

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!

July 24, 2011 6th Sunday after Pentecost.

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Welcome, Father Dean Alexei Karlgut!

July 30 Saturday
July 31 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Great Vespers 4:00 pm
Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Saints of the Day: Martyr Christina of Tyre (300). Holy Martyrs and Passion-bearers Boris and Gleb of Russia, in holy baptism Romanus and David (1015). New Hieromartyr Deacon Alpheus (1937). Confessors Priest Nicholas (1942) and Priest John (1951). Venerable Polycarp, Archimandrite of the Kiev Caves (1182). New Martyr Athanasius of Nicaea (1670). New Martyr Theophilus of Zakynthos (1635). Venerable Schemamonk Bogolep, Child of Black Ravine near Astrakhan (1667). Martyr Hermogenes. Venerable Abbot Pachomius, on the Lake (1479). Saint Bernulphus, Bishop of Utrecht (1054). Saint Declan, Bishop of Ardmore, Ireland (5 c). Saint Hilarion of Tvaleli, Georgia (11 c). New Hieromartyr Priest Maxim (Sandovich) who suffered under the Latins. Martyrs Capitio and Hymenaeus, Saint Germoc of Cornwall (6 c). Virgin Martyr Lewina of Berg (5 c). Virgin Menefrida of Cornwall (5 c). Martyrs Wulfhade & Ruffinus (675). Virgin Christiana of Termonde (7 c).

Memory Eternal. Anniversary prayers for the repose of parents John and Apollonia Bobyk and brother Mark Bobyk were offered at Liturgy and Litiya July 17, at the request of Irene Ptasznik.

Memory Eternal. Anniversary prayers for the repose of Helen, Michael and Steven Sobolowski, John Enders and Robert Bisely were offered at Liturgy and Litiya July 17, at the request of Barbara Daley.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of newly-departed cousin Donald Michael Udics were offered at Parastas and Liturgy on July 20, at the request of Father John Udics.

Please remember in your prayers: Monk Basil, Mother Raphaela, Priest Sergius, Archpriest Jason, Susan, Ada, Rea, Daniel, Aaron, Mark, Jennifer, Nina, Nadine, Helen, Anna, Thomas, Archpriest Vincent, John, Ron, Albert, Michael, Gregory, Emma, Cathy, Mykola, Dan, Wayne, Nina, Dan, Isaiah, Robert, Robert, Kevin, Andrew, David, Warren, Michael, Archimandrites Alexander, Athanasy, Isidore, Nectarios, Pachomy.

Orthodox Church in America - Diocese of New York and New Jersey

On August 1, 2011 the diocese will assemble forces and launch "OPERATION BUFFALO" . . . a diocesan-wide project to revitalize Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Buffalo NY. The first step will be to prepare the parish rectory and Church for the assignment of a full-time priest.

"Because of declining membership, an aged population and limited funds over the past few years, much of the parish complex has fallen into disrepair. This diocesan-wide appeal for willing and able workers to help restore whatever they can will go a long way in ensuring the future of the community." ~ Bishop Michael

There's work to be done! **We'll begin on MONDAY, AUGUST 1st and work daily through SATURDAY, AUGUST 13th.** Willing hearts-and-hands are needed to clean, repair, and prepare the way for the building up of Saints Peter and Paul parish. A plan of action will be developed by a professional building contractor. Materials will be obtained and pre-positioned on-site so volunteers will have everything they need to get the job done. Supervision will ensure that the talents of volunteers are put to best use and their time is productive.

We're looking for volunteers to accomplish OPERATION BUFFALO. Any adult 18 years of age or older is invited to participate. Whether you can offer one day, two days, a week or more . . . your efforts will be truly appreciated and essential to the success of this ambitious project. Overnight accommodations may be available by reservation. Meals and refreshments will be provided.

Questions? visit **OPERATION BUFFALO** website http://nynjoca.org/operation_buffalo_2011.html or call Father Ken at 585-770-3496.

THE HOLY MARTYR CHRISTINA was born in the city of Tyre the daughter of Urban, the imperial deputy, an idol worshipper. The reason her parents gave her the name of Christina is unknown but it concealed the mystery of her future following of Christ. Until age eleven, she knew nothing of Christ. When she reached the age of eleven her father, in order to conceal her from the world because of her extraordinary beauty until she fully matured, designated the highest floor of a tall tower for her to live. All the comforts of life were afforded her; slaves were given to serve her, gold and silver idols were placed in her quarters so that she may offer daily sacrifices to them. However, in this idolatrous environment, it was difficult for the soul of young Christina. Looking out through the window each day at the sun and all the beauty of the world then, again at night, at the miraculous cluster of shining stars, Christina, through her own natural understanding came to the firm belief in the One Living God. The merciful God, seeing her longing for the truth, sent His angel who traced the sign of the cross upon Christina and called her the bride of Christ and completely instructed her in godly understanding. Christina then smashed all the idols in her quarters and provoked wild fury in her father. Her father brought her

to trial and handed her over to be tortured and, after that, threw her into the dungeon with the intention to behead her the next day. That night Urban, completely healthy, parted from his soul and went to the grave before his daughter. After that two imperial deputies, Dion and Julian, continued to torture this holy virgin. Christina's courageous endurance and her miracles, which she worked by the power of God, converted many pagans of Tyre to Christianity. During the torturing of Christina, Dion suddenly fell dead in the midst of the people. Dion's successor, Julian, severed the breasts and tongue of Christina. The martyr took her tongue and threw it into Julian's face and he was instantly blinded. Finally her suffering for Christ ended by death beneath the sharp sword and her life continues in the immortal kingdom of the angels. Christina honorably suffered in the third century.

THE VENERABLE POLYCARP, ABBOT OF THE MONASTERY OF THE CAVES IN KIEV possessed "love toward God and his fellow men, joy because of an untainted conscience, peace because of victory over all passions, patience in time of temptation and misfortune, goodness in submission toward all, benevolence toward the poor, undoubting faith in fulfilling the commandments, truth in fulfilling his vows, meekness in not knowing anger, restraint and so forth." So well did he govern the Lavra of the Caves in Kiev that, after his death, a worthy successor among the monks could not be found (for those who were worthy did not want to accept the rank of abbot out of humility), so that the brethren were compelled to take Basil, a secular priest, as their abbot. Saint Polycarp reposed in the Lord in the year 1182 A.D.

REFLECTION by Saint Nikolai of Zhicha

The Faith of Christ mostly sanctifies and illumines the souls of men when the preachers of the Faith shine in their own lives. Blessed Polycarp, the abbot of the Monastery of the Caves in Kiev, was so completely illumined with the Faith of Christ, both in words and in deeds and in his entire being. Because of this, he had an unusual influence not only on ordinary people but also on princes and noblemen. Listening and seeing this godly man the Prince of Kiev, Rostislav Mstislavitch, became so illumined with the Faith of Christ and thus became so subdued and gentle, that he became a model of life in his immediate surroundings and to his entire people. During the Great Lenten Fast Season, Prince Rostislav received Holy Communion every Sunday and, in all places, sought out those who were in need and those less fortunate and helped them. In the end, he resolved to embrace the monastic order and spoke to Saint Polycarp about this: "Holy father, princely rule in this world cannot be without sin and it has already embittered me and has rendered me incapable." Polycarp answered him: "If you desire this monastic state from your heart, then let it be God's will." Once while in Smolensk, the prince became ill and close to death and ordered that he be quickly taken to Kiev, so that before his death he may receive the monastic tonsure. However he died before his wish was fulfilled.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- **Barbara Daley** is asking for volunteers to help make perogi in the months of August and September. Please contact her at 866-7834 (for Perogi fest 2011).
- **July 31 and on the last Sunday of every month** Saint Ann Sisterhood will have **BREAKFAST** at coffee hour time on Sunday. The hot meal will cost \$5.00 per person and proceeds will go toward the funding of our 100th Anniversary celebrations. These will be complete meals.

HOMILY About the holy apostolic warning by Saint Nikolai of Zhicha

"For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error" (2 Peter 2:18).

The holy apostle knows men better than the learned scribes for he is a saint and an apostle. A saint and an apostle penetrate deeply into the heart of man. About whom does the apostle speak? He speaks about the "impure, impudent and the self-willed", whom he earlier called "wells without water and clouds and mist" (2 Peter 2:17). The "impure, impudent and self-willed" are men of many and high sounding [high falutin'] words. They speak proud and false words to men. By these proud and false words, they both conceal and reveal their hearts concealing it for the uneducated and for those who do not understand and revealing it for those who are steadfast in the Faith and enlightened by Grace.

When the impure speak of their purity, by that they are declaring their impurity; when the impudent defends his character, by that he reveals his impudence; when the self-willed interprets the will of God, by that he shows his self-will. Whoever attentively follows his words can sense the stench of their bodily desires. The inattentive and uneducated cannot sense this stench but believe and are deluded. Those "who have just begun to escape" from the illusion of the body, the world and the devil are ensnared by proud and false words, as a fish in an invisible net. The fish does not know that it is in a net, until the net is pulled out on the hot sand. Then it knows but then it is too late. O may it not be too late for those pitiful souls of mankind who are ensnared in the net of proud and false words! Brethren know that every teacher who, by his teaching, condones bodily desires and who yields to sinners in bodily desires, is false.

Lord Jesus, Holy and All Pure, send Your Holy Angels to defend all beginners and fledglings in Your Faith from proud and false lips. To You be glory and thanks always. Amen.

A word from the desert. An Athonite elder said: When you express your opinion to others, do it so that they can benefit from it. If you are going to chatter, do it only with God. No person can get tired when talking to Him, for praying is restful. Many times we pray for someone who is ill, and others are praying for him also, and despite this, the person dies, and those who have prayed for him wonder why God did not hear their prayers. They do not realize that God did hear them, but that He knew what would be best. We do not know what would have been the outcome of that person's life had he lived. We should praise God for everything.

from an Athonite Gerontikon