



SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America
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GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

September 9, 2012	14th Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
September 14	Friday	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
September 15	Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
September 16	15 th Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

Saints of the Day: Holy and Righteous Ancestors of God **Joachim** and **Anna**. Martyr Severian of Sebaste (320). Venerable Joseph, Abbot of Volokolamsk (1515). Uncovering of the relics (1896) of Saint Theodosius, Archbishop of Chernigov (1696). New Hieromartyrs Priests Gregory and Deacon Aleksander (1918). New Hieromartyrs Zaharias Archbishop of Voronezh, Priests Basil, Sergius, Joseph, Alexis and Martyr Basil (1937). New Hieromartyr Andronicus (1938). New Hieromartyr Priest Alexander (1942). Venerable Theophanes the Confessor and Fasteer of Mount Diabenos (299). Martyrs Chariton and Straton. Blessed Nicetas the Hidden of Constantinople (12th c.). Commemoration of the Third Ecumenical Council (431). Venerable Onuphrius of Voronsk (1789). Venerable Joachim, Abbot of Oepochka Monastery (Pskov) (1550). Saint Kieran (Ciaran) of Clonmacnois (Ireland) (ca. 545). Saint Omer, Bishop of Therouanne (670). Saint Wulfhilda, Abbes of Barking. Saint Bettelin, Hermit of Crowland.

Please remember in your prayers: Paul, Stephania, Priest Sergius, Zara, Nolan, Emelie, Connie, Michael, Maria, Michael, Mother Raphaela, Rae, Robert, Tom, 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, Athanasy, Isidore, Nectarios, Pachomy.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of John Saltourides were offered at Liturgy and Moleben September 2nd at the request of Family.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Samuel Uzawa, Chris Papadeas, Michael and Linda, Subdeacon Justin Mitchell, Archpriest Vincent and Matushka Patricia Saverino were offered at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

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

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the Victims of 9/11, Archpriest John Skvir, cousin Tom Ketzak, and aunt Mary Kushner were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Father John Udics.

SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANNA. Saint Joachim was of the lineage of Judah and a descendant of King David. Anna was the daughter of Matthan the priest, from the lineage of Levi, as was Aaron the high priest. Matthan had three daughters: Mary, Sophia and Anna. Mary married, lived in Bethlehem and gave birth to Salome; Sophia married, also lived in Bethlehem, and gave birth to Elizabeth, the mother of Saint John the Forerunner; Anna married Joachim in Nazareth, and in old age gave birth to Mary, the Most-holy Birth-giver of God. Joachim and Anna had lived together in marriage for fifty years, and yet had remained barren. They lived devoutly and quietly, and of all their income they spent one third on themselves, distributed one third to the poor and gave the other third to the Temple, and they were well provided for. Once when in their old age they came to Jerusalem to offer a sacrifice to God, the high priest Issachar reprimanded Joachim, saying: "You are not worthy that a gift be accepted from your hands, for you are childless." Others, who had children, pushed Joachim behind them as one unworthy. This greatly grieved these two aged souls and they returned home in great sorrow. Then the two of them fell down before God in prayer, that He work a miracle with them as He once had with Abraham and Sarah, and give them a child as a comfort in their old age. Then God sent His angel, who announced to them the birth of "a daughter most-blessed, by whom all nations on earth will be blessed and through whom the salvation of the world will come." Anna straightway conceived, and in nine months gave birth to the Holy Virgin Mary. Saint Joachim lived for eighty years and Anna lived for seventy-nine, at which time they reposed in the Lord.

On this day we celebrate the miraculous Myrrh-streaming icon of Saint Anna.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

Today	Sunday	Saint Anna Sisterhood meeting for election of officers after Liturgy
September 16	Sunday	Perohi and Polka Fest, Herkimer VFW Hall, 4 – 8 pm
October 21	Sunday	Harvest Dinner
November 13	Tuesday	XVII All-American Council, Holy Trinity Church, Parma, Ohio.
October 14/15, 2016		Saints Peter and Paul Parish 100 th Anniversary Celebration

REFLECTION by Saint Nikolai of Zhicha

One should not give alms with pride but rather with humility, considering the one to whom the alms are given to be better than oneself. Did not the Lord Himself say: *Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me* (Matthew 25:40)? Theophanes the Confessor possessed a mind illumined by the light of Christ, even as a child. Once, while walking along the street, he saw a naked child freezing. He quickly removed his clothes, clothed the child and thus warmed him and brought him back to life. He then returned home naked. His startled parents asked him: "Where are your clothes?" To this Theophanes replied: "I clothed Christ." This is why he was given the grace of Christ, and was later a great ascetic, a sufferer for the Christian Faith and a miracle-worker. Often, when we give alms, either in someone else's name or in our own name, we cannot avoid pride which, as soon as it appears in the heart, destroys all the good deeds performed. When we give to the beggar as to a beggar and not as to Christ, we cannot avoid pride or disdain. What value is there in performing an act of mercy, while taking pride in ourselves and disdaining the man? Virtue is not a virtue when it is mixed with sin, just as milk is not milk when it is mixed with gasoline or vinegar.

SAINT CIARAN (Kieran) OF CLONMACNOISE, ABBOT was born in Connacht, Ireland, c. 516; died at Clonmacnoise, c. 556. Saint Ciaran is one of the 12 Apostles of Ireland.

Born into a Meath family of pre-Celtic descent, Saint Ciaran was the son of the carpenter Beoit. As a boy he left home with a dun cow for company in order to be trained for the monastic life in Saint Finnian's monastery at Clonard. At Clonard he taught the daughter of the king of Cuala because he was considered the most learned monk in the abbey.

About 534, he migrated to Inishmore in the Aran Islands, where he spent seven years learning from Saint Enda and was ordained priest. He left after having a vision that Enda interpreted for him. Ciaran traveled slowly eastward, first Scatterry Island where he learned from Saint Senan, then to Isel in the centre of Ireland. He was forced to leave here because of his excessive charity and moved on to Inis Aingin (Hare Island).

He left there with eight companions and eventually settled at Clonmacnoise on the Shannon River south of Athlone in the West Meath, where he built Clonmacnoise monastery. He gave his monks an extremely austere rule, known as the Law of Kieran. The saint is said to have lived only seven months after founding the great school of Clonmacnoise, dying at the age of 34.

SAINT BETTELIN OF CROYLAND, HERMIT (also known as Beccelin, Bertelin, Berthelm, Bertram, Bethlin, Bethelm), 8th century. Saint Bettelin, a disciple of Saint Guthlac, was a hermit who practised the most austere penances and lived a life of continual prayer in the forest near Stafford, England. He received counsel from his master on his deathbed and was present at his burial. After the death of Guthlac, Bettelin and his companions continued to live at Croyland under Kenulphus, its first abbot.

There are unreliable legends about Bettelin, including a later one that he had to overcome temptation to cut Guthlac's throat while shaving him. They also say that Bettelin was the son of a local ruler who fell in love with a princess during a visit to Ireland. On their return to England, she died a terrible death. He left her in the forest when she was overcome by labour pains, while he had gone in search of a midwife. During his absence she was torn to pieces by ravenous wolves. Thereafter, Bettelin became a hermit. Another legend relates that Saint Bettelin left his hermitage to drive off invaders with the help of an angel, before returning to his cell to die.

He is the patron of Stafford, in which his relics were kept with great veneration.

SAINT WILFRIDA OF WILTON, ABBESS (also known as Wulfritha, Wulfthryth), died c. 988. Saint Wilfrida was a novice at the convent of Wilton when she caught the eye of the King Saint Edgar the Peaceful, who had been rejected by her cousin, Saint Wulfhilda. She became his concubine and bore his daughter, Saint Edith of Wilton, out of wedlock. Shortly after Edith's birth, she returned to Wilton with her child. There she took the veil at the hands of Saint Ethelwold. As a nun, and later as abbess, Wilfrida did penance and made ample amends for the irregularity of her liaison with Edgar.

SAINT WULFHILDA OF BARKING, ABBESS, died c. 980-1000; other feasts include that of her translation on September 2, c. 1030 (with the relics of Saints Hildelith and Ethelburga), as well as on March 7 and September 23 at Barking. Saint Wulfhilda was raised in the abbey of Wilton. When she was a novice, King Saint Edgar sought her hand in marriage, but she had a vocation that was irrevocable. Her aunt, Abbess Wenfleda of Wherwell, invited the young novice to become her successor, but it was just a ploy to lure her from Wilton. When she arrived at Wherwell, she found the king waiting for her and her aunt willing to allow him to seduce her. Wulfhilda escaped through the drains despite the chaperons inside and the guards outside the convent. The king pursued her back to Wilton and caught her in the cloister, but she escaped his grasp and took refuge in the sanctuary among the altars and relics. Thereafter Edgar renounced his claim on her and took her cousin Saint Wilfrida as his mistress instead.

Wulfhilda went on to found and serve as the first abbess of the convent of Horton in Dorsetshire. Later she was appointed abbess of the convent of Barking, which had been restored by King Edgar and endowed with several churches in Wessex towns. During this period she was credited with several miracles.

After Edgar's death, his widowed queen, Elfrida (Ælfthryth), conspired with some of Wulfhilda's nuns, to drive her out of Barking. She retired to Horton for the next 20 years until she was recalled to Barking by King Ethelred. For the last seven years of her life, Wulfhilda served as abbess of both Horton and Barking.