

ICHC NTKRA 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 31, 2011 7th Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
August 1	DORMITION FAST August 1 through August 14	
August 6 Saturday	Holy Transfiguration of our Lord God Jesus Christ Liturgy	9:30 am
August 6 Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
August 7 8 th Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

Saints of the Day: Righteous Eudocimus of Cappadocia (9th c.). New Martyrs Benjamin, Metropolitan of Petrograd, and those with him: Archimandrite Sergius and George and John of Petrograd (1922). Martyr Maximus (1928). New Hieromartyr Priest Vladimir (1937). New Hieromartyr Priest John. Martyr Priest Constantine, Virgin-martyr Anna, and Saint Elizabeth (after 1937). New Hieromartyr Priest Nicholas (1941). New Hieromartyr Basil, Bishop of Kineshma (1945). Martyr Julitta at Caesarea (304). Martyr Dionysius of Vatopedi, Mount Athos (1822). Righteous Joseph of Arimathea (1 c). Saint Germain, Bishop of Auxerre (448). Venerable Hermit Neot, in Cornwall (877). Twelve Martyrs of Rome. Translation of the relics of Apostle Philip to Cyprus. Consecration of the Church of the Most Holy Theotokos of Blachernae. Saint John the Exarch of Bulgaria (900). Saint Arsenius, Bishop of Ninotsminda, Georgia (1082).

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

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Reader Alexei and Laura Schmidt, joined last Sunday in holy matrimony were offered today at Liturgy at the request of Father John Udics.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of newly ordained Priest John Bohush and Matushka Joannna, Matushka Fran Vansuch, Archpriest Vincent Saverino, cousin Mark Peter Petras and Kenneth Lynn were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Father Emmanuel Pratsinakis, Dan Witiak. Ed Hansen Anita Hansen and Виталий Александрович Волосян were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the souls of newly-departed cousin Donald Udics, Monk Basil, and ever-memorable Archbishop SILAS of Sarantaekklesia, Metropolitan VLADIMIR (Nagosky) and Metropolitan ANTHONY (Bloom) were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Ksenia Homiak, Anna Hrynda, Frank Gromadzky, Wasil Litwen, Mary Sokerka, Jacob Elnicky, Joseph Ptasznik were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of family.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the souls of Eva Sokol, Paul Sokerka, Mary Sokol, Michael Rinko, Stephen Hladysz, George Herko, Michael Pupchek, Ethlyn Krenichyn, Harry Homyk Sr, William Hladysz were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of family.

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

A word from the desert. One of us asked Abba Sisoës, "What is pilgrimage, Abba?" He answered, "Keep silent; and wherever you go, say, 'I am at peace with all men.' That is pilgrimage."

A word from the desert. Just as the sun's rays are sometimes hidden from the earth by thick cloud, so for a while a person may be deprived of spiritual comfort and of grace's brightness. This is caused by the cloud of the passions. Then, all of a sudden, without that person being aware, it is all given back. Just as the surface of the earth rejoices at the rays of the sun when they break through the clouds, so the words of prayer are able to break through to drive the thick cloud of the passions away from the soul. Saint Isaac the Syrian

A word from the desert. Prepare your heart for your departure. If you are wise, you will expect it every hour. Every day say to yourself: "See, the messenger who comes to fetch me is already at the door. Why am I sitting idle? I must depart for ever. I cannot come back again." Go to sleep with these thoughts every night, and reflect on them throughout the day. And when the time of departure comes, go joyfully to meet it, saying, "Come in peace. I knew you would come, and I have not neglected anything that could help me on my journey."

Saint Isaac the Syrian, Homily 65 (7th century)

Update from the Holy Myrrhbearers (July 20, 2011 – Prophet Elias' Day).

To introduce the one topic, I quote from my report to the trustees at last year's annual meeting: "Most recently, two women visited from the Ruthenian Catholic Church. Their dream is to establish a traditional, I would even say Orthodox, monastery in their diocese. They left this morning with the desire to come back here for the three month "novitiate" Roman canon law requires. It remains to be seen what will work out for them, but all of us feel we would be blessed by such a stay. Obviously they would have to travel for Sunday Eucharist and for confession. I think I speak for all of us in our sense that their hearts are very close to us in their desire for monastic community life. They left with our Psalters and other liturgical texts as well."

These two, Sister Celeste and Sister Julie, have stayed in touch and recently let us know that they have the required permission to do their three month "novitiate" here with us. As with many things, this came through only recently, although their hopes to come next month, arriving right after Dormition, have remained steady. In the meantime, they have added a postulant, Jessica. Since we have room, all three women will be staying with us in the monastery.

I have worked out a schedule with Sister Celeste, giving them time with us as well as giving them and us time to ourselves. Of course they will be attending the daily services with us and doing their share of work -- last summer they worked very hard indeed, and we think the extra time they take will be more than made up by their help. We ask your prayers for them and for us, that this will be for our mutual upbuilding.

We are expecting that they will return as scheduled at the end of October. They have recently discovered, however, that they do not have the control of the property that has been offered to them. Sister Celeste has said more than once "We may just stay with you." I do not want to set that up now as the goal. If it happens, from what we know now it would be a great blessing, but I'd rather be happily surprised if it does, than disappointed if it doesn't...

Our own seeker, Susanna, arrives tomorrow from London, England with a friend who is paying their way. They will be with us for close to 2 weeks. The friend has been attempting to live as something of a deaconess sister with the blessing of their mutual parish priest. She is interested in looking at our monastery as a seeker as well, so we will see what the result of this may be. They have both visited the sisters at Tolleshunt Knights, love them dearly, but are looking for a more traditional monastic life. As of now, God willing, Susanna plans to return to test her vocation here shortly Great Lent [sic]. Another woman, a 61-year-old widow with grown children, visited us last week. She is definitely seeking and whatever the final result, we know we will be hearing more from her. She is in excellent health, prayed and worked hard while she is here...

Other, less exciting news: The young lady who applied to come as an intern from Russia is here for about a month. I think I told you that we now have an official application for this, physical required etc. She is our third intern, and this is a "program" that is helping us as well as them.

The young man who has been cutting our grass this summer approached us recently to ask if he could give us a quote on the privacy fence we have wanted to put up (where the very bedraggled snow fence has been). He did, it sounded good, the posts are up and God willing the fence will be in place by next week. We can only be grateful that our savings account is allowing this.

This morning we sent most of our buck kids to the auction and the barn is suddenly quieter. We have sold several of our milking does, although the woman who has bought some of them isn't coming for them for another week or so. We're looking forward to that. As always, we are enjoying the cheese...

We're asking the Prophet Elijah not to stop the rains for 3 years. We've had more than our share recently, but we'll be grateful not to go from feast to famine. Still, with our planet in the state it's in, I guess we'll all just learn to live with whatever comes!

We hope all is well with all of you. Let us know how you all are doing!

With love and prayers (and trusting in yours),

Mother Raphaela

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- **Barbara Daley** is asking for volunteers to help make perogi (for Perogi fest 2011) in the months of August and September. Please contact her at 866-7834 .
- **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.