

# ICHC NTKA SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America  
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**CHRIST IS RISEN! ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕС! ХΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!**  
**¡CRISTO RESUCITO! KRISTUR ER UPPRISINN! CRISTO RESSUSCITOU!**  
**LI CRIST A RAVIKÉ! DASSORET EO KRIST! CHÚA KI-TÔ ĐÃ PHỤC SINH!**  
**CHRISTVS RESURREXIT! Y CHRIST ATGYFODODDI! Christus Ist Auferstanden!**

May 15, 2011 Sunday of the Paralytic

May 21 Saturday

May 22 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Great Vespers 4:00 pm

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

**Grant, Lord, Peaceful and Prosperous Life, Health, and Salvation to  
His Grace, the Right Reverend MICHAEL  
Bishop of New York and the Diocese of New York and New Jersey  
And Grant Him Many Blessed Years!  
WELCOME, BISHOP MICHAEL!**

**Saints of the Day:** Venerable Pachomius the Great, Founder of Cenobitic Monasticism (346). Saint Isaiah, Bishop and Wonderworker of Rostov (1090). The slain Crown Prince Demetrius of Moscow (1591). Venerable Isaiah, Wonderworker of the Kiev Caves (1115). Venerable Abbot Pachomius and Silvanus of Nerekhta (1384). Venerable Abbot Euphrosynus (Eleazar), Wonderworker of Pskov (1481) and his disciple Saint Serapion (1480). Venerable Achilles, Bishop of Larissa (330). Venerable Pachomius, Abbot of Nerekhta (1384) and Saint Silvanus, of Nerekhta. Saint Archimandrite Macarius (Glukharev) of Altai (1847). Saint Barbaras the Myrrh-gusher of Greece (9 c.). Saint Andrew the Hermit and Wonderworker. New Hieromartyrs Pachomius, Archbishop of Chernigov (1938), his brother Abercius, Archbishop of Zhitomir (1937), their father Priest Nicholas Kedrov (1936), and their brother-in-law Priest Vladimir Zagarsky (1937). Saint Dymphna, Martyr of Geel, Flanders (7 c.). Saint Arethas of Verkhoturye and Valaam (1903). Saint Hallvard of Husaby. Saint Britwin of Beverley, Abbot (733). Saint Colman of Oughaval, Abbot (6 c). Martyr Gerebernus of Sonsbeck, (7 c).

**God Grant Many Years!** Prayers for the health of brother-in-law Jim Gomes and Alex Kavalkovich were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

**God Grant Many Years!** Prayers for the health of Craig and Mary Williams, Father Ed Higgins, Father Daniel Geeza and nephew Eric Ray were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

**Christ is Risen.** Prayers for the repose of the souls of the servants of God Walter Senyk, Edmund Mamrosch Sr, Panos Jarosz and Mary Boguski were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya.

**Please remember in your prayers: Please remember in your prayers:** Katherine, Hilda, Reader Matthew, Ada, Don, Rea, Daniel, Aaron, Archpriest Jason, Mark, Jennifer, 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, Archimandrites Athanasy, Isidore, Nectarios, Pachomy.

**A word from the desert.** Abba Poemen said, "To throw yourself before God, not to measure your progress, to leave behind all self-will; these are the instruments for the work of the soul."

### ***From the sermon on the Sunday of the Paralytic, May 22, 1994***

In today's reading from the history of that paralyzed man who waited so patiently for thirty-eight years to be healed, we see part of the history of salvation unfolded for us. In Old Testament times, God mercifully provided a pool for the healing of those who were ill. In the time of Christ, He Himself healed many, and provided the Apostles and Disciples with the command to release men from their spiritual illnesses through forgiveness of sins. In the book of the Acts of the Apostles we heard how Saint Peter healed one man and raised the woman Dorcas from death. We see this as a development, a growing. But there's another form of growth and growing we should investigate.

The best way to explain this is through an example. Children, when they're born, have no language skills at all. The best they can do is to gurgle when they're happy and cry when they need attention or when something's wrong. They react to language from others only on an emotional level - when their parents are happy, children sense it, when parents fight, children may cry. Certainly we have all experienced that phenomenon of one child starting to cry, and other children all chiming in for no apparent reason. As children mature, they begin to understand the things people say to them. They move to a new level of comprehension. They can respond to questions - ask a child where the ball is, and the child will go look for it, and bring it back. Later, children move

to the next level, and begin to try to make words, then sentences. Soon they're in school and learning to read and write so they can communicate with others. And all through school they learn more words and different language to do the jobs they need. And those who are truly gifted in language can eventually become translators, or writers, poets, playwrights, novelists, and so on. Each of these steps represents a major change in the way a child relates to the world, and we call the process maturing.

In the same way, we need to mature and grow from one level to another in our spiritual lives as Christians. At first, we come to church on Sundays because our parents carry us in. We begin to learn to cross ourselves and to say our prayers, and to participate in the sacraments. As we grow and mature, we are able to participate in the services by becoming choir singers or altar servers or curators or Parish Council officers. We see things in a different light, and we understand things that we previously didn't know. Maybe we go to another parish and see things there that we don't do in our home parish. Maybe we become priests or Council officers and begin to understand a responsibility beyond the one we have to ourselves, a responsibility to the entire parish. And we begin to see attendance at Church, and participation in the sacraments and regularity in our prayer life as not just something we do for ourselves, but something which motivates us to want to share our Christian joy and love and peace with others.

In the Gospel lessons we listen to after Pascha, another example of this maturation is presented us. For those of us who have the simplest, most child-like faith, when we defend our faith, we do it like the Apostle Thomas - we say 'unless you can prove it to me, I won't believe.' And our Lord will teach us that we are blest who don't see, and yet believe. A next level of maturation is presented us in the story of the women who followed Christ from the beginning and were the most faithful, not even abandoning Him when He was arrested, tried, crucified and buried. Though they had been taught of the resurrection, they came to do one last honor to the body of Christ, intending to anoint it. Instead, they found the stone moved away and an angel sitting in the place where the Lord's body had been. For their faithfulness, they were rewarded by being the first to be witnesses of the Resurrection. And today, on the next level, we learn how the Resurrection is healing. We see the dead raised, the sick cured, the sinners forgiven. The example given to us is that of the faithful, uncomplaining, patient, enduring paralyzed man rewarded for his 38 years of praying for his cure.

We Christians need to learn from the Gospel lessons after Pascha - of the Apostle Thomas, the Myrrhbearers, the Paralytic, and the Samaritan Woman and the Blind Man. We need to know that we can mature in our faith, and, as Saint Paul says, we can grow 'from glory to glory'. We need to see how we can grow from simple faith to self-less desire to be an example of Christ's love to everyone we meet. And, like the saint whose eyes shone with the uncreated light of the Resurrection, we too can become lamps and even beacons to those around us. If our Church is empty except for Pascha and Christmas, perhaps it's our faults, for not being the witnesses to the Resurrection, not only seeing the story every year, but putting it into our lives so that others see the love of Christ and are attracted to it; see the light of Christ shining through us.

How do we grow in our faith? Everyone grows in his or her own way, but we begin in the same place. We begin by doing the things we know we should - praying and fasting, asking God to forgive us our sins and doing good instead of evil. We need to learn to live with God's presence before us at all times, living as though we are standing before God in His Majesty and Love every minute of our day. And we can 'upgrade' our life in Christ by starting to include readings from Scripture in our daily prayer life, and by more frequent and regular participation in the life of the Church, especially in the sacraments, which Our Lord gave us, and in which the Holy Spirit can always be found. From there, God will show us our path - for some it may be reading, for others, taking a 'job' in the parish or diocese or national church, for others it may be a movement toward a life of silence and contemplation. But in every case, growth in our spiritual life requires effort on our part. This effort will not be burdensome or odious, because the Lord's burden is light.

Pray to God that He will open the eyes of our hearts to the spiritual understanding of His Gospel, to remove us from carnal life and move us to the spiritual manner of living. Pray to God to take away our years of paralysis and allow us, like the paralyzed man, to be witnesses of the Resurrection, to be sharers and partners in the salvation of the world. As one of the fathers tells us, 'Save yourself, and thousands around you will be saved.' Pray to God to save us all. Pray to God for the spiritual maturity to learn not to live for ourselves alone, or our neighbors, but even for the salvation of the world.

#### **REMINDERS FOR YOUR CALENDARS:**

- **May 27 - 30, 2011: 107th Annual Pilgrimage: Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk Monastery, South Canaan, PA**
  - Friday, May 27th, 2011:** 3:30 pm Greeting the Myrrh-streaming icon of Saint Anne at Monastery arch
  - 4:00 pm Vespers and Matins at the Monastery Church
  - 5:30 pm Akathist before the icon of Saint Anne
  - Saturday, May 28th, 2011:** 8:00 am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
  - 12:00 noon 69th Annual Academic Commencement of Saint Tikhon's Theological Seminary
  - 2:30 pm Grand Banquet in Honor of the Graduating Class of 2011, *St Michael Church Hall, Jermyn, PA*
  - 6:00 pm Resurrection Vigil – Monastery Church
  - Sunday, May 29th, 2011:** 9:00 am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
  - 4:00 pm Vespers and Matins – Monastery Church
  - Monday, May 30th, 2011:** 7:30 am Divine Liturgy – Monastery Church
  - 10:00 am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
  - 1:30 pm Akathist to Saint Alexis – Monastery Church
  - 2:00 pm Mother of God Molieben / Anointing of the Sick, Infirm, all Pilgrims – Monastery Bell Tower
  - 4:00 pm Vespers and Matins – Monastery Church
- June 11: 5-7 pm. Pin-O-Rama in Utica for our young people. 2 games, shoe rental, pizza and soda: \$12 each
- June 12: Pentecost: Potluck Lunch after Liturgy, before going to the Cemetery
- July 4: Monday: Saints Peter and Paul will host the Deanery Clergy Picnic: 10 children, 30 adults + us.