

ICHC NTKA SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

This bulletin is offered in memory of Deanna Rosenberg.

November 25, 2012	25 th Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
December 1	Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
December 2	26 th Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

Saints of the Day: Hieromartyr Clement, Pope of Rome (101). Hieromartyr Peter, Archbishop of Alexandria (311). New Hieromartyrs Seraphim Archbishop of Smolensk, Priests Gregory, John, Basil, Cosmas, John, Simeon, Hilarion, Iaroslav, Alexander, John, Victor, Andrew and Martyr Paul (1937). Martyr Nicholas (1938). Venerable Peter the Silent, of Galata, Syria (429). Saint Clement, Bishop of Ochrid and Enlightener of the Bulgarians. Great-martyr Catherine of Alexandria (305).

Please remember in your prayers: Priest Sergius, Zara, Nolan, Emelie, Norma, Connie, Michael, Ed, Maria, Michael, Mother Raphaela, Rea, Sister Veronica, 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 Father Sergius Willis were offered at Liturgy and Moleben November 18 and 21 and today at the request of Father John Udics.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Matthew Pintar and Father Paul Oikawa were offered at Liturgy and Moleben today at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Rose Sokol were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of John and Helen Kowansky.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Paul and Kay Sokol and Deanna Rosenberg were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of the "Memory Eternal Requiem Service Fund."

FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

November 28 Wednesday 8 pm: **Orthodox Growth and Evangelism Web Series**

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/666562520>

December 1 Saturday Diocesan Children's Music Workshop, Saint Andrew's Church in Dix Hills, New York.

December 8 and 9 Sat + Sun Visit of Sister Maria from Saint Elizabeth Convent, Minsk, Belarus

December 9 Sunday Christmas Pageant

December 28 – 31 **OCF College Conference:** Antiochian Village - Bolivar, Penn.

Keynote Speaker: Fr. Alexander Atty, Dean of Saint Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary, So. Canaan, PA

Workshop Speakers: Fr. Sotiri and Pres. Stefanie Malamis, Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Chicago, IL

Dan Christopoulos, United States Representative for International Orthodox Christian Charities

Fr. Paisius Altschul, Director & Clinical Social Worker at Reconciliation Services, Kansas City, MO

This link is to the OCF website for **College Conference registration** with all of the necessary information and forms <http://www.ocf.net/wikis/programs/college-conference.aspx>

About OCF: Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) is the official collegiate campus ministry program under the North American Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops. Our mission is to support fellowships on college campuses, whose members experience and witness to the Orthodox Christian Church through community life, prayer, service to others and study of the Faith. Our headquarters is located in Brookline, Mass. and supports more than 300 local university chapters across North America. In addition, we provide a variety of thoughtful and innovative programming, including regional training, annual conferences, and domestic and international service programs.

The Hieromartyr Peter, Archbishop of Alexandria was a disciple and successor of Saint Theonas, Archbishop of Alexandria, and was for a time a teacher at Origen's famous school of philosophy. He ascended the archiepiscopal throne in the year 299, and died a martyr's death in 311, beside the grave of the Holy Apostle Mark. He governed the Church in a most difficult era, when assaults were being made against the faithful by unbelievers from without, and by heretics from within. During his time, 670 Christians suffered in Alexandria. Often, whole families were led to the scaffold and executed. At the same time, the ungodly Arius was confusing the faithful with his false teaching. Saint Peter cut him off from the Church and anathematized him, both in this world and in the next. The Lord Himself visited this great and wonderful saint in prison.

Saint Anna's Sisterhood thanks all who prepared, baked, cleaned, set up, sold tickets and goods and shopped at the Bazaar. They earned about \$3000.00 for the church. God grant many years to those who love His House.

REFLECTION by Saint Nikolai of Zhicha

It is said of Saint Peter of Alexandria that he never climbed the steps and sat on the patriarchal throne in church, but rather stood or sat before the steps of the throne. When the faithful complained that their hierarch did not sit in his place, he replied: "Whenever I approach the throne, I see a heavenly light and power upon it, and that is why I do not dare climb and sit on it." Beside this vision, Saint Peter had another, yet more wondrous vision. While he was in prison, the impious heretic Arius hypocritically pretended that he had repented of his heresy, and sent word to the captive Peter that he had renounced his heresy, with an appeal to Peter to receive him into the Church again. Arius did this only because he thought that Peter would be martyred, and he could then acquire the patriarchal throne and disseminate and strengthen his heresy. Before he gave any reply, Peter prayed to God in the prison. During prayer, a mystical light illumined the prison, and the Lord Jesus appeared to him as a twelve-year-old boy, shining brighter than the sun, so that it was not possible to look at Him directly. The Lord was clothed in a white tunic, rent down the front from top to bottom. He clutched the garment around Himself with His hands, as though to hide His nakedness. At this, Saint Peter was in great fear and horror. He cried out: "Who, O Savior, has torn Thy garment?" The Lord replied: "The madman Arius. He tore it, for he alienated My people from Me, whom I acquired by My Blood. Be careful not to receive him in communion with the Church, for he has cunning and diabolical thoughts against Me and My people." At this, Saint Peter sent word to his priests, Achilles and Alexander, that he could not receive Arius's petition, for it was false and cunning; and the saint pronounced a curse on Arius in both worlds. He also prophesied that Achilles, and then Alexander, would succeed him as patriarch, and so it was.

Christ is in our midst! – He is and ever shall be!

In enduring the ravages of "SuperStorm" Sandy, the people of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut have experienced a nightmare of devastation, the likes of which many of us have only ever witnessed on movie screens -- or on the news, happening to people we do not know... in places far away.

But these past weeks, the punishing effects of Sandy, followed by a severe nor'easter mere days later, have taken a tragic toll. Millions lost power; some still await its restoration as winter sets in. Thousands are displaced from their residences; some have lost their homes completely. And, too many -- neighbors, co-workers, friends, family -- lost their lives.

What is the place of a loving God in all this devastation? And, what are we as Orthodox Christians to do in response?

We do not have a God Who creates or wishes evil, terror, and death -- for "*God desires not the death of a sinner, but that he should turn from his way and live.*" Because of the broken condition of creation, catastrophes happen; but our God takes that which the devil intends for evil -- and He turns it for good. Indeed, strange though it sounds, even amidst this incalculable tragedy the glory of God can be revealed.

This is a hard saying, and it begs the question -- **how?** How can the glory of a good God possibly be revealed in such an unbridled disaster?

God's glory is revealed when those who suffer profound loss in their lives turn toward Him for hope and strength in their suffering. His glory is revealed when His people roll up their sleeves and help those who find themselves in need. We are called to reflect the goodness and the glory of God and do all that we can to help.

If all you can do is pray... then pray -- every day -- for the victims of these storms. Resolve to intensify your Advent fast as a means of making your prayers more potent. But if praying is *not* all you can do, then do more. If you can make an offering, then please consider giving a donation to the **Hurricane Sandy Diocesan Relief Fund**, via the address at the end of this letter.

And, if you can, get into your car and drive to a neighborhood where volunteers are needed. Help restore a storm-damaged neighborhood ... help people clean up their yards ... offer rides to those without cars. What seems a small gesture to us is a priceless healing presence to others.

The Apostle James, the Lord's brother, admonishes us: "*What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,' but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*" (James 2:14-17).

We may dare to hope that many of those left hurting in Sandy's wake will be drawn closer to Christ when they see Christians helping them. We may hope, too, that we Christians will be drawn even more deeply to Christ as well -- by helping: prayerfully ... financially ... physically.

Just days ago, we heard the Sunday Gospel story of the Good Samaritan. Need we ask, "*Who is my neighbor?*" Our neighbors are right here ... and they are hurting. Let us emulate the healing presence of the kind-hearted foreigner in that profound parable; and in so doing, may we draw our neighbors and ourselves closer to the hope, the love, and the life that are found only in Jesus Christ.

Asking God's blessings on the souls of those taken from us in the storms; asking His consolation for those who lost loved ones, homes, and possessions; and asking His rich blessings on those sacrificing their time, talent, and treasure to help their hurting neighbors, I am

Devotedly yours in His service, + **M I C H A E L**, Bishop of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey

To make a donation to the Hurricane Sandy Diocesan Relief Fund, Please make checks payable to "Diocese of New York and New Jersey" with "Hurricane Relief" in the memo. Mail to: Hurricane Sandy Diocesan Relief Fund / c/o Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church / 285 French Hill Rd / Wayne NJ 07470-3976