

ICHC NTKA SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America
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GOD Has Gone Up With A Shout! The LORD —With the Sound of a Trumpet!

May 27, 2012	Sunday of Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
Parastas will be served after Liturgy in memory of all who gave their lives serving in the Armed Forces			
June 2	Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
June 3	Holy Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

Saints of the Day: Hieromartyr Therapon, Bishop of Sardis (259). Translation of the relics (1667) of Venerable Nilus of Stolben Island (1554). Venerable Therapontes, Abbot of Byelozersk (1426). Translation of the relics (1472) of Saints Cyprian (1406), Photius (1431), and Jonah (1461), Metropolitans of Kiev. Venerable Therapontes, Abbot of Monza (1597). Saint John the Russian, whose relics are on the Island of Euboea (1730). Virgin-martyr Theodora and Martyr Didymus the Soldier of Alexandria (304). Martyr Julius the Veteran at Dorostolum, Moesia (302) Venerable Bede the Venerable (735). Venerable Michael of Parekhi (8th-9th c.). Saint Basil of Khakhuli, son of King Bagrat III (11th c.) of Georgia. Martyr Eusebiotus. Martyr Alypius. Saint Augustine of Canterbury. Saint Melangell, Virgin.

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 Mark and Cathy Nestor and family, Michael Uzawa, Nolan David Albrecht, Matushka Fran Vansuch, and Yuji Yuga were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

**Grant Rest Eternal in blessed repose, O Lord,
to the Newly-departed CONSTANTINE, Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the USA,
and make his memory to be eternal.**

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Theresa Duuk were offered at Liturgy and Litiya May 20 and at Parastas on the Fortieth Day, May 23, at the request of Mr and Mrs John Kowansky.

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

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

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Kazmir Karpowich, Walter Alexczuk, Anna and Wasil Prawlocki and Walter Prawlocki were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of "Memory Eternal Requiem Service Fund."

Sermon on the Sunday before Pentecost, by Metropolitan Anthony of Surozh

In the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

During the Last Supper our Lord Jesus Christ told His disciples that separation was near, that He was to ascend to His God and to His Father as He would repeat again to the women who came to the grave. And when their hearts were filled with sorrow at the thought that they will not see Him again, He said, "Your hearts are full with sorrow and yet, you should rejoice for Me that I am returning to My Father. But I will not," he added, "leave you orphan, I will send you the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father, whom I will send to you and who will teach you all things." And so do we here now while we are still in the light of the Ascension.

St. Paul grieved about the necessity of living in the world and in the flesh. He said, "To me life is Christ and death would be a gain, a blessing, because as long as we are in the flesh, we are separated from Christ." And yet, this separation is not total, we are not separated irremediably, we are not separated desperately from Christ if we only long for Him, if we only love Him as St. Paul who longed to die to be inseparably forever with Him.

Because according to the promise the Holy Spirit has come on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit whom we call the Comforter by a word, which in ancient languages has a much wider meaning. It means the one who consoles, the one who gives strength, the one who brings joy. His presence indeed can console us from our separation from Christ because the Holy Spirit, if we only live according to the Gospel, if we become not only in word or in imagination but in all truth, in action and in thought, in our heart and in our being disciples of Christ, the Holy Spirit dwells in us. We become His temples and He speaks to us either in unutterable groaning

or with that wonderful clarity that allows us to call 'Father' the God of Heaven because in Christ and by the power of the Spirit we have become the children of the Living God.

So the separation from Christ is a separation in space, it is the loss of that moving, wonderful contact of humanity as we know it on earth but it is the beginning of a new discovery of Christ, the Christ not only risen but ascended, the Christ who according to today's Gospel is resplendent with the glory, the shining that belonged to Him before all ages, the shining, the resplendence, the splendor of Divinity. And it is this Christ whom we meet in prayer, whom we discover through and in the Holy Sacraments, to whom we can get united only by a faithfulness in life, it is this Christ of whom Paul speaks when he says, "We no longer know Christ according to the flesh". We do not touch Him as Thomas did, we do not hear and see Him as Apostles and the women, and all crowds of people did, but we know the Christ of the Spirit, the risen and ascended Christ, who is everywhere where two or three are gathered together, who is everywhere when a lonely soul cries for Him, when a life is being dedicated to Him.

And so we are confronted with this mystery of a separation, which is a victory, a separation, which leads us to a new knowledge, to a new discovery of Christ. His Divinity is no longer veiled for us by His human presence, He is revealed to us as God resplendent not only in His Godhead but also in His humanity. And so it happens also all the time when people meet on a human level and then discover one another in the Holy Spirit, a discovery that makes humanity resplendent with eternity.

Let us rejoice in the Ascension but also let us remember that in a week's time we will stand here remembering the day of Pentecost, not only remember it as an event of the past but bringing it back by presenting ourselves to the descent of the Holy Spirit as the Apostles offered themselves to Him in the Upper Room nearly 2,000 years ago. But to do this we must be disciples of Christ, we must be His own, we must be faithful to the word of His preaching, we must follow the example which He gave us, we must truly be in the world in which we live an incarnate presence of Christ and a temple of the Spirit, a vanguard of the Kingdom.

Let us devote the coming week to preparing ourselves by searching our lives, by rejecting at least in intention and determination all that is unworthy of our calling. Let us prepare ourselves to come open, empty - to be filled with the Spirit, so that we truly may be also in an ever-increasing way become the temples of His presence. Amen.

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FOR YOUR CALENDAR

May 28 Monday – Annual Pilgrimage to Saint Tikhon's Monastery, South Canaan, Pennsylvania. With the visiting Myrrh-Streaming Icon of the Mother of God, from Hawaii – for more information, see flyers at the candle desk and on the internet at: <http://sttikhonsmonastery.org/>

June 3 Pentecost: BBQ lunch before we go to bless graves at the cemetery

July 7 Parish Picnic on our Parish grounds in beautiful East Herkimer, from 11:30 am

August 25/26 Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery Anniversary

September after Labor Day Church School begins

September 23, 2012 Perohi and Polka Fest, Herkimer VFW Hall, 4 – 8 pm

October 21 Harvest Dinner

November 17 Saturday: Fall Bazaar

December 9 Christmas Pageant

May 6, 2016 Saints Peter and Paul Parish 100th Anniversary Celebration

The Diocesan ***Parish Council Conference*** has been scheduled for our Deanery. This conference is an integral part of strengthening parish communities, empowering faithful leadership, and building a solid foundation for church growth and health. **Parish rectors and council members are expected to attend one of the conferences** -- either in their respective deaneries or, if schedules will not permit it, one of the other sessions. *The critical importance of full participation by all persons serving on parish councils has been clearly emphasized by Bishop Michael and was enthusiastically affirmed by the Diocesan Council at its meeting.* Our **New York State Deanery ~ June 23, 2012 ~ Endicott NY**

The Conference, be led by Maureen Jury (Diocese of the South; Metropolitan Council) will focus on financial stewardship. The topic is timely and vital; the expertise and experiences that Maureen brings to the discussion will certainly lead to the sharing of ideas, concerns, successes/failures, and begin a process of future development.

A good source for the most current information is the diocesan website: **nynjoca.org**

The Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) is the official college campus ministry of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in North and South America. It provides our college and university students a connection to Christ and His Church through chapters, regional events and other programs.

They have established a new program called 'The First Forty Days,' an outreach program to incoming college students across the USA. During the first forty days of the 2012 fall semester, local OCF students and chaplains will try to make personal contact with all new students in order to provide them with information regarding the local OCF chapter and local Orthodox parishes.

We ask our parishioners to provide Father with the names, addresses and other information about all our college students, especially incoming freshmen.