

## SS. PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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### BULLETIN OF NOVEMBER 17, 2019

SUNDAY/NOVEMBER 17

22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

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

WEDNESDAY/NOVEMBER 20

7:00p.m. Vigil

THURSDAY/NOVEMBER 21

Entrance of the Theotokos Into Temple  
(One of the "12 Great Feast Days")

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

SATURDAY/NOVEMBER 23

St. Prince Alexander Nevsky (+1263)

9:30a.m. Akathist to St. Alexander; Confessions

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

SUNDAY/NOVEMBER 24

23<sup>RD</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Great-Martyr St. Catherine (+305)

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy  
Coffee Hour; Church School  
Q. & A. Period

Fasting Modifications:

Sun/Nov. 17: fish, wine & oil

Tue/Nov. 19: wine & oil

Thurs/Nov. 21: fish, wine & oil

Sat/Nov. 23: fish, wine & oil

Sun/Nov. 24: fish, wine & oil



Father Paisios would say this when parents complained about their children who wouldn't listen to them when they spoke of God. He would tell them to let the children go the way they're going. The parents should do their duty and kneel before God for the children who are not kneeling and produce calluses on their knees for their children who are falling down running to the night clubs. Pray at your dinner table and you will see how many problems will be solved for you.

Abba Moses once asked Abba Silvanus if a man can make a new beginning every day of the good life. Silvanus said that if one is diligent, he can begin the good life anew every hour.

### Offerings for the Week of November 17

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; for the health of Derek (birthday) for the health of Mark and Libby (anniversary).

Wine: in memory of Vaschen; in memory of anniversary; for the health of Zinaida

Flowers: in honor of the Entrance of the Theotokos Into the Temple; in honor of St. Alexander Nevsky; in memory of Richard and Ralph.

Litya Breads: for the health of Katherine.

### Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Nov. 17, 1951 Vladimir Pasechnik

Nov. 17, 1977 Stanley Bozinta

Nov. 19, 1941 Mary Skwarla

Nov. 19, 1959 Andrew Panacek

Nov. 19, 1978 Mary Suseck

Nov. 19, 2007 Archbishop Peter

Nov. 19, 2007 Vera Somoluk

Nov. 20, 1977 Mary Kachorsky

Nov. 20, 2002 Raymond Bolash

Nov. 21, 1997 George Zvonchenko

Nov. 21, 2004 Ann Zeban

Nov. 22, 2008 Anastasia Barna

Nov. 23, 1968 Daniel Podobed

Nov. 23, 2015 Ziniada Neudachin

### Coffee Hour Hosting

*No meat, no dairy (fish permitted)*

Nov. 17 Peterson, Bakaletz, Mattei & Stone

Nov. 24 Kita, Nevitt, Keller, Turri, Torrisi  
& Kachek

### Counters Schedule

Nov. 17 Irina S. & Lisa K.

Nov. 24 Larissa M. & Paulina N.

### Ushers Schedule

Nov. 17 Dennis F.

Nov. 24 Edward S. & Kahka K.

### Readers Schedule

Nov. 17 Ciprian C. / Nov. 24 Daniel T.

### Names Day Greetings

St. Alexander Nevsky/Nov. 23: Alexander Torrisi  
Many Blessed Years!

### The 40 Day Nativity Lent: Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> thru Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>

This is one of the Four Lents of the year. A fast is observed from meat, dairy, fish, wine and oil. There are days that permit modifications. These are indicated on your parish wall calendar and in the Sunday Bulletin.

### The Mysteries of Holy Confession and Holy Communion Are Essential in Preparing for the Nativity of our Lord, December 25<sup>th</sup>

Regular communicants must receive these two Mysteries of the Church sometime in the months of November and/or December. Irregular communicants are encouraged to also receive these Holy Mysteries so as to celebrate in grace, the Nativity of Christ.

### Coming Up on the Calendar

Nov. 26/Tues: Study Class: *"Living in the Age of Death & Living in the Age of Eternity"*

Nov. 28/ Thurs: "Thanksgiving Day," 9:30a.m. Akathist to the "Glory of God For All Things"

Nov. 30/ Sat: 9:00a.m. Cleaning of church floor

Dec. 01/Sun: Feast of St. Philaret the Merciful

Dec. 06/Fri: Feast of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

Dec. 07/Sat: 10:00a.m. Church cleaning

Dec. 15/Sun. Annual Christmas Cookie Walk

### Ss. Peter & Paul Parish Library & Friends Presents:

*A Story About the Life of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker*, Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:00noon in the Upper Hall. All are invited!

### Recommended Reading

*The Winter Pascha* by Fr. Thomas Hopko. 40 essays on the seasons of Nativity and Theophany.

## "WHADDYAMEAN FASTING? IT'S THE HOLIDAYS!"

by Marek Simon, Assistant Directory of Antiochian Village Camp

Christmas parties, good ole' St. Nick, & shop, shop, shop! Our Christmas list is prepared well in advance and -look out! - lights and trees up in November! These are a few things that begin to consume many of our minds as the holiday season approaches. We can't wait until Christmas and the array of fashionable clothes, iPhones, and decisions, decisions! LCD or Plasma? Mac or Windows? And who knows what else! It's a time to eat, drink and be merry, right? But wait a minute. Did I hear someone say that we are supposed to be fasting???

For us Orthodox Christians, November 15 marks the beginning of a 40-day fast that concludes on the Feast of our Lord's Nativity

(a.k.a., Christmas). The Nativity Fast is a time of preparation for the birth of our Lord. We are taught to fast from meat, dairy products and fish. Let's be honest. Many of us go to schools and live in homes where we do not observe any sort of fast during this time, and for those of us who do, it's pretty difficult to say the least! How can we possibly go to a Christmas party and not eat meat or cheese or drink eggnog?

Why would someone choose to fast during this time when it seems like everyone else is doing the opposite? In reality, the answer is pretty simple: Jesus Christ. We are taught to fast during this time, not as a punishment or because the Church doesn't want us to have fun, but because the Church is concerned with one thing and one thing only, our salvation.

Think about it. The world we live in today teaches us to continually seek to do one thing - love ourselves. Jesus Christ, through the Church, teaches us to continually seek to do another thing - love our neighbor. Society

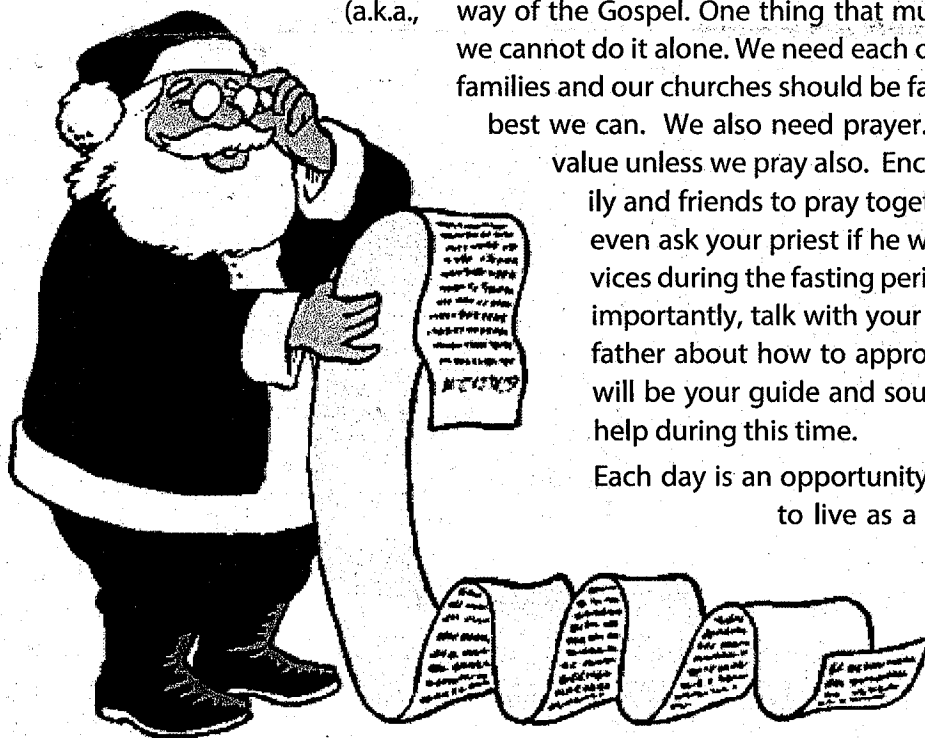
teaches us to order the best-tasting, most expensive steak. Christ teaches us to forget about the steak, eat a plate of spaghetti or some lentil soup, and use the money to buy a meal for someone who hasn't eaten in days. Society teaches us to spend time and money on Christmas trees, Christmas lights, and expensive gifts. Christ teaches us to be a tree that bears fruit, to be a light in the darkness, and to put on the gifts of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, & self-control (Gal 5.22-23).

There are no easy answers to the situations we may face this holiday season if we choose to follow the narrow way of the Gospel. One thing that must be said is that we cannot do it alone. We need each other! Our friends, families and our churches should be fasting together as best we can. We also need prayer. Fasting is of no value unless we pray also. Encourage your family and friends to pray together at meals and even ask your priest if he will have extra services during the fasting period. Perhaps most importantly, talk with your priest or spiritual father about how to approach the Fast. He will be your guide and source of wisdom to help during this time.

Each day is an opportunity for us to choose to live as a Christian and accept the responsibility that goes along with it. Rather than just spending

hours at the mall looking for the perfect gift, we could spend a couple of hours serving at a soup kitchen and a few dollars on clothes for people who cannot afford to clothe themselves. What a wonderful project this would be for your OCF group this fasting season.

We are all quite capable of fasting beginning November 15. As stated above, talk to your priest about how to start, especially if you've never done it before. Approach the days ahead not as the 'holiday season', but as preparation for a 'Holy Day', the day of the birth our Lord. May Christ strengthen and guide you in the upcoming months!



## ON THE PATH INTO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

*By St. Innocent of Alaska*

Without faith in Jesus Christ no one can return to God and enter the Kingdom of Heaven. No one, even though he believe in Jesus Christ, can regard himself to be His disciple and share His glory in Heaven if he does not act as Jesus Christ did. And no one is able to follow Jesus Christ if he does not receive help from the Holy Spirit.

To receive the Holy Spirit, we must use the means granted us by God.

We should remember that the path into the Kingdom of Heaven that has been opened to us by Jesus Christ is the only one, and there never was and never will be another path that leads to salvation. At times this path may appear difficult, but, again, you should remind yourself that this is the only one that leads toward your objective. At other times the Christian will encounter such consolations and delights on this path as cannot be found in any worldly thing. The Lord Jesus Christ assists us on this path. He gives us the Holy Spirit, He sends His angel to protect us, He provides instructors and leaders, and even He Himself takes us by the hand and leads us to salvation.

If the path into the Kingdom of Heaven seems difficult, then consider how incomparably more dreadful are the eternal torments in fiery Gehenna. If the path toward heavenly bliss seems difficult, compare it with the path toward earthly happiness, and you will see that the path toward earthly happiness is not really easier at all. Just observe how much people toil to amass earthly things, how many disappointments, fights, sleepless nights and deprivations they bear. Or remind yourself of how much effort and expenses it takes to achieve some meaningless and fleeting pleasure! And for what? Instead of the expected happiness, you are left with disappointment and weariness. When you carefully examine the heart of the matter, it becomes evident that people stay away from the Heavenly Kingdom



not because the path to it is more difficult than the other paths of this world, but because it appears that way to them. Besides, the devil, an experienced and crafty deceiver, misleads people into believing that the path to salvation is difficult and the paths to perdition are easy, and he often succeeds in this.

So, my brethren, in order to avoid eternal perdition, let us definitely concern ourselves with our future. We know that beyond the grave there awaits one of

the following two outcomes: either the Heavenly Kingdom or everlasting perdition in hell. There is no middle state, only everlasting bliss or everlasting torment. As there exist only two conditions past the grave, so there exist only two paths in this life. The one that seems wide and easy is taken by the majority. The other that seems narrow and thorny is taken by few. Those who follow the narrow path will be a hundredfold more happy than those who do not.

Brethren, if any of you who walk the wide path should suddenly die, what will happen to you? To

whom shall you turn? To the Lord? You refuse to listen to Him now, so you must expect He will refuse to listen to you then. Now He is your merciful Father; then He will be your righteous judge. Who will defend you against His righteous rage? Ah! How frightful it is to fall into the hands of the living God! Therefore, concern yourselves now with the salvation of your soul while you still have time!

Work for your salvation while it is still daylight, for the night will come in which there will be no chance to change anything. Strive for the Heavenly Kingdom while you can still walk. Walk even a little bit, even if by crawling, but do it in the right direction. Then in eternity you will truly rejoice for every step you have taken!

May the All-merciful Lord help us all in this! Glory and thanksgiving be to Him throughout the ages of ages. Amen.

# **STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE**

## *Nine Points For Consideration*

1. The Parish Church of Ss. Peter & Paul in Manville, is supported only by our parishioners. 85% of the total income is received by means of the 52 Sunday Envelopes.
2. All parishioners receive bi-monthly envelopes in the mail. If you are not receiving envelopes, you are not registered as a parishioner.
3. In terms of financial support of the parish, there is no required or suggested amount in dollar value of your offering. There are no minimal or maximal guidelines.
4. Parishioners are strongly encouraged to adopt the proportionate giving model of offering that has been implemented in our parish since 2006.
5. In adopting the proportionate giving model, you self-determine what percentage (%) of your income you will offer as a "first-fruit" offering on a regular basis, offered in thanksgiving using the Sunday envelope system.
6. The percentage of an offering may be the standard "tithe" (10%) or it may be a "proportionate offering" of any meaningful self-determined percent as for example, 3%, 5%, 7%, 12 % etc.
7. The Parish Church does not examine or keep records on who is or is not a proportionate giver, this is between you and God. Total amounts of offerings are kept only for tax purposes.
8. The concept of "first offering" means that we dedicate to the Lord the first portion of our income as an offering of thanksgiving. We understand and separate this offering from our latter obligations and needs, food, shelter, mortgage, utilities, entertainments, etc. which belong to the realm of paying bills.
9. Any gift offered to the Lord and His work through His Church is an acceptable offering inasmuch as the one offering the gift offers "oneself" as the primary gift. Our offerings are tokens expressive of our love and commitment to the Lord and are made in a cheerful, generous and sacrificial manner.

For reference and further reading: *"The Theology of Stewardship."* This 19 page booklet by the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) gives a complete examination of proportionate giving. This is the key document that guides our parish understanding of financial offerings. The booklet may be found on the vestibule stand or picked-up in the hall office.

Determining Your Proportate Giving							
Weekly Giving Amount							
If Your Annual Gross Income Is:	2%	3%	5%	7%	10%	12%	15%
\$ 20,000	\$ 7.69	\$ 11.54	\$ 19.23	\$ 26.92	\$ 38.46	\$ 46.15	\$ 57.69
\$ 30,000	\$ 11.54	\$ 17.31	\$ 28.85	\$ 40.38	\$ 57.69	\$ 69.23	\$ 86.54
\$ 40,000	\$ 15.38	\$ 23.08	\$ 38.46	\$ 53.85	\$ 76.92	\$ 92.31	\$ 115.38
\$ 50,000	\$ 19.23	\$ 28.85	\$ 48.08	\$ 67.31	\$ 96.15	\$ 115.38	\$ 144.23
\$ 60,000	\$ 23.08	\$ 34.62	\$ 57.69	\$ 80.77	\$ 115.38	\$ 138.46	\$ 173.08
\$ 70,000	\$ 26.92	\$ 40.38	\$ 67.31	\$ 94.23	\$ 134.62	\$ 161.54	\$ 201.92
\$ 80,000	\$ 30.77	\$ 46.15	\$ 76.92	\$ 107.69	\$ 153.85	\$ 184.62	\$ 230.77
\$ 90,000	\$ 34.62	\$ 51.92	\$ 86.54	\$ 121.15	\$ 173.08	\$ 207.69	\$ 259.62
\$ 100,000	\$ 38.46	\$ 57.69	\$ 96.15	\$ 134.62	\$ 192.31	\$ 230.77	\$ 288.46
\$ 110,000	\$ 42.31	\$ 63.46	\$ 105.77	\$ 148.08	\$ 211.54	\$ 253.85	\$ 317.31
\$ 125,000	\$ 48.08	\$ 72.12	\$ 120.19	\$ 168.27	\$ 240.38	\$ 288.46	\$ 360.58
\$ 150,000	\$ 57.69	\$ 86.54	\$ 144.23	\$ 201.92	\$ 288.46	\$ 346.15	\$ 432.69

## Two Mites

The relationship of a person and his money is fundamentally a spiritual matter: it reveals as much about his relationship with God as does his discipline of prayer or any other "religious" activity. Jesus said in Matthew 6:21, "Where your treasure is there shall your heart be also." Somehow, in some way, what a person does with his money, how he thinks about it, where he spends it, what he will do to earn it, and the things to which he will give it, are some of the real clues to who he is inside, to what is essentially important to him, to what is really in his heart... The places where we make our most serious investments are the places where our real self, our inner self, is going to be most interested, most teachable, most responsive, and most open. To deal with a person in terms of what he does with his money is to deal with most people where they really live.