

**SS. PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH**

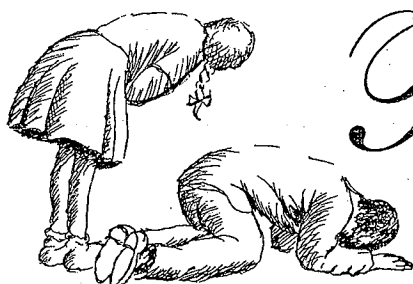
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**BULLETIN OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2019**



**SUNDAY/SEPTEMBER 15**

Sunday After the Holy Cross

9:15a.m. Entrance Into Church of Steve P.

9:30a.m. Divine liturgy

Coffee Hour; Church School & Teen Class

**WEDNESDAY/SEPTEMBER 18**

St. Amphilochios of Patmos (+1970)

7:00p.m. Vespers

**THURSDAY/SEPTEMBER 19**

7:00p.m. Parish Council Meeting

**SATURDAY/SEPTEMBER 21**

Leave-Taking of the Holy Cross

9:30a.m. Akathist to Holy Cross; Confessions

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

**SUNDAY/SEPTEMBER 22**

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Prophet Jonah (+8<sup>th</sup> c. BC)

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

Coffee Hour

Question & Answer Period

**PRAYERS FOR VARIOUS OCCASIONS**

*Before Venerating the Cross*

O Lord, pour out a drop of thy most holy Blood upon my heart, which is dried up from passions and sins and impurities of soul and body. Amen.

*Before Studying*

Lord Jesus Christ, open the eyes of my heart, that I may hear thy word and understand it and so fulfill thy will.

*Before Reading the Scripture*

O Lord my God, enlighten my mind with the light of the understanding of thy holy Scripture, and teach me to do thy will.

*After Reading the Scripture*

May the words of the divine Scriptures bring to nothing all of Satan's activity, whether in mind or heart or any of the senses of my soul and body, and may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ dwell in me, sanctifying the whole man, in the Name of the father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Orthodox Christian Prayer Book, St. Tikhon's Press 2019)

## Offerings for Week of September 15

Relic Candle: in honor of St. John of San Francisco; in memory of Michael, Justina, Anastasia; Rosalia, Melania and Ivanna; in memory of Nicholas, Eleanore, Ann Marie, John and Jerome.

Olive Oil: in memory of Sarchisian and Bocai families.

Wine: for the health and salvation of Steven James, on his Entrance into Orthodoxy.

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

## Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

- Sept. 16, 1980 Mary Lukasik
- Sept. 17, 1960 Katherine Sedorkewicz
- Sept. 17, 1988 Raymond Koslosky
- Sept. 17, 2003 Mila Seidal
- Sept. 18, 1974 Stephen Zydiak
- Sept. 18, 1993 Johanna Godleski
- Sept. 19, 1964 Olga Dutka
- Sept. 20, 1940 Peter Chapan
- Sept. 20, 1976 Sophie Demjanow
- Sept. 20, 2006 Eugenia Fetchko
- Sept. 21, 1977 Steven Trehubets

## Coffee Hour Schedule

- Sept. 15 Kita, Nevitt, Keller, Turri, Torrissi & Kachek
- Sept. 22 Inga, Eka, Marina & Nona

## Counters Schedule

- Sept. 15 Irina S. & Lisa K.
- Sept. 22 Larissa M. & Paulina N.

## Ushers Schedule

- Sept. 15 Dennis F. & Robert E.
- Sept. 22 Edward S. & Khaka K.

## Readers Schedule

- Sept. 15 Ciprian C./ Sept. 22 Daniel T.

## Study Class September

Wednesday, Sept. 25 from 7-8:30p.m.  
*"How are we disciples, co-workers, stewards, slaves, servants, children, heirs, witnesses, and friends of God."*

## Many Blessed Years!

To the Servant of God, Steven James, upon his entry into the Holy Orthodox Church and Parish.

## Names Day Greetings

St. Cornelius/Sept. 15: Ciprian Cornelius Chirnoaga  
St. Sophie/Sept. 17: Sophie Barna, Sophia Bakaletz & Vasilisa Sophie Avelar.

## Parish Council Meeting

Thursday, September 19 at 7:00p.m.

## Announcement of Marriage & Invitation to All Parishioners

On September 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:00p.m., the Marriage of Steve James Parlacoski and Genna Marie Gladysiewicz in our church. Their families invite all parishioners of Ss. Peter & Paul Church to the Marriage and to the Reception to follow immediately after the Service. The address of the Reception is: The Frieri Residence, 1621 Copper Road, Scotch Plains, NJ.

## Appreciation to the "Kitas"

Thank you for hosting our Parish Picnic last Sunday! We all (65 folks) had a most enjoyable time with fine foods and fellowship. The Pool was also put to good use.

## The Newly-Published Orthodox Christian Prayerbook (St. Tikhon's Press 2019 edition)

A new supply of these Prayer books will arrive in October. The cost is \$20. You may preview a sample copy on the vestibule stand. Sections of some of the unique prayers are being posted in the Sunday Bulletins.

## Your Statement of Financial Stewardship From January thru August 2019

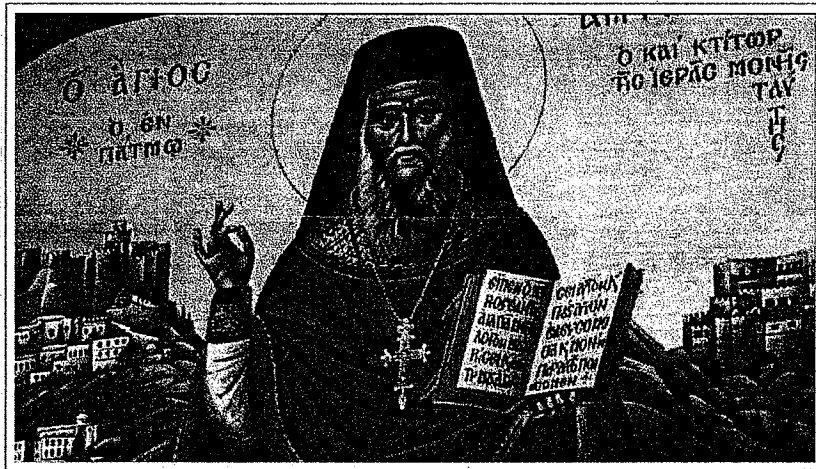
You received this in person last Sunday or in the mail. Please examine it. If you are not receiving envelopes in the mail bi-monthly, you are not registered as a parishioner. Please speak to Fr. James in regard to membership. Questions about your contributions should be made to Katherine Mantzafos.

# ST. AMPHILOCHIOS OF PATMOS (+1970)

## TROPAR TONE 5

Let us all praise Amphilochios, the new star of the Church of Christ, truly the ornament of the island of Patmos, the beauty of monastics and lover of piety, the lamp of prudence; he intercedes to the Lord that He may have mercy on our souls.

## SOME SAYINGS OF ST. AMPHILOCHIOS



Icon depicting the Blessed Elder Amphilochios of Patmos

= When you cultivate prayer, the Tempter's blusterings will not trouble you. Prayer diminishes his strength; he cannot do anything to us.

= The end of my life draws near. I ask you to live a holy life, to walk along holy paths, so that you may help both our Church and Greece.

= Remaining faithful to Monasticism is considered to be a martyrdom.

= Christ often comes and knocks at your door and you invite him to sit in the living-room of your soul. Then, absorbed in your own business you forget the Great Visitor. He waits for you to appear and when you are too long in returning, he gets up and leaves. At other times, you are so busy that you answer him from the window. You don't even have time to open the door.

= You are royalty, destined for the heavenly bridal chamber.

= When you see someone who is spiritually tired do not burden them any further, because their knees won't be able to bear it.

= Love the One, so that even wild beasts will love you.

= True wealth, for me, is to see you in the Kingdom of Heaven.

= When the flame of love exists, it consumes whatever evil approaches.

= The person who loves spiritually feels prayerful, so that he can be found within God and his brother.

= The person who loves is saddened when his brother is not advancing well and prays for his progress.

= Self-denial must be cultivated with discernment; otherwise we may reach the point of suicide.

= We are on the high seas of life, sometimes there are storms and at other times calm. God's grace does not leave us. Otherwise, we would have sunk, if he had not held us up.

= The saints always look to the other life. It is the grace of the remembrance of death.

= God guards us from temptation. He does not allow us to be tempted beyond our strength; He allows everything, for our own good.

= When spirituality increases, even sleep will have been fought off.

= Prayer is grace. God gives it when zeal and humility exist.

= Fight the Hater of Good, who envies you, bravely suffer whatever befalls you with fortitude, patience and faith.

= Do not allow your soul's enemy to wage war against you. He appears in sheep's clothing, supposedly wanting your soul's benefit.

= Trust in the Lord always and he will nourish you in time of hunger.

= With a good word for your neighbor, supporting him, you buy paradise.

= Repentance must occur, not from fear of punishment but because we have sinned before God.

- = Whoever has Christian love never changes.
- = Hold the banner of Christ up high, so that you've always got your elder's telephone number, no matter where you are.
- = Christ is the same, yesterday and today, but we have closed our eyes and look into the darkness.
- = It is because we carry on like this that some fall in the mud and others are killed.
- = All those things that we hear about: war, earthquakes, catastrophes, thunder, also expect rain.
- = We must be ready for our defense and our martyrdom.
- = I beseech the Lord to sanctify you, so that I may see you in Paradise. This is the dowry which I seek from the Lord for you.
- = For God's Grace to come during the Liturgy, you must be concentrated and untroubled.
- = The more a person loves God, the more he loves other people. He loves them with holiness, respect and refinement, as images of God.
- = When a person lacks inner warmth, he will be frozen and cold, even in summer.
- = When your heart does not have Christ, it will contain either money, property or people instead.
- = Please put this commandment into practice: Cultivate love towards the Person of Christ to such an extent that, when you pronounce His name, tears fall from your eyes. Your heart must really be aflame. Then He will become your teacher. He will be your Guide, your Brother, your Father, and your Elder.
- = Love your Bridegroom Christ with all your heart and then everyone will love you and take care of you.
- = I desire the rebirth of Monasticism, because in my opinion, monasticism is the "evzone" [an elite Greek military unit] battalion of the Church.
- = God's protection diminishes temptation.
- = Because of widespread corruption, people cannot understand that spiritual love exists.
- = Worldly people tire you, because whatever is stored up inside them comes at you like waves of electricity. We must be people of grace so much so that whoever comes to us may find rest.
- = Let us look upon everyone as our superiors, however weak they may appear. Let us not be harsh, but always bear in mind that the other person also has the same destination as us.
- = We must have Love, even if they do us the greatest harm, we must love them. We will be able to enter Paradise only with love.
- = Cultivate the Jesus Prayer and a time will come when your heart will leap with joy, just as it does when you are about to see a person who you love very much.
- = Do not neglect evening prayer. Pray with eagerness like those who are going to a feast. They are awake and feel joy alone. Thus, since you are going to speak with your Bridegroom, do not listen when the Tempter tells you various things in order to hinder you, because you know there is someone who cares for you.
- = Question: "Elder, how must we picture Christ?" Answer: "We must always bring to Christ to mind with love. We could be holding the photograph of someone in our hands, but since we do not know them, we do not love him, we are not moved. Whereas, when we pick up a photograph of our mother, our soul immediately leaps and cries out with love."
- = A person can be raised up above the earth by two wings, one is simplicity and the other is purity of heart. You must be simple in your actions and pure in your thoughts and feelings. With a pure heart you'll seek God and with simplicity you'll find Him and be glad.
- = Sweeten your thoughts with words of consolation and hope. Warm your words with the warmth of your love towards your Bridegroom and remember His Passion, which he underwent for you, so that you would remain firm, devoted and humble.
- = Give your whole self completely over to the protecting veil of the Panagia.
- = Love giving hospitality, my child, for it opens the gates of Paradise. In this you also offer hospitality to angels. "Entertain strangers so that you won't be a stranger to God."
- = The saints submitted to whatever God sent them, with childlike simplicity, "That's the way You want it. Let Your will be done."
- = Hospitality... the greatest of virtues. It draws the grace of the Holy Spirit towards us. In every stranger's face, my child, I see Christ himself.
- = Sorrow is pleasing to God, in as much as it doesn't take away our courage to fight.
- = It is necessary and beneficial for a general self-examination to take place from time to time, remembering all former sins.
- = Leave all your concerns to the hands of God. Ask for whatever you want, like a child asking from its father.
- = Prayer is a gift from God. Always ask with hope.
- = Our deeds, dear sister, will not save us; God's infinite mercy will.
- = Spiritual bonds become unbreakable when they come across a child-like spirit, innocence and sanctity.
- = Everything seems dark and difficult to a person without Christ.
- = Every day I pray that I may see you amongst the ranks of women saints.
- = I don't want to be in Paradise without you, my children.
- = Question: How do you manage to have such patience and perseverance in everything? Answer: The grace of God helps. I always believe in the power of God, my child, Who alters and adjusts everything for the benefit of our soul.
- = The person who gets agitated doesn't think straight, logically.
- = The Christian is a true human being. He is courteous and polite. He doesn't want to sadden anybody.
- = Innocence is greater than genius.
- = A person who suffers from egotism attracts no one. And if he does attract someone he will soon go away. When one comes across a childlike spirit, innocence and holiness the bond becomes unbreakable.
- = The spiritual life has great pleasures. You fly, you leave the world, you don't consider anything. You become children and God dwells in your heart.
- = The Grace of the All-Holy Spirit makes a person send out rays. However, other people must have a good receiver in order to realize this.
- = We must have our gaze fixed on heaven. Then nothing will shake us.
- = Take communion regularly, pray warmly, be patient and you will see a strong hand holding you.
- = Christ is near us even if we don't see Him. Sometimes, from his great love, He gives us a slap too. You should be glad. Jesus holds an artists' chisel in His hands. He wants to make a statue of you, for the Heavenly Palace.
- = The person who shouts has no strength.

# Choosing One's Cross

**Narrator:** Once upon a time there lived a man, who was very unhappy and poor. He couldn't find any work. Some of his friends had turned away from him. His health began to fail.

**Man:** I am being tried too hard. My cross is too heavy to bear. It is unfair. Why do I have to have such a difficult life?

**Narrator:** Exhausted and unhappy, he fell into a deep sleep and dreamt of a young stranger standing by his bed, who looked like an angel.

**Angel:** My friend, you feel that your cross is too heavy. Let me help you choose another one. Come with me. Let's see if we can find one less hard to bear.

**Man:** *(They go into a large and majestic hall full of crosses.)* My, my, all these crosses! Which one to choose? Stones ones, wooden ones, golden and silver ones, large and small ones, plain and beautifully decorated ones.

**Angel:** You can choose any cross you want. Make sure you choose the one that fits you best.

**Narrator:** So the man gladly dropped his old wooden cross and started looking.

**Angel:** Here's a nice small decorated golden cross.

**Man:** *(Trying it on.)* But it's too heavy. And the jewels set in it cut into my neck.

**Angel:** There's a nice cross - it's a well polished wooden one.

**Man:** *(Trying this one on.)* It's not too heavy, but it keeps slipping off my shoulders. It's hard to carry.

**Narrator:** The man went round and round trying out this cross and that one. At last he came to a medium sized wooden cross.

**Man:** This is the cross. It's not too light to carry, but it sets comfortably on my shoulders. It's just the right size to hold on to. I'll take this one. This is the one that fits me best.

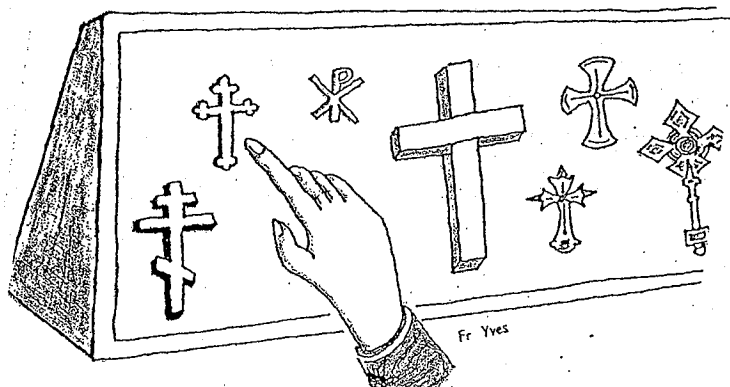
**Angel:** Do you know what cross this is?

**Man:** Did I try it on before?

**Angel:** It is the one you were bearing before you came here, the one you said was too heavy to carry.

**Narrator:** The man awoke from the dream refreshed and rested.

**Man:** I see that God chose that cross for me with love and wisdom. He knew what was best for me. Now I will accept the difficulties of my life, until a happier time begins, and I will bear my cross.



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	11,127	(96)	9,462	9,067	(395)
March	12,352	24,426	(12,074)	9,462	12,120	2,658
1st Quarter	35,032	46,849	(11,817)	30,750	30,728	(22)
April	19,876	5,323	14,553	11,827	7,682	(4,145)
May	11,222	18,926	(7,704)	9,462	8,949	(513)
June	16,557	11,372	5,185	9,462	13,245	3,783
2nd Quarter	47,655	35,621	12,034	30,750	29,876	(874)
July	11,067	11,345	(278)	11,827	9,331	(2,496)
August	9,922	5,000	4,922	9,462	7,783	(1,679)
YTD	103,676	98,815	4,861	82,788	77,718	(5,070)

**Note:**

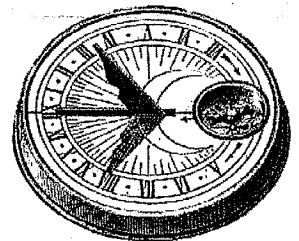
Year-to-Date income higher compared to expense due to Increase in Hall Rental fees, Religious Resale items, Altar Wine, Oil and Candle sales.

Sunday Envelope: 1<sup>st</sup> quarter on target, 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter slightly lower than budget. 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter impacted by summer vacations and depends on September collections.

**NEVER OWNING THE SUNDIAL**

*From Parish Publishing LLC*

Philips Brooks, a noted pastor and author, once told a story of a primitive tribe to whom a sundial had been given. They wanted to honor it and keep it sacred, so they built a small roofed hut to put it in. We should be careful not to smile, for great numbers of civilized people take many of God's gifts and treat them in just the way the tribe did that didn't understand what a sundial was for.



How many there are who take God's gifts, not to use for larger life, but to keep and protect. So they put them in banks and in safe deposit boxes. They house them and build a roof over them. Those primitive people never did own that sundial. It was not something to use and serve with, but something to be kept, to be guarded, to be concerned about. They had, in a measure, to live for it, not by it.

So, too often our gifts from God, our treasures and our talents, never belong to us. We have to keep them, worry about them, care for them, and share them in such a way that others will be drawn to Christ. Nothing really belongs to us until we pass it on to others.