

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 15, 2012 Sunday after Epiphany

January 21 Saturday

January 22 Sunday

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Great Vespers 4:00 pm

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Saints of the Day: Venerable Monks Paul of Thebes, Egypt (341), and John Calabytes ("Hut-dweller") of Constantinople (450). New Hieromartyr Priest Michael (1942). New Hieromartyr Benjamin, Bishop of Romanov (1930). Monk-martyr Pansophius of Alexandria (249-251). Venerable Abbot Prochorus in Vranski Desert on the river Pchinja in Bulgaria (10th c.). Venerable Gabriel, founder of Lesnovo Monastery, Serbia-Bulgaria (980). Saint Gerasimus, Patriarch of Alexandria (1714). Saint Maximus, Bishop of Nola (250). Venerable Maurus, disciple of Saint Benedict (584). Saint Salome of Udjarma and Saint Perozhavra of Sivia, Georgia (4th c.). Venerable Barlaam of Keret Lake near the White Sea (16th c.). Saint Ita of Limerick (570). King Ceolwulf of Northumbria, England and Monk at Lindisfarne (764). Saint Lleudadd of Bardsey, Abbot (6th c.). Saint Sawl (6th c.).

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 Robert Pratt and sister Marie Culp were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Robert Culp.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Archpriest Jason and Matushka Margaret Kappanadze were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben for their wedding anniversary at the request of Father John Udics.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Dr Bill Mazur were offered today for his birthday at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of newly-departed Nicholas Papaharalambos were offered at Liturgy and Litiya January 8 at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Protopresbyter Pavel Souček were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Father John Udics.

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

Memory Eternal. Anniversary Prayers for the repose of cousin Joseph Udics were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Walter Jovorosky were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of "Memory Eternal Requiem Service Fund."

FOR YOUR CALENDARS

January 9 House Blessing began by arrangement – contact Father at your earliest convenience

January 22 Deadline for reports for the Annual Report

January 29 General Parish Meeting and Election of Council Officers

Venerable Paul of Thebes was born of wealthy parents in Lower Thebes in Egypt during the reign of Emperor Decius. Paul, along with his sister, inherited all the property of their parents. But his brother-in-law, an idolater, wanted to confiscate Paul's share of the property and threatened to betray Paul before the judge as a Christian if he did not cede his property to him. On one hand, that misfortune and on the other hand those heroic examples of self-sacrifices of Christian martyrs which Paul saw with his own eyes motivated him to give his share of the property to his sister and he, as a pauper, withdrew into the desert where he lived an ascetical life until his death. To what spiritual heights this ascetical giant reached is witnessed by no less a person than Saint Anthony the Great who, at one time, visited Paul and saw how the wild beasts and birds of heaven ministered to him. Returning from this visit, Anthony said to his monks, "Woe is me, my children! A sinful and false monk that I am, a monk only in name. I saw Elijah, I saw John in the wilderness and, in truth, I saw Paul in Paradise!" Saint Paul lived one-hundred thirteen years and peacefully died in the Lord in the year 342 A.D.

REFLECTION by Saint Nikolai of Zhicha. Do not ever think that God does not hear you when you pray to Him. He hears our thoughts just as we hear the voices and the words of one another. And, if He does not act immediately according to your prayer, i.e., either because you are praying to Him in an unworthy manner or because you ask something of Him which would be detrimental to you, or, because He, in His wisdom and providence delays the fulfillment of your petition until the proper moment. Saint John of Kronstadt writes: "As by means of the electric telegraph we speedily communicate with persons who are far away from us, so, likewise, by means of lively faith, as though through the telegraph wires, we speedily communicate with God,

with the angels and saints. As we entirely trust to the speed of the electric current and to its reaching its destination, so likewise, we should completely trust to the speed of the prayer of faith and to it reaching its destination. Send your petition to God and the saints by means of the telegraph of faith and you will speedily obtain an answer." And again, in another place Saint John writes: "God and the created spirits and the souls of the departed as well as those of the living are thinking beings and thought is rapid and in some sort omnipresent. Think of them with your whole heart and they will be present with you. God will always be with you and necessarily so by the gift and power of God, the others will also be with you."

HOMILY About the victorious faith by Saint Nikolai of Zhicha

"And the victory that conquers the world in our faith" (I John 5:4).

Christ the Lord conquered the world. That, brethren, is also our victory. The apostles conquered the world and that is our victory. The saints, virgins and martyrs conquered the world and that is our victory. Brethren, there is nothing more powerful in the world than the Christian Faith. The swords that struck this Faith became blunt and broken but the Faith remained. The kings who fought against this Faith were smothered under the anathema of crimes. The kingdoms that waged war against this Faith are destroyed. The towns that rejected this Faith lay demolished in their ruins. The heretics who corrupted this Faith perished in soul and body and under anathema departed from this world, and this Faith remained.

Brethren, when the world pursues us with its temptations: the temptation of external beauty, the temptation of riches, the temptation of pleasure, the temptation of transient glory; with what shall we resist and by what shall we be victorious if not by this Faith? In truth, by nothing except by this invincible Faith which knows about something better than all the wealth of this world.

When all the temptations of this world reveal the opposite side of their faces, when beauty turns into ugliness, health into sickness, riches into poverty, glory into dishonor, authority into humiliation and all blossoming physical life into filth and stench--by what shall we overcome this grief, this decay, this fifth and stench, and to preserve oneself from despair, if not by this Faith? In truth, by nothing except this invincible Faith which teaches us eternal and unchangeable values in the Kingdom of Christ.

When death shows its destructive power over our neighbors, over our relatives and our families, over our flowers, over our crops, over the works of our hands and, when it turns its irresistible teeth even on us, by what shall we conquer the fear of death and by what shall we unlock the doors of life, stronger than death, if not by this Faith? In truth, by nothing except this invincible Faith, which knows about the resurrection and life without death.

O Lord Jesus, the Conqueror of the world, help us also to conquer the world with faith in You.

Saint Ita of Limerick, Virgin (Deirdre, Dorothy, Ida, Ide, Meda, Mida, Ytha). Died c. 570. Saint Ita is the most famous woman saint in Ireland after Saint Brigid (f.d. February 1), and is known as the Brigid of Munster. She is said to have been of royal lineage, born in one of the baronies of Decies near Drum in County Waterford, and called Deirdre.

An aristocrat wished to marry her, but after praying and fasting for three days and supposedly with divine help, she convinced her father to allow her to lead the life of a maiden. She migrated to Hy Conaill (Killeedy), in the western part of Limerick, and founded a community of women dedicated to God, which soon attracted many young women. She also founded and directed a school. It is said that Bishop Saint Erc gave into her care Saint Brendan (f.d. May 16), who would become a famous abbot and missionary (though the chronology makes this unlikely). Many other Irish saints were taught by her for years. For this reason, she is often called "foster-mother of the saints of Ireland."

Brendan once asked her what three things God especially loved.

She replied, "True faith in God with a pure heart,
a simple life with a religious spirit,
and open-handedness inspired by charity."

An Irish lullaby for the Infant Jesus is attributed to her. Saint Ita's legend stresses her physical austerities. The principle mark of her devotion was the indwelling of the Holy Trinity. Like other monastic figures of Ireland, she spent much time in solitude, praying and fasting, and the rest of the time in service to those seeking her assistance and advice.

She and her sisters helped to treat the sick of the area. Many miracles are also attributed to her including one in which she reattached the head to the body of a man who'd been decapitated, and another that she lived only on food from heaven.

Saint Ceolwulf (Ceowulf, Ceolwulph), King, Monk. Died 764. King Ceolwulf of Northumbria, England, abdicated his throne after reigning for eight years to become a monk at Lindisfarne. Ceolwulf ascended the throne of Northumbria in 729 and just two years later he was captured and forcibly tonsured. Later that year he was released and continued his rule.

God was working even in the evil of civil unrest. In 737 or 738, Ceolwulf did indeed willingly give up civil power in exchange for the grace of the evangelical counsels at Lindisfarne. He was so highly venerated that the Venerable Bede (f.d. May 25) dedicated his "Ecclesiastical History" to "the Most Glorious King Ceolwulf." Bede praised Ceolwulf's piety but was reserved regarding the king's ability to govern.

At Lindisfarne, which he endowed so generously that the monks could then afford to drink beer or wine on feast days (formerly, like many ascetics, they drank only water or milk), Ceolwulf encouraged learning and the monastic lifestyle. Ceolwulf was buried near Saint Cuthbert (f.d. March 20) at the monastery, where miracles proved his sanctity. The relics of both saints were translated in 830 to Egred's new church at Norham-on-Tweed. Later Ceolwulf's head was transferred to Durham.