



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!

June 24, 2012	Sunday. Nativity of the Holy Glorious Baptist John	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
June 29	Friday: Feast of the Glorious Apostles Peter and Paul	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
June 30	Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
July 1	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

Saints of the Day: Nativity of Saint John the Baptist. All Saints of Brittain and Ireland. Venerable Anthony, Abbot of Dymisk (Novgorod) (1224). Righteous Youths John (1566) and James (1569) of Meniugi (Novgorod). Martyrs Orentius, Pharnacius, Eros, Firmus, Firminus, Cyriacus, and Longinus, in Georgia (3rd c.). Saint Nicetas, Bishop of Remesiana (414). Venerable Monk John, of Yaransk (Solovki) (1561). Saint Michael, Great Prince of Tver (1319). New Martyr Panagiotes of Caesarea in Cappadocia (1765). Translation of the relics (1492) of Martyr John the New (1332) to Suceava, Romania. Synaxis of the Righteous Zacharias and Elizabeth. Saint John the Hermit of Bohemia (904). Saint Athanasius of Paros (1813). Saint Gerasim (Dobroserdov), bishop of Astrakhan and Enotaeva (1880). Saint Gerome, Bishop and King, Patrol of Cornwall.

Please remember in your prayers: Priest Sergius, Zara, Nolan, Emelie, Connie, Michael, Ed, Maria, Michael, Mother Raphaela, John, Hilda, James, 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, Isidore, Nectarios, Pachomy.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of newly baptized and chrismated Fred (Guy) Miller, Laura Miller and Victoria Hayes were offered June 17 at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Archimandrite Athanasy Mastalsky, Yoshio Chinone, Rose Udics and Jim Gomes, Paul Dreater, Priest Thaddaeus Werner and Archimandrite Pachomy Belkoff at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Fortieth Day Prayers for the repose of the soul of Julia Kuba were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Mrs Stephanie Litwen.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the soul of Joseph Rinko were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Mr and Mrs John Rinko.

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

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the souls of Archpriest John Platko, Matushka Mary Ann Bohush, Metropolitan THEOPHILUS, uncle John Kurap and cousin Joe Kushner were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Father John Udics.

A word from the desert, from Saint Philotheos of Sinai, 9th century. Smoke from wood that is kindling a fire troubles the eyes; but then, the fire gives them light and gladdens them. Similarly, unceasing attentiveness is irksome; but when, invoked in prayer, Jesus draws near, He illumines the heart; for remembrance of Him confers on us spiritual enlightenment and the highest of all blessings.

THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE FORERUNNER AND BAPTIZER OF THE LORD. Six months before his appearance in Nazareth to the All-holy Virgin Mary, the great archangel of God, Gabriel appeared to Zacharias the high priest in the Temple at Jerusalem. Before he announced the miraculous conception to the unwed virgin [Mary], the archangel announced the miraculous conception to the childless old woman [Elizabeth]. Zacharias did not immediately believe the words of the herald of God and this is why his tongue was tied with dumbness and remained as such until eight days after the birth of John. On that day, the relatives of Zacharias and Elizabeth gathered for the young child's circumcision and for the sake of giving him a name. When they asked the father what name he wishes to give to his son and being dumb, he wrote on a tablet: "John." At that moment his tongue became loosed and he began to speak. The home of Zacharias was on the heights between Bethlehem and Hebron. The news of the appearance of the angel of God to Zacharias was spread throughout all of Israel, as well as of his dumbness and the loosening of his tongue at thee moment when he wrote the name "John." The news concerning this even reached Herod. Therefore, when Herod sent soldiers to slay the children throughout Bethlehem, he directed men to the hilly dwelling place of the family of Zacharias to kill John also. However, Elizabeth promptly hid the child. Enraged, at this King Herod sent his executioners to Zacharias in the Temple to slay him (for it happened that it was Zacharias' turn again to serve in the Temple of Jerusalem). Zacharias was slain between the court and the temple and his blood coagulated and petrified on the stone pavers and remained a perpetual witness against Herod. Elizabeth hid with the child in a cave where she died soon after. The young child John remained in the wilderness alone under the care of God and God's angels.

SAINT GEROME, BISHOP AND KING (also Germoe, Germoc, Germanus Mac Guill) Bishop (date unknown.) Patron of Germoe (Cornwall), he was probably one of a party of Irish monks who settled in Cornwall before most of them moved on to Gaul. But Germoe, says Leland, was buried at Germoe; his chair was in the churchyard and his well a little outside it. The Legend of Breage, however, names Germoe a king; a 15th century fresco representing him with crown and sceptre survives in Breage church. Another identifies him as the founder of a chain of churches in Brittany.

SAINT NICETAS, BISHOP OF REMESIANA was a friend and the same age as Saint Paulinus of Nola (January 23). It appears that he was a Slav and, as such, preached the Gospel among the Slavs in the region of Nish and Piroto. The kind of change that Saint Nicetas did among the Slavs is best shown in the hymn which Saint Paulinus composed about Saint Nicetas: "O what a change! And how fortunate!" Until then the impassible and bloody mountains concealing robbers now converted into monks; cadets of peace. Where once the habits of wild beasts, there is now the feature of angels. The righteous one hides in a cave where earlier, the evildoer dwelled. The episcopal see of Nicetas was Remesiana which some understand to be Piroto. Along with his missionary service, Saint Nicetas also wrote several books such as the six books about Faith and a book about a fallen maiden (which aroused many to repentance). Saint Nicetas reposed in the Lord in the fifth century.

THE HOLY MARTYRS ORENTIUS, PHARNACIUS, EROS, FIRMUS, FIRMINUS, CYRIACUS AND LONGINUS were all brothers and Roman soldiers during the reign of Emperor Maximian. When the Romans were waging war against the Scythians beyond the Danube river, Saint Orentius came forth to battle with Marathom, the Scythian Goliath, and slew him. Because of this, the entire Roman army offered sacrifices to the gods but Orentius, with his brothers, declared that they were Christians and could not offer sacrifices to the deaf and dumb idols. Regardless of their military merits, they were condemned to exile to the Caspian region however, along the way, all seven, one after the other, died from hunger and sufferings and took up habitation in the Kingdom of Christ.

A word from the desert. It was said of a brother that he had to fight against blasphemy and he was ashamed to admit it. He went where he heard some great old men lived to see them, in order to open his heart to them but when he got there, he was ashamed to admit his temptation. So he kept going because he wanted to see Abba Poemen. The old man saw he was worried, and he was sorry he did not tell him what was wrong. So one day he forestalled him and said, "For a long time you have been coming here to tell me what is troubling you, and when you are here you will not tell me about it, but each time you go away unhappy, keeping your thoughts to yourself. Now tell me, my child, what it is all about." He said to him, "The demon wars against me to make me blaspheme God and I am ashamed to say so." So he told him all about it and immediately he was relieved. The old man said to him, "Do not be unhappy, my child, but every time this thought comes to you say, 'It is no affair of mine, may your blasphemy remain upon you, Satan, for my soul does not want it.' Now everything that the soul does not desire, does not long remain," and the brother went away healed.

Against malicious rejoicing – a Homily by Saint Nikolai of Zhicha

"Rejoice not when your enemy falls and when he stumbles, let not your heart exult" (Proverbs 24:17).

He is a man, do not rejoice in his fall. He is your brother, let not your heart skip for joy when he stumbles. God created him for life and God does not rejoice in his fall. And you also, do not rejoice at that which grieves God. When man falls, God loses; would you rejoice in the loss of your Creator, your Parent? When the angels weep would you rejoice?

When your enemy falls, pray to God for him that God will save him and give thanks to God that you did not also fall in the same manner. You are of the same material, both you and he, as two vessels from the hand of the potter. If one vessel breaks should the other smile and rejoice? Behold, a small stone, which broke that vessel waits only for another's hand to raise it and then to destroy this vessel also. Both vessels are of the same material and a small stone can destroy a hundred vessels.

When one sheep is lost, should the remaining flock rejoice? No. They should not rejoice. For behold, the shepherd leaves his flock and, concerned, goes to seek the lost sheep. The loss of the shepherd is the loss of the flock. Therefore, do not rejoice when your enemy falls, for neither your shepherd nor his shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ, rejoices in his fall.

O Lord Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, extricate malicious joy from our hearts and in its place, plant in our hearts compassion and brotherly love.

To You be glory and thanks always. Amen.

Congratulations! to Natalie Chlus on her graduation from college.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR June 23 Diocesan *Parish Council Conference*, Endicott, NY – all day
July 7 Parish Picnic on our Parish grounds in beautiful East Herkimer, from 11:30 am
August 12 Sunday Saint Ann's Sisterhood Meeting during coffee hour
August 25/26 Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery Anniversary
September 16 Perohi and Polka Fest, Herkimer VFW Hall, 4 – 8 pm
October 21 Harvest Dinner
November 17 Saturday: Fall Bazaar
December 9 Christmas Pageant
October 14/15, 2016 Saints Peter and Paul Parish 100th Anniversary Celebration