

# 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!

December 4, 2011	Glorification of Hieromartyr Alexander Hotovitsky	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
December 6	Tuesday Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker	Liturgy at Holy Myrrhbearers' Monastery	10 am
December 10	Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
December 11	25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Forefathers	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

**Saints of the Day:** Great-martyr Barbara and Martyr Juliana at Heliapolis in Syria (306). Venerable John Damascene (760). New Hieromartyrs Priests Alexis, John, Alexander and Nicholas, Deacon Basil and with him 10 Martyrs (1918). New Hieromartyr Priest Demetrius, Virgin-martyrs Ecaterine and Cyra (1937). New Hieromartyr Damascene, Bishop of Glukhov (1935) and his father Priest Nicholas (Tsedrik). Venerable John, Bishop of Polybotum (716). Saint Gennadius, Archbishop of Novgorod (1504). New Hieromartyr Seraphim, Bishop of Phanar. Martyrs Christodula and Chistodulus.

**Please remember in your prayers:** Nettie, Maria, Michael, Mother Raphaela, John, Hilda, James, JoAnne, Ada, Priest Sergius, Louellen, Nancy, Rea, Archpriest Jason, Susan, Daniel, Aaron, Mark, Jennifer, Nina, Nadine, Michael, Anna, Gregory, Jim, Marianna, Mykola, Helen, Isaiah, Archpriest Vincent, Albert, Kevin, Robert, Robert, Andrew, David, Warren, Archimandrites Alexander, Athanasy, Isidore, Nectarios, Pachomy.

**God Grant Many Years!** Prayers for the health of Maria Greendyke were offered November 24 and 27 at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of cousin Paul Udics, Esther Kappanadze and Joseph Udics were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Father John Udics.

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of Paul and Kay Sokol, Deanna Rosenburg and Andrew Homyk were offered at Liturgy and Litiya November 27.

**The Holy Great-martyr Barbara.** This glorious follower of Christ was betrothed to Christ from early childhood. Her father Dioscorus was a pagan and was renowned for his position and wealth in the city of Heliopolis in Egypt. Dioscorus locked up his only daughter Barbara, brilliant in mind and of beautiful countenance, in a high tower. He surrounded her with every comfort, gave her female servants, erected idols for worship, and built her a bathing room with two windows. Looking through the window at the earth below and the starry heavens above, Barbara's mind was opened by the grace of God. She recognized the One True God, the Creator, despite the fact that she did not have a human teacher to bring her to this knowledge. Once, while her father was away from the city, she came down from the tower and, according to God's providence, met some Christian women who revealed the true Faith of Christ to her. Barbara's heart became inflamed with love for Christ the Lord. She ordered that a third window be cut open in the bath so that the three windows would represent the Holy Trinity. On one wall she traced a Cross with her finger, and the Cross etched itself deep in the stone as if cut by a chisel. A pool of water sprang forth from her footprints on the floor of the bath, which later gave healing of diseases to many. Learning of his daughter's faith, Dioscorus beat her severely and drove her from the tower. He pursued her in order to kill her, but a cliff opened up and hid Barbara from her brutal father. When she appeared again, her father brought her to Martianus, the magistrate, who handed her over for torture. They stripped the innocent Barbara and flogged her until her entire body was covered with blood and wounds, but the Lord Himself appeared to her in prison with His angels and healed her. A certain woman, Juliana, upon seeing this, desired martyrdom for herself. Both women were severely tortured and with mockery were led through the city. Their breasts were cut off and much blood flowed from them. They were finally led to the place of execution, where Dioscorus himself slaughtered his daughter, and Juliana was slain by the soldiers. That same day, lightning struck the house of Dioscorus, killing him and Martianus. Saint Barbara suffered in the year 306. Her miracle-working relics rest in Kiev. Glorified in the Kingdom of Christ, she has appeared many times even in our own day, sometimes alone and sometimes in the company of the Most-holy Mother of God.

**Saint John Damascene** was first the chief minister to Caliph Abdul-Malik and later a monk in the Monastery of Saint Sava the Sanctified. Because of his ardent defense of the veneration of icons during the reign of the iconoclastic Emperor Leo the Isaurian, John was maligned by the emperor to the Caliph, who cut off his right hand. John fell down in prayer before the icon of the Most-holy Theotokos, and his hand was rejoined and miraculously healed. Seeing this miracle the Caliph repented, but John no longer desired to remain with him as a nobleman. Instead, he withdrew to a monastery, where, from the beginning, he was a model to the monks in humility, obedience and all the prescribed rules of monastic asceticism. John composed the Funeral Hymns and compiled the Octoechos (The Book of Eight Tones), the Irmologion, the Menologion and the Paschal Canon, and he wrote many theological works of inspiration and profundity. A great monk, hymnographer, theologian

and soldier for the truth of Christ, Damascene is numbered among the great Fathers of the Church. He entered peacefully into rest in about the year 776 at the age of 104.

**Saint Gennadius, Archbishop of Novgorod** was a distinguished writer, a champion of truth, and one who suffered for the truth of Christ. He gathered the various books of Sacred Scripture into one book and compiled the key for determining the date of Pascha (the Paschalion) for the next 532 years. He entered into rest in the Lord in the year 1505. His miracle-working relics rest in the Chudov Monastery in Moscow.

## REFLECTION

Obedience, coupled with humility, is the foundation of the spiritual life, the foundation of salvation and the foundation of the overall structure of the Church of God. The great John Damascene-great in every good thing-as a monk left a deep impression on the history of the Church by his exceptional example of obedience and humility. Testing him one day, his elder and spiritual father handed him woven baskets and ordered him to take them to Damascus and sell them there. The elder established a very high price for the baskets, thinking that John would not be able to sell them at that price but would have to return with them. John, therefore, firstly had to go on a long journey; secondly, he had to go as a poor monk to the city where he, at one time, had been the most powerful man after the Caliph; thirdly, he had to seek a ridiculously high price for the baskets; and fourthly, should he not sell the baskets, he would have made this enormous journey, there and back, for nothing. In this way, the elder wished to test the obedience, humility and patience of his famous disciple. John silently prostrated before the elder and, without a word, took the baskets and started on his journey. Arriving in Damascus, he stood in the market place and awaited a buyer. When he told the interested passers-by the price of his goods, they laughed at and mocked him as a lunatic. He stood there the whole day, and the whole day he was exposed to derision and ridicule. But God, Who sees all things, did not abandon His patient servant. A certain citizen passed by and looked at John. Even though John was clad in a poor monk's habit and his face was withered and pale from fasting, this citizen recognized in him the one-time lord and first minister of the Caliph, in whose service he had also been. John also recognized him, but they both began to deal as strangers. Even though John named the all-too-high price of the baskets, the citizen purchased and paid for them without a word, recalling the good that John Damascene had once done for him. As a victor, holy John returned to the monastery rejoicing, and brought joy to his elder.

**Thank you!** to everyone who cooked, baked, pinched, peeled, set up, cleaned up, tore down, ate, bought and participated in every way to make our Sisterhood Bazaar a great success. God bless those who love the beauty of His house!

## FOR YOUR CALENDARS:

December 11: NEXT Sunday: **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AND DINNER**, after Divine Liturgy.

December 18: **Parish Council Meeting** (Third Sunday of the Month)

December 25 **Sunday Breakfast** at Coffee Hour will be held Sunday, January 1, 2012

## End of the Year – Annual Report

As we approach the end of the year, it's time to take stock of what has happened in our parish and time to begin to plan for what we would like to happen in the future. The Annual Report is a good way to see this information and now is the time for all the various reports for the annual report to be submitted. We would like to ask all of those who are responsible to submit your reports – as soon as possible. This is all normal and usual, and we should have been preparing these reports (we all have calendars!). The deadline for submitting reports is December 18, after which we will compile them for the annual report document, which we would like to have printed and ready for an annual meeting soon after the start of the new year, proposed for January 22, 2012.

## HOMILY on how everything is good that is of God by Saint Nikolai of Zhicha

*And God saw that it was good* (Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25).

Brethren, only good works proceed from the good Creator. Therefore, let all those who say that both good and evil proceed from God be silent. After His every act, God Himself affirms that it is good. Six times He repeated that what He created was good, and finally, the seventh time, when He saw all in its entirety, He pronounced His judgment that all He had created was very good (Genesis 1:31). Therefore, in total He repeated seven times that everything was good that came into existence by His holy will. Is it not a great wonder that some people come up with the godless assertion that both good and evil equally proceed from God? God, as if He knew that such slanders would be cast against Him – or, better to say, that such slanders would be cast throughout the centuries – gave His defense in advance and repeated it seven times, for all times and for all generations. Evil comes from sin, and there is no sin in God. Therefore, God can do no evil. He is called the Almighty because He is powerful to do every good. Wicked and twisted are the commentators on God who claim that God is “Almighty” because He can do both good and evil. God is the source of good and is darkened by nothing, and nothing can proceed from Him that is contrary to good. It is obvious to every normal man that evil is contrary to good. Know, brethren, that those who speak of duality in God, in the eternal Source of good, are those in whom is found the duality of good and evil. However, all those who love good, follow the path of goodness, and yearn for good have a clear revelation within themselves that God is good, and only good.

O our God, our Creator, Thou art the Creator of all good, and all Thy works are good. To Thee be glory and praise forever. Amen.