

ICHC NTKRA SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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CHRIST IS RISEN! ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕС! ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!

اقام لمسيح! **KHRISTA AMAFOOFOOKA!** ქრისტე აღსდგა!

KRISTUS ER OPPSTANDEN! ΠΙΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΒΤΟΝΦ ΕΒΟΛ!

CA CRIOST AR EIRI! 그리스도께서 부활하셨습니다! **KRISTUS NOUSI KUOLLEISTA!**

April 29, 2012 Sunday of the Myrrhbearing Women

May 5 Saturday

May 6 Sunday of the Paralytic

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Great Vespers 4:00 pm

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Saints of the Day: Nine Martyrs at Cyzicus: Theognes, Rufus, Antipater, Theostichus, Artemas, Magnus, Theodotus, Thaumasius, and Philemon (3 c.). Venerable Memnon the Wonderworker of Corfu (2 c.). Venerable Nektarius of Optina (1928). Venerable Amphilochius of Pochaev (1970). Martyrs Diodorus and Deacon Rhodopianus, at Aphrodisia in Anatolia (284-305). Saint Basil, Bishop of Ostrog in Montenegro (1671). Saint John of Romania. Holy Martyrs of Lazeti (Georgia) (17-18 c.). Venerable Deacon Secundellas, in Gaul. Apostles Jason and Sosipater of the Seventy. Saint John, Metropolitan of Thebes, the New Merciful One (12 c.). Saint John Tolaius, Patriarch of Alexandria (482). Saint Nicetas, Abbot of Synnada (9 c.). Saint Arsenius, Archbishop of Suzdal (1627). New Martyr Stanko the Shepherd of Montenegro (1712). Saint Nicephorus of Sebaste (9 c.). Saint Endelienta (Endellion), Nun-recluse of Cornwall.

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

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Priest Sergius Willis were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Diane Witiak, Daniel Witiak and all their family were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Archpriest Jerome and Matushka Wendy Cwiklinski, Samuel Werner, John Michael Mikuluk, Richard Morgan, Priest Geoffrey Korz and Priest Michael Dunbar were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Mark Bobyk were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of sister Irene Ptasznik.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of newly-departed Jim Foliart were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Bishop STEFAN (Lasko) and Patriarch PIMEN 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 were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of "Memory Eternal Requiem Service Fund."

REFLECTION by Saint Nikolai of Zhicha. At the time of the First Ecumenical Council [Nicaea, 325 A.D.], the quarreling clerics wrote accusations one against the other and presented them to the emperor. Emperor Constantine received all of these accusations and not opening them, burned them over a flaming candle. To the amazement of those around him, the emperor said: "If I would see with my own eyes a bishop, a priest or a monk in a sinful act, I would cover him with my cloak, so that no one would ever see his sin." Thus, this great Christian emperor embarrassed the scandal mongers and sealed their mouths. Our Faith prohibits us to be spies of the sins of others and stresses that we be merciless judges of our own sins. The sick person in the hospital is concerned with his own particular malady so that he has neither the will nor the time to question others who are ill or to mock their illness. Are we not all in this world as patients in a hospital? Does not our own common sense underline that we look at our own illness and not at another's illness? Let no one think that they will be cured of their illness in the other world. This world is merely a hospital and a place for healing and, in that world, there is no hospital; there is only a mansion or only a prison.

HOMILY About the power of God in the weakness of men

"For when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:10).

There are no contradictions in Holy Scripture and even in these words there are no contradictions even though they sound like it. The physical is governed by sound and the spiritual by thought. For physical man, there are contradictions everywhere for he is afraid of obstacles and flees from a shadow if this shadow seems to be an obstacle for him. The spiritual man is like a knight who likes to overcome obstacles. For the spiritual man, hidden in these words of Scripture, is the entire teaching about salvation.

"For when I am weak, then I am strong." That is, when I am cognizant of my nothingness and the omnipotence of God, then I am strong. When I know that I, of myself alone, cannot do any good neither for myself nor for others and when I totally entrust myself in the power and mercy of God, then I am strong. When I sense that I am as a drowning person in this world and that I am not in the position to grab on to the extended hand of God, to hold on to it by my own strength, rather cry out to God that He with His hand grab hold of my hand and pull me out of the depths of sinful abyss, then I am strong. When I see that I am weak and that I am a hollow reed amidst the tempest of winds and floods; a reed which God is able to fill with His Almighty Grace and when I pray with faith for God's Grace, then I am strong.

O, my weak brethren, let us entrust ourselves to the power of God that we, in our nothingness, may be strong. Relying on man you are weak but relying on God you are strong. Adhere to God and all the power of God will be with you. Confess your weaknesses before God and God will send you His All-powerful Grace. This is confirmed for you by the apostle through his example and through his experience: "For when I am weak, then I am strong." In truth there is no contradiction in the Holy Scripture. Physical man speaks about contradiction in terms of the sound of the word, but spiritual man enters into the meaning and shatters the illusion of contradiction through experience.

O resurrected Lord, have mercy on our weakness and fill us with Your Omnipotent Grace.

A word from the desert. The story is told that at the Monastery of Saint George, the Abbot was blessed with monks who did not have beautiful voices. The annual pilgrimage on the feast day of Saint George was not very impressive with the rather awful sounds coming from the choir. So the Abbot called together all the monks and said, "Look, this year I am going to invite the famous choir from the cathedral for the feast." Word went out and thousands of people came to the Monastery of Saint George for the feast day, and it was a glorious event. The famous choir from the cathedral was in superb form and used its best voices. The Abbot was thrilled and even the humble monks who were not allowed to sing that day were thrilled. Following the day's festivities the monks went off to sleep and the Abbot was soon sound asleep after all the excitement of the day. While he was sleeping, Saint George came to him and said, "Father, I think you missed my feast day! Today is my feast day and here you are, you didn't do anything. Have I not blessed you this past year?" And the Abbot said, "O, Saint George, I do not know where you were, but we had a glorious feast today. How could you not be here?" Saint George said, "I was in the church and I saw a great multitude of people, but I heard nothing."

Great Martyr, Victory-bearer and Wonderworker George, commemorated 23 April.

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of New York and New Jersey 35th Anniversary of the founding of Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, April 3, 2012 *Christ is in our midst! – He is and ever shall be!*

With profound joy and gratitude to God, I invite you to celebrate with me a milestone in the history of Orthodox Christian monastic spirituality in North America. On Saturday and Sunday, August 25-26, 2012, this national celebration of Orthodox monasticism will be marked by a threefold commemoration:

- 35th Anniversary of the founding of Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery in Otego, New York;
- 40th Anniversary of the reception of its Abbess, Mother Raphaela, into the monastic life;
- 50th Anniversary of one of its nuns, Mother Michaela, to the monastic tonsure.

The schedule for the weekend's events will be as follows:

Saturday, August 25, 2012

9:30 A.M. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, celebrated by members of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America; at Dormition of the Virgin Mary Church, 53 Baxter Street, Binghamton NY
Banquet to follow, at Saint Michael's Center (American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese), 296 Clinton Street, Binghamton NY

5:00 P.M. Supper, at Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, 144 Bert Washburn Road, Otego, NY **6:00 P.M. Vigil**, celebrated by His Grace, Bishop Michael, at Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery

Sunday, August 26, 2012

10:00 A.M. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, celebrated by His Grace, Bishop Michael; at Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery.

I ask that you begin ... encouraging your faithful to attend part or all of the celebration, and to personally make every effort to participate in as many of these festivities as you can. Let us express our thanks to God for blessing our Diocese with this ascetical "oasis" in our midst, by joining together in prayer and fellowship with our beloved Mother and sisters in Christ.

Further information regarding Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery can be found by visiting their website ~ www.myrrhbearersmonastery.blogspot.com ~ or by calling them at (607) 432-3179. I look forward to seeing you during the course of this very special celebration!

Devotedly yours in His service,

+ M I C H A E L

Bishop of New York and the Diocese of New York and New Jersey