e) The Lord bless your offerings!

6 SYMBOLS OF THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST THAT ADORN OUR ICONOSTASIS HERE IN MANVILLE

Symbols are an important part of our faith and are very evident within our churches. The icons, the three parts of the church building, the iconostasis, the candles, the vestments, are all symbols of various types. Each holds a meaning that must be understood if the symbol is to touch our lives with more than its mere external appearance.

There are many symbols that speak of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Perhaps, the **Red Egg** is the most well known. Just as the egg appears to be lifeless, so too did the body of Christ appear to be a mere corpse. But just as the egg can contain life, so does Christ contain the life we receive through His Resurrection.

- (1) The **Butterfly** is a symbol of the springtime of new life. At the caterpillar stage, the creature represents the earthly life of Jesus Christ. The cocoon stage reminds us of the crucifixion and burial of our Lord. The butterfly comes forth from the cocoon (the tomb) with an entirely new and glorious body.
- (2) The **Peacock**. From the earliest times this image was found upon the walls of the ancient catacombs of the Church. This creature was used as a symbol because of its unusually beautiful tail. Each year, however, the bird loses the beauty during the molting season to such an extent that the apparent intrinsic worth of the beauty is greatly diminished. Yet the value of the bird is enhanced as the molting season comes to an end and a new and more beautiful tail appears. In the eyes of men, the mystery, the awe, the greatness of Christ is enhanced countless times over through the Resurrection.
- (3) The **Phoenix** is an ancient bird from Greek mythology. This bird is said to have fallen to the ground dead and burned. It rose from the ashes as a new bird and soared aloft. In this image we see the Phoenix aflame in the fire. As Christ's life in an earthly form was destroyed through the crucifixion, but a new and more glorious life came about as a result of the Resurrection.
- (4) The **Lion** is a symbol of Jesus Christ, found both in the Old and New Testaments. He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah. The Lion is kingly and full of strength. As a Resurrection symbol, the Lion is said to sleep with one eye open. The Fathers of the Church – St. Hilary and St. Augustine – see this to represent the divinity of Christ, which was not “asleep” in the tomb. While the human nature of Christ died, His divine nature was alive. The Scriptures also speak of Christ as a lion's whelp (puppy). The ancients believed that the young new born lion on the third day after birth being still inactive, needed to be awakened by the roar of the Father Lion. Here, we understand that God the Father raised up His Son from the tomb.
- (5) The **Lily** is a symbol of immortality. The bulb decays in the ground, yet from it a new life is released.
- (6) The **Pomegranate** fruit, bursting or broken open is a symbol of the fullness of the sufferings and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. A 4th century Christian symbol.

Conforming the Will of Man to the Will of God
By St. John Maximovitch, Metropolitan of Tobolsk (+1715)

We often see amazing changes and catastrophes, unexpected events, in the world. Many such events are unpredictable enough for us to wonder about their consequences. Some events shock us with their unexpectedness, and we complain pointlessly, saying, "I never thought or guessed that something like this could happen." How ignorant we are in anticipating future events! Even some events in the present defy explanation. We simply cannot fathom their cause, except in one important aspect. That is, we can determine whether something happened because it was pleasing to God or because He allowed it to happen by His all-wise, inscrutable, but always righteous and good providence. For the Lord says, "My counsels are not as your counsels, neither are your ways My ways. But as heaven is distant from earth, so is My way distant from your ways, and your thoughts from My mind" (Isaiah 55:8-9).

St Gregory the Great said that searching out the secret reasons for God's judgments is nothing short of preferring our own sinful, proud opinions to His decrees. Our duty, our work, is to constantly—no matter what the unexpected circumstance—repeat the words of St Paul, "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out" (Romans 11:33). In our earthly life, there is much we will never understand with our minds. It is enough for us to know, to become convinced, and to believe without doubt that God is never unjust, and on the last day of judgment, not a single person will be able to say anything to the Lord, except these words: "Righteous art Thou, O Lord, and true are Thy judgments" (Psalm 118:137).

At one time, King David, on seeing how the unrighteous prospered in the world and tempted some of the members of God's people, desired to understand God's reasons for this. He thought about it for a long time but could not come to a satisfactory conclusion, and humbly admitted, "I sought to understand, but it was too hard for me, until I went into the sanctuary of God" (Psalm 72:16-17). We must defer our complete understanding of those judgments that remain inscrutable to us in this life. Only in the future life shall we understand them and their final ends, as ordained by the most high wisdom of God.

Therefore, let us cease spreading the wings of our curious speculation concerning things that we cannot understand. The waves of the eternal ocean of the most high Reason, constantly turning and returning, rising and falling, exceed the quickness of the keenest minds, not only human minds, but even angelic. And how could we expect to plumb the depths of God's judgments? Who can understand God's providence? Who can say why that man was born in paganism, whereas this man in Christianity? Who can say why the good news of the Gospel came very late to many countries, and why so many thousands of people perished without receiving the chance to be saved by Christ's teaching, whereas in other countries the Gospel message was heard and assimilated quickly? Why is one kingdom full of heretics, another free of all defects of incorrect

doctrine and full of true piety? Why does God postpone His punishment for sins for a time for some, whereas He punishes others immediately? Why are some innocent men convicted and executed, whereas the sins of others continue to have repercussions for their children and further descendants? Why did the Crusades, in which so many kings, princes, and counts put such great efforts into the freeing of Palestine and the Tomb of the Lord from the hands of the heathens, end up futile? Why did God give an opportunity for repentance to Adam, but not to Lucifer? Why did Jesus Christ have mercy on the fallen Apostle Peter, but not on Judas? Why does one die as a child, whereas another live to deep old age? Why does one who sinned only a little die without repentance, whereas another, who lived many years in debauchery, finally improves and receives an end worthy of a Christian? Why does one drown in riches and luxury, whereas another has not a piece of bread or a penny to his name?

Oh, you most restless and excessively curious mind! Why must you seek the answers to these questions? If you touch the fire of the divine judgments, you will melt from the heat. If you climb the unattainable mountain of divine foreknowledge and providence, you will fall. Like a moth or mosquito, you will fly in circles around the candle until it burns you. Thus, the human mind brazenly strives to pierce the secrets of the inconceivable divine fire. We, mortal men, cannot look directly at the works of the all-bright Sun, since our eyes are blind as a bat. The hidden mysteries of God are unattainable for us in this life.

"The works of the Lord are wondrous, and His works are hidden from men" (Sirach 11:4). Not a single human being ever dared to take the scroll written inside and on the back from Him who sits on the throne, except for the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, the destroyer of death (this book is the book of divine judgments, the inside being His foreordaining, the outside, His providence for the cosmos, see Revelation 5). The pre-eternal, all-wise God has "ordered all things by measure, number, and weight" (Wisdom of Solomon 11:20).

So why do we, worthless ones, puff ourselves up with pride and brazenly seek to weigh the mass of fire, to measure the speed of wind, or to return yesterday to the present? It is enough for us to believe that the reason for all things is the will of God, and whoever seeks another power or authority does not know the essence of God. Every cause comes to be known in relation to another cause, and thus we have a series of causes that are all dependent on another. The cause that in its essence had no previous cause is the first cause, the reason for all other causes. But before God and His holy will nothing existed. Nothing came before God, and so the only cause of all causes is the pre-eternal One, the mighty and eternal God glorified in Trinity. What more do you seek? God allowed, God desired, God created everything. In the just and wise words of Salvian: "For us the most perfect truth must be the will of God. The highest wisdom must be a willing and calm acceptance of the decrees of divine will and providence."

