

SS. PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF JANUARY 12, 2020

SUNDAY/JANUARY 12

Sunday After Theophany

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

Coffee Hour; Church School

SATURDAY/JANUARY 18

9:30a.m. Akathist to our Lord; Confessions

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

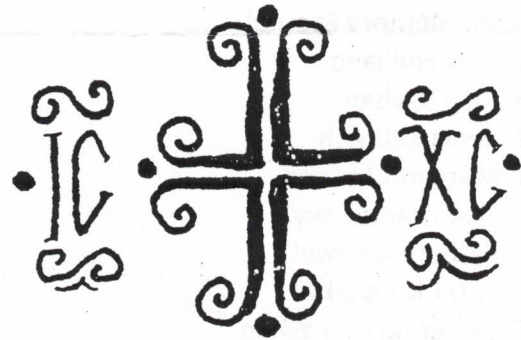
SUNDAY/JANUARY 19

31st Sunday after Pentecost

St. Mark of Ephesus (+1444)

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

Coffee Hour; Church School; Teen Class



House Blessing: The Purpose

The blessing of homes is a custom of special beauty and significance. We ask Christ to enter into our homes and bless our lives. We ask Him to be with us, as we desire to be with Him. We ask that by the sprinkling of blessed water, the Holy Spirit renew us, our families and our lives in our homes. As Christ brought salvation to the house of Zacchaeus; we ask for the same for all dwelling in our homes.

House Blessing: The Order

The house being cleaned and ready, we dress in an honorable manner (as we would for church). When the priest arrives, we greet him at the door, having turned off any radio, TV, or other noise-based elements. Animals that may cause disruption should be placed out of the way. On a small table before icons, a small bowl full of newly blessed water is placed. Together with a list of names of those who reside in the home, a lighted candle and censor (if you have one) are also placed on the table. These items are arranged prior to the arrival of the priest. At the beginning of the service for the blessing of the home, a family member leads the priest throughout the home, carrying the lighted candle. The rest of the household follows and then returns to the table for the final prayer and blessing with water upon those present.



Offerings Week of January 12

Relic Candle: in honor of St. John of San Francisco; for the health of Alexia; in memory of Michael, Justina, Rosalie, Anastasia, Melania and Ivanna; for remission of sins, healing and salvation for Mariana, Stefan, Gbriel, Tabitha, Simona, Kurt, Ira-Crista, David and Maria-Dianci

Olive Oil: in memory of Nicholas, Eleanore, Ann Marie, John and Jerome.

Wine: for safe travelling.

Flowers: for the health and salvation of John and Helen.

Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Jan. 12, 1965 Alex Emilianov

Jan. 12, 1976 Julia Dzyban

Jan. 12, 1982 Xenia Kalevich

Jan. 12, 2011 Margaret Loshen

Jan. 12, 2013 Slako Yadlowsky

Jan. 13, 1953 Katherine Shwetz

Jan. 13, 1966 Peter Krenitsky

Jan. 15, 2000 Ekaterina Moroshan

Jan. 17, 1938 Fr. Elia Lilikovich
(rector 1925-1929)

Jan. 17, 1953 Radion Tsarkov

Jan. 17, 1975 Mary Kralovich

Jan. 18, 1927 Anastasia Petrushevich

Jan. 18, 1963 Helen Trehubets

Jan. 18, 1990 Constantine Putyrske

Jan. 19, 1974 Vera Gromack

Jan. 19, 1999 Basil Charles Fetchko

Coffee Hour Hosting

Jan. 12 Sokol, Nasledysheva, Staina
& Sarchisian

Jan. 19 Chirnoaga, Moldoveanu, Vajda
& Sue

Counters Schedule

Jan. 12 Ciprian C. & Jill P.

Jan. 19 Irina S.

Ushers Schedule

Jan. 12 Jerome S. & Adrian M.

Jan. 19 Dennis F. & Nicholas T.

Readers Schedule

Jan. 12 Austin K. /Jan. 19 Ciprian C.

The Feast of Theophany

- 2020 Blessing of Home Season: January 7 thru February 22. Appointments can now be made.
- Please schedule your home blessing for as early in the home blessing season as possible.
- Holy Water Bottles on sale at vestibule stand.
- The Feast of Theophany is celebrated thru the Leave-Taking on January 14.

The 2020 Master Parish Calendar Is On-Line

By going to our parish website, under the heading Monthly Calendar, you can make reference to the parish calendar and plan your own calendar in accordance.

The Orthodox Christian Prayer Book (\$20)

At the vestibule stand, you may purchase what is one of the finest and complete English language prayer books ever published.

Purchasing Religious Items at Vestibule Stand.

Please do this before or after a service, not during. Katherine Mantzafos can help you. Place your cash or check in a blank envelope and mark it "religious resale."

Parish Council Meeting

Jan. 23rd, Thursday, 7:00p.m.

March For Life – Friday, Jan, 24 – Washington

Metropolitan Tikhon, Archbishop Michael and clergy and faithful will participate, you are invited.

2020 Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, February 9 at 12:00p.m. (1 hour length).

Changes in the Schedule Due to Weather

The necessitated changes will be posted at least one hour before via 1) parish e-mail; 2) on the parish website calendar; 3) Face Book friends of Ss. Peter & Paul Church.

THE GOAL OF FREEDOM

St. Theophan the Recluse

The goal of human freedom is not in freedom itself, nor it is in man, but in God. By giving man freedom, God has yielded to man a piece of His Divine authority, but with the intention that man himself would voluntarily bring it as a sacrifice to God, a most perfect offering.



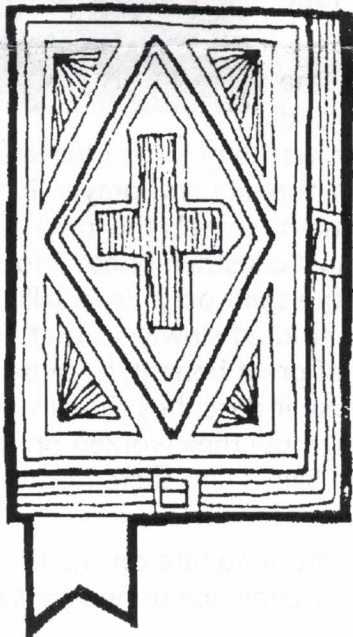
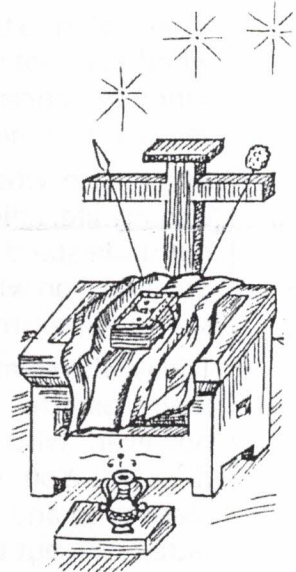
BEING CLOSE TO GOD BY GOING TO CHURCH – WHY DO WE STRESS CHURCH ATTENDANCE?

By Hieromonk John (Anderson)

The Church is literally the Body of Christ. This means that corporately, not individually, we are Christ Himself still incarnate in the world doing His work. If a person desires with their whole heart one can unite to Christ and become a member of His Body. Ideally, this is motivated by a simple desire to know God and to be where He is. Out of this love for God comes the desire to follow His commands and to worship Him. However, this happens in a context which is not our own.

Orthodoxy maintains the ancient Jewish belief that God is manifest in the temple. We believe that the same glorious presence of God, the Shekinah Glory, that dwelt on the Ark of the Covenant now resides on each altar in every Orthodoxy Temple. "God is with us, understand all ye nations." Isaiah 8:10, as the hymn from Great Compline says. If we truly understood what this means -- that the God "who is a consuming fire" is literally present in the Church -- we would strive to worship before Him frequently.

Church attendance is not merely about obligation, guilt, or nostalgia. It is about being where the beloved is and worshipping Him simply because we love Him. It is about being the Body of Christ in oneness. By going to Church we learn to lay aside ego, we learn to love, we learn to live, and we learn how to be truly human. Christ Himself told us to make God the absolute center of our lives and to make all else secondary. Eternal life begins at the altar where we remain in His Presence without distractions, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Matt 6:21.



A PRAYER BEFORE READING OR LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD

By St. John Chrysostom

O Lord Jesus Christ, open Thou the eyes of my heart, that I may hear Thy word and understand and do Thy will, for I am a sojourner upon the earth. Hide not Thy commandments from me, but open mine eyes, that I may perceive the wonders of Thy law. Speak unto me the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom. On Thee do I set my hope, O my God, that Thou shalt enlighten my mind and understanding with the light of Thy knowledge, not only to cherish those things which are written, but to do them; that in reading the lives and sayings of the saints I may not sin, but that such may serve for my restoration, enlightenment and sanctification, for the salvation of my soul, and the inheritance of life everlasting.

For Thou art the enlightenment of those who lie in darkness, and from Thee cometh every good deed and every gift. Amen.

ELDER PAISIOS ON SPIRITUAL STUDY

An Excerpt from Spiritual Awakening

Geronda, what books should be read by those who are beginning their spiritual search?

— First, they should read the New Testament to learn the meaning of Christ, to be shaken up a little; later they can read the Old Testament. Do you know how hard it is when they have read nothing and yet they come to ask for help? It is like an elementary school child going to a university professor and saying, "Help me." What can the professor tell him? "One plus one equals two"? Others, again, are not spiritually restless; they come and say, "Father, I have no problems and I am just fine; I only dropped by to see you." Man can never say that he has no problems, no concerns; he will have something. The struggle for the spiritual life never ends. Or some people come and tell me, "Tell us spiritual things." ... It is like going to the pharmacy and saying, "Give us medicines," without first saying what their illness is, or whether or not they went to the doctor, and what he advised them to do. Go figure! You see, whoever is seriously concerned over his spiritual condition knows, more or less, what he is lacking, and once he seeks it, he benefits.

As a novice, when I read something I liked, I wrote it down so as not to forget it, and I would try to apply it to my life. I didn't read just to pass my time pleasantly. I had a spiritual restlessness and, when I could not understand something, I would ask for an explanation. I read relatively little, but I checked myself a great deal on what I read. "What point am I at? What must I do?" I would sit myself down and go through such a self-examination. I did not allow what I read to pass me by untaxed.

Today with so much reading people end up like tape recorders, filling up their cassettes with superfluous matters. According to Abba Isaac, however, Wisdom not based on righteous activity is a deposit of disgrace. You see, many who are interested in sports read sports magazines and newspapers while they are sitting. They may be like the fatted calf, but they still marvel at the athletes. "Oh he is marvellous! He is great! Bravo!" But they don't work up any sweat, and they don't lose any pounds. They read and read about athletic events, and then they go and lie down; they gain nothing. They are satisfied with the pleasure of reading. Some worldly people read newspapers, others romantic literature or an adventure novel, still others watch a football game at the stadium and pass their time. The same thing is done by some people who read spiritual books. They may spend the whole night reading spiritual books with great intensity and be content. They take a spiritual book, sit comfortably, and begin reading. "Oh, I profited from that," they say. It would be better to say, "I enjoyed myself, I spent my time pleasantly." But this is not profit...

The various patristic texts, which thank God are available by the thousands today, are very helpful. One can find whatever one needs and desires in these books. They are authentic spiritual nourishment and a sure guide on the spiritual path. However, in order to be of benefit to us, they have to be read with humility and prayer. Patristic texts reveal the inner spiritual condition of the soul, much as axial tomography reveals the inner structures of the body... In order to understand the writings of the Fathers one must constrain oneself, focus and live spiritually, for the spirit of the Fathers is perceived through and by the spirit only. Especially helpful are the Ascetical Homilies by Saint Isaac the Syrian, but they must be studied slowly so that they can be assimilated little by little as spiritual food. The Evergetinos is truly of great benefit, because it gives us insight into the whole spirit of the Holy Fathers, it is helpful because it describes the struggles of the Fathers against each and every one of the passions, and, by learning how they worked on the spiritual life, the soul is greatly assisted. Also, the Synaxaria, the Lives of the Saints, are sacred history and very helpful, especially for young people, but they should not be read as stories.

We do not need great knowledge to be devout. If we concentrate and meditate on the few things we know, our heart will be spiritually embroidered... So, read the Fathers, even one or two lines a day. They are very strengthening vitamins for the soul.



Some Descriptions of followers of Jesus Christ

**Disciple / Citizen / Co-worker / Steward / Child / Son / Solider / Priest / Prophet / Heir /
Bride / Witness / Servant / Slave / Mother / Brother/ Sister / Friend / King / Saint**

Sons of God/Children of God: “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God.” (1 John 3:11) “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” (Romans 8:14) “But as many as received Him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.” (John 1:12) “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” (Matthew 5:9) “Beloved, now we are children of God.....” (1 John 3:2) “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:26) “But love your enemies, do good and lend, hoping for nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High...” (Luke 6:35) “And because you are sons, God, has sent forth the Spirit of His Son, born of a woman, under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive adoption as sons.” (Galatians 4:4-5)

Citizens: “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 3:20) “Now , therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.” (Ephesians 2:19) “In My Father’s house they are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.” (John 14:2)

Co-heirs: “And if children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.” (Romans 8:17) “knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.” (Colossians 3:24) “to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.” (1 Peter 1:4) “And if you are Christ’s then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.” (Galatians 3:29) “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” (Matthew 5:5) “Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’” (Matthew 25:34)

Co-workers: “For we are God’s co-workers, you are God’s field, you are God’s building.” (1 Corinthians 3:9) Also: (1 Thessalonians 3:2), (3 John 1:8), (Romans 16:21)

Mother/Brother/Sister: “For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren (i.e. brothers & sisters) saying: here I am and the children whom God has given me.” (Hebrews 2:11) “But He answered them saying: ‘Who is my mother or my brothers?’ And He looked around in a circle

at those who sat about Him and said: 'Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of God is my brother and my sister and mother.' (Mark 3:33-35/Matthew 12:46-50 & Luke 8:19-21)

Friend: "You are my friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you slaves, for a slave does not know what His Master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things I have heard from My father I have made known to you." (John 15:14-15)

Servant/Slave: "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master." (Matthew 10:24)

"Remember the word that I spoke unto you, the slave is not greater than his Lord. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you..." (John 15:20)

"If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor." (John 12:26)

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation, and took upon himself the form of a slave, and was made in the likeness of men." (Philippians 2:5-7)

"Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are the one's slave whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness and the end, everlasting life." (Romans 6:16-22)
See also: (2 Peter 1:1) (James 1:10 Titus 1:1), (Revelation 1:1)

There are Five Greek Words in New Testament for Servant/Slave. The most often term of the five used is that of "slave" (in Greek *doulos*). Most English language bibles (including the Orthodox Study Bible) make the mistake repeatedly of translating the Greek word (*doulos* – slave) as servant, rather than slave. There are 4 other words in Greek that mean servant, but slave is always *doulos*. In the English in our church services we use (incorrectly) the word "servant" instead of "slave." In Russian (*rab*) and in Greek (*doulos*) is used, as for example in Baptism: "The slave (*rab/doulos*) is baptized in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Upon receiving Holy Communion: "The slave (*rab/doulos*) of God (name) partakes of the precious Body and Blood....."