

ICHC NTKA SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America
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GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS!

January 16, 2011	34th Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
January 22 Saturday		Great Vespers 4:00 pm
January 23 Sunday	35th Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Saints of the Day: Veneration of the Precious Chains of the Holy and All-glorious Apostle Peter. Blessed Maximus of Totma (Vologda), fool-for-Christ (1650). New Hieromartyr Priest John (1919). Martyrs the brothers Speusippus, Eleusippus, and Meleusippus, their grandmother Leonilla, and with them Neon, Turbo, and the woman Jonilla (Jovilla), in Cappadocia (ca. 161-180). Martyr Danax the Reader in Macedonia (2nd c.). Venerable Romilos, Monk of Mount Athos and Ravanica (Serbia) (1375), disciple of Saint Gregory of Sinai, and with him Saints Nestor, Martinius, Daniel, Sisoës, Zosimas, and Gregory. New Hieromartyr Damascene of Hilandar on Mount Athos and Gabrovo (Bulgaria) (1771). Saint Sigebert, King of the East Angles, Martyr (635). Saint James of Tarentaise (429). New Martyr Nicholas of Mitylene (1777). Saint Fursey of East Anglia and Lagny, Abbot of Burgh Castle, and Peronne Monastery, France (+648). Saint Dunchaid O'Braoin, Abbot of Clonmacnoise (+988). Saint Honoratus (Honoré), Bishop of Arles (+429).

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Bishop DANIEL and Bishop IRENÉE were offered January 9 and today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Archpriest Jason and Matushka Margaret Kappanadze on their Wedding Anniversary were offered today at the request of Father John Udics.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Bill Mazur on were offered today at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Walter Jovorsky, Sr. were offered today at Liturgy and Parastas at the request of family.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Archpriest John Platko were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the soul of newly-departed father Andre were offered January 9 and today, at Liturgy and Litiya the request of Walter and Carolyn Tirenin.

Memory Eternal. At the Divine Liturgy and at Litiya, prayers for the repose of cousin Paul Udics were offered January 9, and cousin Joseph Udics today, at the request of Father John Udics.

Please remember in your prayers: Don, Bishop DANIEL, Bishop IRENÉE, Mark, Jennifer, Rea, Aaron, Daniel, Archpriest Jason, 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.

A word from Saint Gregory of Nyssa (4th cent.) We shall be blessed with clear vision if we keep our eyes fixed on Christ, for He, as Paul teaches, is our head, and there is in Him no shadow of evil. Saint Paul himself and all who have reached the same heights of sanctity had their eyes fixed on Christ, and so have all who live and move and have their being in Him. As no darkness can be seen by anyone surrounded by light, so no trivialities can capture the attention of anyone who has his eyes on Christ. The man who keeps his eyes upon the head and origin of the whole universe has them on virtue in all its perfection; he has them on truth, on justice, on immortality and on everything else that is good, for Christ is goodness itself. Homily 5: PG 44, 683-686

REMINDERS FOR YOUR CALENDARS:

- **OCA Desk Calendar for 2011.** Would you like one? \$15 from yearbook@oca.org
- **January 23, Sunday.** Parish Council meeting after Liturgy
- **February 13, Sunday.** General "Annual" Parish Meeting after Liturgy
- **Diocesan Family Retreat: Friday, January 28 - Saturday, January 29** at Hope Lodge in Greek Peak. <http://www.greekpeak.net/hope-lake-lodge/hope-lake-lodge.aspx>
- **First Annual On-line Orthodox Christian Education Conference:** February 11-12, 2011, *Orthodoxy in the Home.* <http://www.orthodoxconference.com/Conference/Home.html>
- **Church Musicians and Singers** - February 12 - 11 am, Holy Resurrection Church, 285 French Hill Road, Wayne NJ 07470. No Charge.
- **Diocese of New York and New Jersey: Altar Servers Retreat** is scheduled for 26-27 February 2011, at Saint Basil's Academy, Garrison NY. We need to report the number of altar servers that plan to attend the retreat as soon as possible..
- **Diocese of New York and New Jersey: "Vision for Our Future"** (V-FOF) Supporting Seminarians, Mission Parishes and Existing Parishes. <http://www.nynjoca.org/vfof.html>

A word from Saint Silouan the Athonite. In death the soul that has come to know God through the Holy Spirit experiences a measure of dread when the angels bring her before the Lord, since while living in the world she was guilty of sin. But when the soul beholds the Lord, she rejoices in His meek and merciful countenance, and the Lord in the abundance of His gentleness and love remembers not her sins. One glance at the Lord, and love of Him will take up its abode in the soul, and from love of God and the sweetness of the Holy Spirit she will be completely transformed.

HOMILY About the concern for the salvation of our neighbors by Saint Nikolai of Zhicha

"No one should seek his own advantage, but that of his neighbor" (I Corinthians 10:24).

This is the principle of the saints of God, both now, at one time, always and forever. This is the principle on which society is built. Upon this principle can be established the most perfect, the most God-pleasing and the most prosperous human society. This is the saving principle for every type of difficulty with which contemporary men struggle, struggle without victory and without hope. The holy soul is concerned with where the homeless will spend the night, how the hungry will be fed, how the naked will be clothed. The soul is concerned and prays to God that their neighbors be saved; that their hearts be filled with love toward God; that their minds be directed toward God; that the wicked turn from the path of wickedness; that those wavering in the Faith be strengthened; that those who are strengthened be sustained; that those who have died see the Face of God; that the living be written in the Book of Life in the Kingdom of Light.

Therefore, be careful brethren, how even in like manner, word for word, can sound the destructive and antisocial principle of the devil. This principle of the devil says: no one should look at their own body to preserve it in purity from sin, but rather everyone should look at the bodies of others in order to ruin and to destroy them. That no one should look at his own soul, how to save it, rather everyone should look at the soul of someone else in order to blacken it, to curse it, to impoverish it and to destroy it. Let no one look at his house, in order to build it, and renew it rather let everyone look at the home of another in order to burn it and demolish it. No one should look at his granaries in order to fill them, rather, one should look at the granaries of others in order to steal from them and to empty them. See, brethren, how this principle can be either a principle of good or a principle of evil; a sharp two-edged sword; an angel or Satan. See how this principle in the satanic spirit and form has taken momentum on all sides today!

O Lord, Holy Spirit, Who has released these holy words in the world through the tongue of the apostle of God as bright rays of the sun to illuminate and not to burn us, help us now to fulfill them in the proper heavenly sense to the glory of the Triune God and for the salvation of our souls.

A word from Saint Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessalonika (1296–1359), to his Turkish captors: "It is true that Muhammad started from the east and came to the west, as the sun travels from east to west. Nevertheless he came with war, knives, pillaging, forced enslavement, murders, and acts that are not from the good God but instigated by the chief manslayer, the devil."

VISITATIONS: In any emergency, 24 hours a day, don't hesitate to phone Father if you need him. • **For visitations for the sick, shut-in or other pastoral needs**, please phone and let Father know, and we can arrange a time – you need time to prepare your heart for Confession and Unction and Communion, and Father needs time to prepare himself too. In bad weather, we will have to make day by day arrangements, as Father does not have snow-driving skills. • **For blessing of homes**, please phone to arrange a date and time.

The Hieromartyr Damaskin the New was born in the village of Gabrovo of Tirnovo diocese [Bulgaria]. As an adult, he left his fatherland and withdrew to Athos. He accepted monasticism there at the Hilendar monastery, at which he later became the abbot. On needs of the monastery Saint Damaskin journeyed to Bulgaria, to the settlement of Sistovo. In fulfilling the entrusted task, he requested of Turks a repayment of debt, but not only did the Turks not repay the debt, they seized from the saint everything he had. Afterwards they charged him with abducting a woman (they brought her secretly to the jail to him). Despite the defense of the ruler of the settlement, the Turks took Saint Damaskin to the gallows and gave him a choice to accept Mussulmanism [i.e. Islam]. Not receiving agreement from the saint, the Turks hung him on 16 January 1771. The wrath of God did not hesitate to overtake the evil-doers for in crossing the Danube River in a row-boat, the executioners drowned.

The Holy Martyr Danax lived during the 2nd cent. and served as reader at a church in the locale of Auleneia in Macedonia. During the time of an incursion by non-believers the saint took the church vessels and intended to hide them, but he was seized by soldiers. Refusing to worship an idol, he was beheaded by the sword.

REFLECTION by Saint Nikolai of Zhicha. Nothing crushes human pride as does habitual obedience toward elders. In ancient Sparta, obedience was considered a great virtue. It is said a Spartan soldier, who rushed into battle armed with a sword, caught up with his enemy and at the precise moment when he was about to slay him, the trumpet sounded to end the fighting and the Spartan replaced his sword in the sheath. When someone who saw this asked him: "Why did you not slay the enemy?" He replied: "It is better to obey the commander than to slay the enemy." Christian obedience differs from this Spartan obedience in that it is voluntary and has as its goal the salvation of the soul; i.e., it is not for the preservation of the earthly kingdom but rather for obtaining of the heavenly kingdom. Saint John the Short [Colobus] began his ascetical life with a certain elder of Thebes. In order to teach his disciple obedience, the elder planted a withered tree in the ground and ordered his disciple to water it daily. For three years, John without murmuring watered this withered tree until it finally turned green and brought forth fruit. This is the fruit of resigned obedience. The Crucified Lord Himself "became obedient to death" (Philippians 2:8).