

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!

July 8, 2012	Fifth Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
July 14	Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
July 15	Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

Saints of the Day: Holy Great-martyr Procopius of Caesarea in Palestine (303). Saint Procopius, Fool-for-Christ, wonderworker of Ustiug (Vologda) (1303). New Hieromartyrs Priests Alexander and Theodore (1918). Righteous Procopius, Fool-for-Christ of Usya (Vologda) (17th c.). Venerable Theophilus the Myrrh-gusher of Pantocrator Monastery, Mount Athos (1548). New Martyr Anastasius at Constantinople (1743). Martyrs Epictetus and Astion at Halmyris in Scythia Minor (290). Blessed King Edgar the Peaceable (975). Martyr Theodosia, Mother of Great-martyr Procopius. Martyr Mirdat the King of Kartli (410). Translation of the relics (1779) of Venerable Demetrius Basarbov of Bulgaria (1685). Synaxis of Saints of Diveyevo: Alexandra, Martha, and Helen. Saint Grimbald, Hieromonk of Winchester. Translation of the relicts of Saint Withburga, Hermitess of East Dereham. Virgim-martyr Urith (Hieritha) of Chittlehampton.

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

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of William Homyk were offered July 1 on his 93rd birthday at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Subdeacon Demtrios and Mrs Nancy Richards.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Rose Sokol and Olga Hrobuchak were offered July 1 at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of their families.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of David Pellack and cousin Mary Ann Williams were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben, for their birthdays, at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Metropolitan LEONTY and uncle Joe Kushner were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Father John Udics.

A word from the desert. Some brothers, who had some laymen with them, went to see Abba Felix and they begged him to say a word to them. But the old man kept silence. After they had asked for a long time he said to them, "You wish to hear a word." They said, "Yes, Abba (father)." Then the old man said to them, "There are no more words nowadays. When the brothers used to consult the old men and when they did what was said to them, God showed them how to speak. But now, since they ask without doing that which they hear, God has withdrawn the grace of the word from the old men and they do not find anything to say, because there are no longer any who carry out their words." Hearing this, the brothers groaned, saying, "Pray for us, Abba."

THE HOLY GREAT MARTYR SAINT PROCOPIUS was born in Jerusalem of a father who was a Christian and a mother who was a pagan. At first, his name was Neanias. Following the death of his father, the mother raised her son completely in the spirit of Roman idolatry. When Neanias matured, Emperor Diocletian saw him and, at once, took a liking to him and brought him to his palace for military service. When this nefarious emperor began to persecute Christians, he ordered Neanias to go to Alexandria with a garrison of soldiers and there to exterminate the Christians. But, on the road, something happened to Neanias similar to that which happened to Saul [Paul]. In the third hour of the night there was a strong earthquake and, at that moment, the Lord appeared to him and a voice was heard: "Neanias, where are you going and against whom are you rising up?" In great fear, Neanias asked: "Who are You Lord? I am unable to recognize You." At that moment, a glowing cross as if of crystal appeared in the air and from the cross there came a voice saying: "I am Jesus, the crucified Son of God." And further, the Lord said to him: "By this sign that you saw, conquer your enemies and My peace will be with you." That experience completely turned him around and changed the life of Commander Neanias. He issued an order to make the same kind of cross which he saw and instead of going against the Christians he, with his soldiers, turned against the Agarians who were attacking Jerusalem. He entered Jerusalem as a victor and declared to his mother that he is a Christian. Being brought before the court, Neanias removed his commander's belt and sword and tossed them before the judge thereby showing that he is only a soldier of Christ the King. After great tortures he was cast into prison where the Lord Christ, again, appeared to him, baptized him and gave him the name Procopius. One day twelve women appeared before his prison window and said to him: "We too are the servants of Christ." Accused of this they were thrown into the same prison where Saint Procopius taught them the Faith of Christ and particularly about how they will receive the martyr's wreath. For that reason in the marriage ritual of the betrothed, Saint Procopius is mentioned along with the God-crowned Emperor Constantine and Empress Helena. After this, those twelve women were brutally

tortured. Witnessing their suffering and bravery, the mother of Procopius also believed in Christ and all thirteen were slain. When Saint Procopius was led to the scaffold, he raised his hands toward the east and prayed to God for all the poor and misfortunate, orphans and widows and especially for the Holy Church that it may grow and spread and that Orthodoxy shine to the end of time. And to Procopius there was a reply from heaven that his prayers were heard after which he joyfully laid his head under the sword and went to his Lord in eternal joy. Saint Procopius honorably suffered in Caesarea in Palestine and was crowned with the glorious wreath of immortality on July 8, 303 A.D.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

TODAY	Annual ‘Communities That Care’ Blood Drive, 12:30 – 7 pm, VFW Hall. See below
July 28:	Liturgical Music Workshop at Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, pre-registration required – see: www.nynjoca.org/liturgical_music.html
August 12	Sunday Saint Ann’s Sisterhood Meeting during coffee hour
August 18	Saturday Diocesan Church School Teachers Conference, Endicott, NY
August 25/26	Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery Anniversary
September 16	Sunday Perohi and Polka Fest, Herkimer VFW Hall, 4 – 8 pm
October 21	Sunday Harvest Dinner
October 14/15, 2016	Saints Peter and Paul Parish 100th Anniversary Celebration

Update from Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery – With love and prayers, Mother Raphaela

We are doing well – Susanna, our British postulant, has arrived and is settling in well. It's too soon to know if she will "persevere to the end," but that is what she wants now and she is a cheerful, hard-praying, hard-working presence. She loves landscaping (did it professionally for 2 years) and her only complaint is that since I assigned her the job of getting our landscape back in shape after the gross neglect it's had with my getting sidelined, it doesn't feel as if she's working. She is, though. She digs and pulls and saws and mulches and carries rocks and drags branches.... She also gets along very well with our intern, Sarah. They are both in their early 20's and I'm grateful for that. She truly enjoys living at the monastery, shows up for some services and is, if possible, even more hard-working than Susanna, helping especially with goat care, but she does enjoy her freedom and the ability to get into her truck and go spend an afternoon in the park by herself and take December off to go spend Christmas with her relatives in Germany... We shall see how she develops. Right now she feels she's in the perfect spot...

We are a bit short on life-professed right now with Mother Anna away on her long-scheduled rest time and Mother Katherine unexpectedly in Florida staying with her mother who had an emergency heart procedure 10 days ago. She isn't stabilized yet, and while Mother Katherine wants to come home, she agrees she needs to stay until her mom is back on her feet. Please say a prayer for her and Marie. Thankfully having 2 younger women here makes it easier to cover all the bases of animal chores, including in this heat hauling water...

We had an interesting group show up this morning – 8 priests from the Upstate NY Greek Orthodox Deanery. They had planned just to stop by for half an hour at most but were captivated by the goats and one of them ended up asking us to get one up on the stand so he could milk her (in his riassa) and make sure his picture got taken in the process... They refused to let us feed them lunch and must have had a very late one by the time they got to anything nearby that serves food, especially since their mapquest got them thoroughly lost on the way here. We tried to give them directions to the closest Greek diner and hope they made it in time for supper!

At the request of some of our neighbors, we have started attending the local Otego Town Board meetings each month and speaking out against fracking as well as for more creative ways to handle the employment situation, the need for inexpensive energy, good schools, etc. Thankfully, the combined efforts of many people helped the Board pass a 12-month fracking moratorium. The hope is that most of NY State will follow suit and/or that the delays town after town is passing will discourage the "get it quick" gas companies and they will go someplace where the residents don't care about their air and water like PA and Ohio... Sheez.

Plans for our August 25th celebration are going forward. The main Post Office in Binghamton sat on the bulk mailing for tickets etc. for nearly 2 weeks – why, we have no idea – so progress is slower than we'd anticipated. Nevertheless, as of now we have 6 bishops committed to coming and 2 more "possibly, just not sure yet." Bishop Melchisedek, Archbishop Tikhon, Bishop Michael and Bishop Matthias from our OCA synod and Archbishop Antony ... and Bishop Daniel from the Ukrainian Archdiocese. We are waiting on Archbishop Nathaniel and Bishop Dimitrios (Couchell) of the Greek Archdiocese... We look forward to this and are pleased that Helen Jane and Helen Carpenter are in touch with Tatiana as the "local" Binghamton committee...

For the rest, I've just taken the new pain meds my doctor prescribed and I do think (hopefully) they are starting to kick in. It turns out I'd developed a "tolerance" for the ones I've been on for the past few years primarily for Trigeminal Neuralgia, and slowly at first then all at once life got not very nice at all....

The American Red Cross and The Herkimer VFW need your cooperation about the emergency need for blood. Come and donate blood at the 7th Annual Communities That Care Blood Drive, Today, July 10th from 12:30 pm – 7 pm held at the Herkimer VFW Post 4915 on Mohawk Street in Herkimer.

The goal this year is to collect 200 units of blood on this single day.

Please come, roll up your sleeves and help patients in need. Our local hospitals are counting on us to collect and fill the hospital shelves before blood is needed for patients such as: Accident Victims/Trauma Patients, Cancer Patients, Premature Babies, Sickle Cell Anemia, Transplant Patients (heart, lungs, kidney, etc...), and numerous blood disorders...

If you have any questions or concerns please call ... Diane O'Donnell | Account Manager. American Red Cross | NY-Penn Blood Service Region (315) 935-5953

We received the above information only after last Sunday.