

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!

August 5, 2012	Ninth Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am	
August 6	Monday	Holy Transfiguration of our Lord	Divine Liturgy, Blessing Fruit	9:30 am
August 11	Saturday		Great Vespers	4:00 pm
August 12	Tenth Sunday after Pentecost		Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

Saints of the Day: Martyr Eusignius of Antioch (362). New Martyrs Eudocia (Shikova) and Novices Daria (Timolina), Daria (Siushinskaya), and Maria of Diveyevo (1919). New Hieromartyr Simon (Shleev) Bishop of Ufa (1921). New Hieromartyr Deacon John (1938). Venerable Job the Gorge-dweller on the Mezen River (Solovki) (1628). Hieromartyrs Fabian (250) and Antherus (Antheros) (257), Popes of Rome. Martyr Pontius at Cimella in France (257). Martyrs Cantidius, Cantidian and Sibelius (Sobel), of Egypt. Righteous Nonna (374), mother of Saint Gregory the Theologian. Saint Oswald, King and Martyr (642). Venerable John of Neamp, the Chozebite (1960). New Martyr Chrestos of Preveza (1668). Uncovering of the relics (1967) of Saint Arsenius the New of Paros (1877). Saint Abel, Bishop of Rheims (751). Saint Gormgal, Abbot of Ardoilen (1016).

Please remember in your prayers: Olga, Mother Raphaela, Priest Sergius, Zara, Nolan, Emelie, Connie, Michael, Maria, Michael, 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.

The Moleben Sung In Time of Drought was sung after Liturgy on July 29 and will continue to be sung until the end of the heat and dryness.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Jean and John Rinko and David Donlick were offered at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Ninth Day Prayers for the repose of Rose Sokol were offered at Parastas July 26 at the request of her family.

Memory Eternal. Day Prayers for the repose of Rose Sokol were offered at Liturgy and Litiya on July 29 at the request of the Elnicky family.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Metro and Marion Demcko were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of son Ronald Demcko.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Anne Bayzon, Jacob Elnicky, Frank Gromadzky and Joseph Spytko were offered at Liturgy and Litiya were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of "Memory Eternal Requiem Service Fund."

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Metropolitan SERGIUS (Tikhomirov) and aunt Sophie Hartong were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Father John Udics.

Archpastoral Letter for the beginning of the Dormition Fast (August 1)

July 26, 2012 Feast of Saint Jacob of Alaska

To the Worthy Clergy, Pious Faithful and Monastics:

"Most Holy Birthgiver of God Save Us!"

Dearly Beloved in Christ, we are at the outset of the Fast of the Falling-Asleep of the Holy Birthgiver of God. At the end of the prescribed time of fasting and reflection, we shall joyfully celebrate the translation of the Theotokos to the heights of heaven. She is our constant intercessor with her Divine Son, our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our Orthodox tradition is: first the fast and then the feast! So, the Church in North America is also in a time of fasting and reflection in anticipation of the Descent of the Holy Spirit on our special All-American Electoral Council.

I am Nathaniel, Archbishop of the Romanian Episcopate of the Orthodox Church in America. Inasmuch as I am the oldest in date of ordination into the Holy Episcopacy (1980), I was appointed by the Holy Synod, according to the Statute, to be the *Locum Tenens* of our Church until the election of a new Metropolitan. My role is temporary; to oversee, together with the Holy Synod, an orderly transition from the present status and to prepare the Church for the special All-American Electoral Council. His Grace, Bishop Michael of New York and New Jersey was appointed by the Holy Synod to be the Temporary Administrator of our Church. He has a "hands-on" obligation.

The Holy Synod is in constant contact among members, acting according to the Statute to prepare for the election. In addition to daily communications, the Holy Synod will meet in a special session on August 13, just before the conclusion of the Fast and in anticipation of the

celebration of the Feast of the Holy Virgin. Our agenda is to decide on what is necessary to move forward with a decision on the time and place of the Council. For this, we ask your prayers. Other matters, of course, will be taken up.

Dearly beloved, the Church in this period of fasting and spiritual reflection is preparing for the Electoral Council at which we shall elect a new Metropolitan. The Holy Synod is fasting and praying for guidance even as you are fasting and praying for the "peace for the Holy Church of God." The Holy Synod, knows that some in the Church are saddened and wondering what will be taking place; we are aware of this sadness and are laboring to change that into joy. After the election, "we shall rejoice in the Lord."

Each hierarch in his own diocese is going about his apostolic labor as shepherd of his flock and, as a member of the Holy Synod, working together serving our Holy Church in North America. Each clergyman, each lay person, each monastic is exhorted to continue "to serve the Lord in fear and trembling" during this opportune period of fasting in anticipation of the joy which will come at the celebration of the Most Holy Virgin, and in due time, the resolution of the office of Metropolitan.

Across North America – Canada, Mexico, and the United States – let us all beseech the Holy Virgin to intercede for us and call upon all the Saints of North America the founders and benefactors, the martyrs and teachers, the pioneers who brought the faith to be with us in the days ahead so that our fasting and prayers may be pleasing to God and a good preparation for the work which lies ahead of us, "that is the salvation of our souls" (1 Peter 1:9).

The Lord bless!

+ Nathaniel, Archbishop of Detroit and the Romanian Episcopate
Locum Tenens of the Orthodox Church in America

A word from the desert. The person who has come to know the weakness of human nature has gained experience of divine power. Such a man, having achieved some things and eager to achieve others through this divine power, never belittles anyone. For he knows that just as God has helped him and freed him from many passions and difficulties, so, when God wishes, He is able to help all men, especially those pursuing the spiritual way for His sake. And if in His providence He does not deliver all men together from their passions, yet like a good and loving physician, He heals with individual treatment each of those who are trying to make progress.

Saint Maximos the Confessor (ca. 580-662), Four Hundred Texts on Love, 2.39

A word from the desert. A brother whom another brother had wronged came to see Abba Sisoës and said to him, "My brother has hurt me and I want to avenge myself." The old man pleaded with him saying, "No, my child, leave vengeance to God." But he said to him, "I shall not rest until I have avenged myself." The old man said, "Brother, let us pray." Then the old man stood up and said, "God, we no longer need you to care for us, since we do justice for ourselves." Hearing these words, the brother fell at the old man's feet, saying, "I will no longer seek justice from my brother; forgive me, abba."

FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

August 12	Sunday	Saint Ann's Sisterhood Meeting during coffee hour
August 18	Saturday	Diocesan Church School Teachers Conference, Endicott, NY
August 25	Saturday	Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery: 9AM Divine Liturgy in Binghamton and Banquet
August 26	Sunday	Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery: 10 AM Divine Liturgy at the Monastery in Otego
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 100 th Anniversary Celebration

HOMILY About the delaying of the Dreadful Day according to the mercy of God by Saint Nikolai of Zhicha

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness: but is long-suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

Brethren, the mercy of God delays "that day which burns like a furnace, according to the words of Prophet Malachi (4:1). "Therefore, let the scoffers be ashamed, who scoff at the promise of God and say: "Where is the promise of His coming?" (2 Peter 3:4). God has not forgotten His promise but the sinners themselves have forgotten it. God, according to His immeasurable mercy, waits for the sinners to come to their senses, repent and to prepare themselves for that day which is not repeated. Behold that day is not like the many days which are given to men for the sake of repentance and to prepare for the encounter with God. That day is the only day and it differs from all other days, for it does not come for the sake of repentance but rather for judgment. Just as the Dreadful Judgment is only one and unrepeatable, thus is that day only one and unrepeatable.

God does not desire that any man be lost. He did not create man for death but for salvation. Is there a gardener who sows vegetables and desire that his vegetables dry out and perish? God is wiser and more compassionate than all men. God has only one desire, i.e., that all men repent and turn away from evil. How does the husbandman rejoice when his withered vineyard comes to life and again becomes green and brings forth fruit! How much more then is the joy of God and the angels of God when the souls of men, withered from sin, return and become young again from the tears of repentance and bring forth fruit of repentance.

O Lord, Merciful, Lover of Mankind, help sinners to sense Your mercy and Your pity toward them to sense and to repent to repent and to turn away from their wicked ways. To You be glory and thanks always. Amen.