

ICHC NTKKA SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America
Church: 305 Main Road, Herkimer, New York, 13350
Pastor: Archpriest John Udics • 315-866-3272 • e-mail: john.udics@comcast.net
Parish Web Page: www.cnyorthodoxchurch.org

God Bless us all in this New Year!

Gelukkige Nuwejaar! E Glöckliches Nöies! سعيد عام Sretna Nova Godina!
Šťastný Nový Rok! Godt Nyttår! Head Uut Aastat! Onnellista Uutta Vuotta!
Bonne Année! शुभप्रारम्भ शुभ नव वर्ष Ein Gutes Neues Jahr!
Boldog Új Évet! Ath bhliain faoi mhaise! Buon Anno! 新年おめでとうございます!
Felix sit annus novus! Laimīgu Jauno Gadu! ose:rase Laimingu Naujuju Metu!
Godt nyttår! Szcześliwego nowego roku! Feliz ano novo! La multī ani!
С Новым Годом! Bliadhna mhath ur! Срећна нова година! Šťastný nový rok
Manigong bagong taon! Iniya puthandu nalVazhthukkal স্বর্ষদীপইম 3 Новим роком!
Chúc Mừng Năm Mới Blwyddyn newydd dda! Kamgan Ukudigaa! 新年快樂!
Καλή χρονιά! Faoi mhaise duit Gesælig Niw Gear!
கிறிஸ்துமஸ் மற்றாம் இனிய பத்தாண்ட வாய்த்துக்கள்

January 1, 2011	Saturday: Saint Basil and the Circumcision of Our Lord	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
January 2, 2011	Forefeast of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
	Moleben asking God's Blessing on the New Year and thanking Him for the year which is past.		
January 5	Wednesday: Eve of the Theophany of the Lord	Great Blessing of Water	7:00 pm
January 6	The Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
January 8	Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
January 9	Sunday after the Theophany of the Lord	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

Saints of the Day: Saint Sylvester, Pope of Rome (335). Righteous Juliana of Lazarevo (1604). Repose (1833), the second finding of relics (1991) of Venerable Seraphim, Wonderworker of Sarov. Venerable Sylvester of the Kiev Caves (12 c). Hieromartyr Theogenes, Bishop of Parium (320). Saint Gerasimus, Patriarch of Alexandria. Venerable Theopemptos. Saint Theodota, mother of Saints Cosmas and Damian (3 c). Venerable Mark the Deaf. Martyr Sergius of Caesarea in Cappadocia (301). Martyr Theopistos. Saint Cosmas, Archbishop of Constantinople (1081). Venerable Monk Ammon of Tabennisi (5 c). New Martyr George (Zorzes) the Georgian (1770). Saint Munchin, Bishop of Limerick. Saint Seiriol. 1000 Martyrs of Litchfield, England (304).

Please remember in your prayers: Rea, Aaron, Daniel, Archpriest Jason, Archpriest Thomas, Archpriest Jakiw, Archimandrite Raphael, Pani-matka Myroslava, Archpriest Daniel Pavelchak, Nina, Priest Sergius, Nadine, Helen, Anna, Thomas, Archpriest Vincent, Mother Raphaela, John, Catherine, Ron, Albert, Michael, Gregory, Emma, Cathy, John, Mykola, Dan, Wayne, Nina, Dan, Isaiah, Robert, Robert, Kevin, Andrew, David, Warren, Michael, Archimandrite Athanasy, Archimandrite Alexander, Archimandrite Isidore, Archimandrite Pachomy.

God grant many years! Prayers for all travelers in this season were offered at Moleben on December 26.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the souls of Michael and Helen and Steven Sobolowski were offered at Liturgy and Litiya on December 26, at the request of Barbara Daley.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the souls of Joseph and Mary Udics were offered at Liturgy and Litiya on December 26, at the request of nephew Richard Medvick.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the souls of godparents John and Rose Medvick were offered at Liturgy and Litiya on December 26, at the request of nephew Father John Udics.

Words from Church Fathers about the Nativity of Our Lord

How will humanity escape from the birth that is subject to death, if it is not by means of a new birth, given in a wonderful and unexpected manner by God - that very regeneration that flows from the Virgin through faith? — *Saint Irenaeus of Lyon*

The Christmas tree reminds us of the tree of knowledge as well as the tree of life, but especially the latter. It underlines clearly the truth that Christ is the tree of life and that we cannot live or fulfill the purpose of our existence unless we taste of this tree, "the producer of this life." — *Metropolitan Hierotheos Vlachos*

O Lord, give us leave this day to celebrate Your true birthday, of which our annual festival puts us in mind. This day is like Yourself: it is the friend of man. Year by year it returns throughout the centuries, growing old with the aged, renewing itself with the newborn child. Year by year it comes to us, passes, and then returns, full of the old magic. — *Saint Ephrem the Syrian*

The Ancient of Days is become a Child, to make us children of God. From glory in the Heavens, because of His love for mankind, He now lies in a manger. He has taken on my body, so that I am made capable to have within myself His Spirit. He has taken unto Himself my nature, being garbed in my body, and gives me His

Spirit, so that I, giving and in turn receiving, might discover the treasure of life. — *Saint Gregory, Wonderworker of Neo-Caesarea*

He who is God by nature converses with those whom he has made gods by grace, as a friend converses with his friends, face to face. — *Saint Symeon the New Theologian*

The child in that distant Bethlehem cave has no desire that we fear him; he enters our hearts not by frightening us, by proving his power and authority, but by love alone. He is given to us as a child, and only as children can we in turn love him and give ourselves to him. The world is ruled by authority and power, by fear and domination. The child God liberates us from that. All he desires from us is our love, freely given and joyful; all he desires is that we give him our heart. And we give it to a defenseless, endlessly trusting child. — *Father Alexander Schmemmann*

On this great day now celebrated, of shattered chains, of Satan shamed, of all demons put to flight, the all-destroying death is replaced by life, paradise is opened to the thief, curses be transformed into blessings, all sins forgiven and evil banished, truth is come, and they have proclaimed tidings filled with reverence and love for God, traits pure and immaculate are implanted, virtue is exalted upon the earth, angels have greeted people, and people make bold to converse with angels. From where and why has all this happened? From this, that God has descended into the world and exalted mankind unto Heaven. — *Saint Gregory the Wonderworker*

A word from Saint Athanasius of Alexandria, On the Incarnation of the Word, 13: What was God to do in the face of this de-humanizing of mankind—this universal hiding of the knowledge of Himself by the wiles of the evil spirits? Was He to keep silence before so great a wrong and let men go on being thus deceived and kept in ignorance of Himself? ...What, then, was God to do? What else could He possibly do, being God, but renew His Image in mankind, so that through it men might once more come to know Him? And how could this be done except by the coming of the very Image Himself, our Savior Jesus Christ?

A word from Saint Ephraim the Syrian, Hymn 5 “On the Nativity”

At the birth of the Son, there was a great shouting in Bethlehem; for the Angels came down, and gave praise there. Their voices were a great thunder: at that voice of praise the silent ones came, and gave praise to the Son.

Blessed be that Babe in whom Eve and Adam were restored to youth! The shepherds also came laden with the best gifts of their flock: sweet milk, clean flesh, befitting praise! They put a difference, and gave Joseph the flesh, Mary the milk, and the Son the praise! They brought and presented a suckling lamb to the Paschal Lamb, a first-born to the First-born, a sacrifice to the Sacrifice, a lamb of time to the Lamb of Truth. Fair sight [to see] the lamb offered to The Lamb!

The lamb bleated as it was offered before the First-born. It praised the Lamb, that had come to set free the flocks and the oxen from sacrifices: yea that Paschal Lamb, Who handed down and brought in the Passover of the Son.

The shepherds came near and worshipped Him with their staves. They saluted Him with peace, prophesying the while, "Peace, O Prince of the Shepherds." The rod of Moses praised Your Rod, O Shepherd of all; for You Moses praises, although his lambs have become wolves, and his flocks as it were dragons, and his sheep fanged beasts. In the fearful wilderness his flocks became furious, and attacked him.

You then the Shepherds praise, because You have reconciled the wolves and the lambs within the fold; O Babe, that art older than Noah and younger than Noah, that reconciled all within the ark amid the billows!

David Your father for a lamb's sake slaughtered a lion. You, O Son of David, hast killed the unseen wolf that murdered Adam, the simple lamb who fed and bleated in Paradise.

At that voice of praise, brides were moved to hallow themselves, and virgins to be chaste, and even young girls became grave: they advanced and came in multitudes, and worshipped the Son.

Aged women of the city of David came to the daughter of David; they gave thanks and said, "Blessed be our country, whose streets are lightened with the rays of Jesse! Today is the throne of David established by You, O Son of David."

The old men cried, "Blessed be that Son Who restored Adam to youth, Who was vexed to see that he was old and worn out, and that the serpent who had killed him, had changed his skin and had gotten himself away. Blessed be the babe in Whom Adam and Eve were restored to youth."

The chaste women said, O Blessed Fruit, bless the fruit of our wombs; to You may they be given as first-born. They waxed fervent and prophesied concerning their children, who, when they were killed for Him, were cut off, as it were first-fruits.

The barren also fondled Him, and carried Him; they rejoiced and said, Blessed Fruit born without marriage, bless the wombs of us that are married; have mercy on our barrenness, You wonderful Child of Virginity!

A word from Saint Isaac the Syrian. This Christmas night peace was bestowed on the whole world; so let no one threaten; this is the night of the Most Gentle One - let no one be cruel; this is the night of the Most Humble One - let no one be proud. Now is the day of joy - let us not revenge; now is the day of good will - let us not be mean. In this day of peace let us not be conquered by anger ... Today the Bountiful one, impoverished Himself for our sake; so you rich ones invite the poor to your table. Today we received a gift for which we did not ask; so let us give alms to those, who implore us and beg. This present day opens the heavenly door to our prayers. Let us open our door to those who ask our forgiveness. Now the Divine Being took upon Himself the seal of humanity, in order for humanity to be decorated by seal of Divinity.

REMINDERS FOR YOUR CALENDARS:

• **Church Musicians and Singers** - February 12 - Spend a day with Bishop Michael and fellow musicians. 11 am, Holy Resurrection Church, 285 French Hill Road, Wayne NJ 07470. No Charge. Exchange ideas and express your needs and concerns as musicians and singers in the diocese. Also mini-workshop, speaker t.b.a.