

SAINETS 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!

October 14, 2012	19 th Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
October 20	Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
October 21	20 th Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

Saints of the Day: Martyrs Nazarius, Gervais, Protaise and Celsus of Milan (1 c.). Venerable Parasceva (Petka) of Epibatima, Thrace, whose relics are in Iasi, Romania (11 c.). New Hieromartyr Priest Michael (1921). New Hieromartyr Priest Peter (1937). New Hieromartyr Maximilian (1938). Venerable Nikola Sviatosha, Prince of Chernigov and Wonderworker of the Kiev Caves (1143). Hieromartyr Silvanus of Gaza (311). Venerable Cosmas, Abbot of Yakhroma (1494). Venerable Euthymius the New of Thessalonica, Confessor (889). Saint Ignatius, Metropolitan of Mithymna (1566). Martyr Peter Apselamus of Eleutheropolis in Palestine (309). Saint Burchard, first Bishop of Wurzburg, English missionary to Germany (754). Saint Cosmas the Hymnographer, Bishop of Maiuma (787). Saint Manaccus, Abbot of Caer Gybi (Holyhead) in Wales.

This Bulletin is offered in the name of Ashley Buttino by Sonia Buttino.

Please remember in your prayers: Nadine, Priest Sergius, Katie, Archpriest John, Zara, Nolan, Emelie, Ed, Connie, Michael, Maria, Michael, Mother Raphaela, Rea, John, Hilda, James, Ada, Archpriest Jason, Susan, Daniel, Aaron, Mark, Jennifer, Michael, Anna, Gregory, Marianna, Mykola, Helen, Isaiah, Archpriest Vincent, Albert, Kevin, Robert, Robert, Andrew, David, Warren, Archimandrites Athanasy, Isidore, Nectarios, Pachomy.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of cousin Nadine Staraitis were offered at Liturgy and Moleben today at the request of Father John Udics.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Helen Riley were offered at Liturgy and Moleben today at the request of Father John Udics.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Stephanie Litwen were offered at Liturgy and Moleben today at her request.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Daniel Witiak were offered at Liturgy and Moleben today at the request of Father John Udics.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Christopher and Barbara and son David were offered at Liturgy and Moleben October 7 at the request of Mother Raphaela.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Theodore Bazil were offered at Liturgy and Moleben today at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the soul of Theodore Litwen were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of Stephanie Litwen.

A word from Saint Maximus the Confessor. Do not lend your ear to the slanderer's tongue, nor your tongue to the fault-finder's ear by readily speaking or listening to anything against your neighbor. Otherwise you will fall away from Divine Love, and be found excluded from eternal life.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

October 20	Saturday	Set-up for the Harvest Dinner, 9:30 am.
October 21	Sunday	Harvest Dinner. Adults ~ \$10 each.
November 13	Tuesday	XVII All-American Council, Holy Trinity Church, Parma, Ohio.
November 17	Saturday	Fall Bazaar
December 8 and 9	Sat and Sun	Visit of Sister Maria from Saint Elizabeth Convent, Minsk, Belarus
December 9	Sunday	Christmas Pageant
October 14 and 15, 2016		Saints Peter and Paul Parish 100 th Anniversary Celebration

The Venerable Parasceva [Petka] was of Serbian descent, and was born in the town of Epivat between Selymbria and Constantinople. Saint Parasceva's parents were wealthy, devout Christians. They also had a son, Euthymius, who was tonsured a monk during his parents' lifetime, and later became the famous Bishop of Madytos. The virgin Parasceva always yearned for the ascetic life for the sake of Christ. After her parents' repose, she left her home and went first to Constantinople, then to the wilderness of Jordan, where she lived the ascetic life until old age. Who can express all the labors, sufferings and demonic temptations that Saint Parasceva endured in the course of her many years? In her old age, an angel of God once appeared to her and said: "Leave the wilderness and return to your homeland; it is necessary that you render your body to the earth there, and your soul to the habitation of the Lord." Saint Parasceva obeyed, and returned to Epivat. There she lived for two years in ceaseless fasting and prayer, then gave up her soul to God and took up her abode in

Paradise. Saint Parasceva entered into rest in the eleventh century. Over the course of time her relics were translated to Constantinople, to Trnovo, again to Constantinople, and then to Belgrade. Her relics now repose in Romania, in the town of Iasi. In Belgrade, the well of Saint Petka miraculously heals the sick who draw near with faith in God and love for this saint.

The Holy Martyrs Nazarius, Gervaise, Protase and Celsus, Nazarius was born in Rome of a Jewish father and a Christian mother. His mother, Perpetua, was baptized by the Apostle Peter himself. Confessing his mother's Faith, Nazarius sincerely fulfilled all the precepts of the Church. Fearlessly preaching the Gospel, Nazarius went to Milan. There, he found the Christians Gervasius and Protasius in prison, and ministered to them with great love. Learning of this, the local eparch ordered Nazarius to be beaten and driven from the city. His mother came to him in a vision and told him to go to Gaul, and to preach the Gospel there; and this is what Nazarius did. After several years, Nazarius returned to Milan-this time with a disciple, the young man Celsus, whom he had baptized in Gaul. There he found the brothers Gervasius and Protasius still in prison, and he was soon thrown in with them by the governor Anulinus. Christ's martyrs rejoiced because of this reunion brought about by God's providence. Emperor Nero ordered Nazarius slain, and the governor brought Nazarius and Celsus out of prison and beheaded them. Soon after that, General Astazius, passing through Milan en route to battle against the Moravians, beheaded Saint Gervasius along with Saint Protasius. He had heard that these two brothers would not sacrifice to idols, and fearing that he might lose the battle by losing favor with his false gods, he commanded that they be executed immediately. Gervasius and Protasius were twins, born of the blessed parents Vitalius and Valeria, who were also martyred for the Faith. The relics of Saint Nazarius were translated by Saint Ambrose from a garden outside the city to the Church of the Holy Apostles. The relics of Saint Gervasius and Saint Protasius were revealed to him in a miraculous vision.

HOMILY by Saint Nikolai of Zhicha on how the angels do battle for the righteous

The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him and delivers them (Psalm 34:7).

The angel of the Lord will do battle for those who fear God. This has been clearly shown many times, as has been recorded; and it has occurred numberless times that have not been recorded. The Archangel Michael took up arms for Joshua, the Son of Nun. An angel did battle for the righteous King Hezekiah and, in one night, destroyed the army of the Chaldeans. How many times have angels visited the Christian apostles and martyrs of in prison, strengthened them, and caused them to rejoice? The consolation of the righteous one comes from knowing that God is All-seeing, and sees his misfortune; that God is Omnipotent, and has power to save him from misfortune; that God is All-merciful, and will save him from misfortune. God will send His radiant angel to the aid of the righteous. The righteous one will not have to struggle against his tyrant, for the angel of God will do battle in his place. When God's angel takes up arms, what army dares confront him? What empire will wage war against him? In an earlier Psalm, the Prophet David says: No king is saved by the multitude of an army; a mighty man is not delivered by great strength. A horse is a vain hope for safety (Psalm 33:16-17).

Hence, it does not help at all if the unjust, the worldly, are allies. When God's angel takes up arms-all will burst as a bubble of water. Even when he was king, David remembered how, as a mere shepherd boy, he killed Goliath, a giant who was armed to the teeth, with a slingshot. On many occasions, David sensed the assistance of God's angel. That is why he could with confidence console the oppressed but righteous ones with these words of comfort and strength: the angel of the Lord encamps around all who fear the Lord, and who serve Him, and an angel of God will deliver them.

O my brethren, let us not doubt these words, but carefully consider, on a daily basis, how the angel of God leaves us in sorrow when we sin, and how he hastens to our assistance with joy and unspeakable power when we repent and implore God's mercy.

O Lord God, our Creator, the King of myriads of angels: forgive us, and save us, and protect us by Thy holy angels. To Thee be glory and praise forever. Amen.

REFLECTION by Saint Nikolai of Zhicha

Examples of how the saints themselves reveal their hidden relics to men justify the honor rendered to the relics of the saints-not to mention the miraculous action of these relics, which doubly justifies them. For a long, long time, no one could locate the grave of Saint Parasceva. Then it happened that a sailor died, and his body was carelessly laid in the proximity of the saint's grave. When the body turned into carrion and began to emit an unbearable stench, a monk who lived nearby summoned the peasants to help him bury the corpse. It happened that they buried him in Saint Parasceva's own grave. That night, Saint Parasceva appeared in a dream to one of those peasants (George by name) who had buried the corpse. She appeared as a beautiful and exquisitely-adorned queen, surrounded by many glorious soldiers. She said: "George, exhume my relics at once, and lay them in another place; for I can no longer endure the stench from that corpse." Then she told him who she was, and where she was from. The same night a local peasant woman named Euphemia had the same dream. The next day, the peasants began to dig and in fact found the relics of Saint Parasceva. They were extraordinarily fragrant, and soon proved to be miracle-working. Concerning the relics of Saint Gervasius and Saint Protasius, Saint Ambrose relates how their relics were discovered in a similar manner. One night, two handsome youths and an old man appeared to Ambrose, who was awake. He thought that the old man was the Apostle Paul. While the young men remained silent, the old man spoke to Ambrose concerning them, saying that they were Christ's martyrs, and that their relics lay in the very place where Ambrose was praying to God at that time. He went on to say that everything else concerning them would be revealed in a book that Ambrose would find in their grave. The following day, Ambrose recounted his vision and began to dig, and found the relics of both men. From the book that he found he learned that their names were Gervasius and Protasius. In the presence of Saint Ambrose, a certain blind man named Severus touched these holy relics and immediately received his sight.