

ICHC NTKRA 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!

December 9, 2012	Conception by Saint Anna of the Mother Of God	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
December 15	Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
December 16	Sunday of the Holy Forefathers of the Lord	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

Saints of the Day: Righteous Anna. Prophetess Anna, Mother of the Prophet Samuel (1100 BC). New Hieromartyr Priest Vladimir (1919). New Hieromartyr Priest Vladimir and Virgin-martyr Ephrosia (1920). New Hieromartyrs Priests Basil and Alexander (1937). New Martyr Priest Sergius Mechev of Moscow (1941). Saint Sophronios, Archbishop of Cyprus (6 c). Venerable Stephen the New Light of Constantinople (912). Martyr Narses of Persia. Saint Valeria of Aquitaine (2 c). Martyr Sositheus of Persia (553). Martyr Isaak. Saint Budoc, Bishop of Dol. Saint Ethelgiva Abbess of Shaftesbury. Saint Lesmo, Hermit at Glentamire, Scotland.

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

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Drew Dudek, Bishop SERAPHIM, Priest John Southern and Archimandrite Nectarios Cottros were offered at Liturgy and Moleben today at the request of Father Udics.

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

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the soul of newly-departed Patriarch IGNATIUS of Antioch were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the soul of Rose Sokol were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Julie and Thomas Todd.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the souls of mother Julianne, sister Elaine and father Michael were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Denise Wolfsheimer.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the souls of Michael and Sonia Schaeberle, Timothy, Nicholas, Mary, Albert, Ellen, Michael, Mary, Leo, Anne, Fran, Catherine, Lydia, John, Andrew, Roselia, Lorraine, Kaye, Frank, Anne were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Sonia Schaeberle.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of father Joseph Udics, Protopresbyter Alexander Schmemann, Archbishop KIPRIAN and Peter Zuzulock were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today by Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Stephen and Mary Steciak, Mary Pupchek, John Popka, Anna Rinko, Steven Polansky, Theresa Polansky, Wasyl Pytel, Andrew Andriadis, Glen Cooley, Walter Jovorosky Jr, Walter Jovorosky and Anne Jovorosky were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of the "Memory Eternal Requiem Service Fund."

The Hurricane Sandy Diocesan Relief Fund proposes to provide financial assistance to those members of our parishes who are in need of such assistance due to losses incurred from Hurricane Sandy. Some assistance will be available, and that interested parishioners should speak with the Rector immediately. Each rector will gather the names, and a description of the particular situation and level of need, from parishioners who may qualify for help. Rectors will submit these names and supporting information to the Office of the Bishop. A committee of the Diocesan Council, composed of clergy and laypersons, will review the submissions and apportion the available funds, through the parishes, on behalf of the diocese. Every effort will be made to prioritize disbursements according to need; and the privacy of those seeking assistance will be respected.

The Conception of the Most-holy Mother of God by Saint Anna. The righteous Joachim and Anna were childless for fifty years of their married life. In their old age the Archangel Gabriel appeared to each one of them separately, telling them that God had heard their prayers and that they would give birth to a daughter, Mary. Then Saint Anna conceived by her husband and after nine months bore a daughter blessed by God and by all generations of men: the Most-holy Virgin Mary, the Theotokos.

Saint Hannah, Mother of the Prophet Samuel was the wife of Elkanah from Ramathaim Zophim or Arimathea (I Samuel 1:1-2). Hannah had not given birth to any children because she was barren, and this caused her to weep and grieve bitterly. But the Merciful God showed pity on her and removed her barrenness because of her ceaseless sighs and prayers. Hannah bore a son, Samuel, and dedicated him to God from his childhood. Samuel was a great leader of the nation of Israel and a prophet, who anointed two kings, Saul and David. Saint

Hannah sang a hymn of thanksgiving to God, a hymn wonderful both in its wisdom and its beauty, which is used even to this day in the services of the Church (I Samuel 2:1).

The God-pleaser **Venerable Stephen the New Light**, was born and brought up in Constantinople in the home of his parents, Zacharias and Theophano. His father was a priest of the Great Church at the time of Patriarch Methodius. While carrying him in her womb, his mother fed only on bread and water, and when the child was born a cross of light shone on his chest. Because of this and because of his pure and God-pleasing life, he is called the "New Light." At the age of eighteen Stephen enclosed himself in a cell near the Church of Saint Peter the Apostle, and there he gave himself up to the ascetic labor of fasting and prayer. Once Saint Peter appeared to him and said: "Peace be to you, my child. You have made a good beginning. May the Lord strengthen you." Following this, he lived for many years in a cell by the Church of the Holy Martyr Antipas. This saint also appeared to him and encouraged him with the words: "Know that I will not abandon you." Stephen imposed even greater and greater hardships upon himself. He ate only twice a week and then only unsalted vegetables. This holy man lived a life of asceticism for fifty-five years for the sake of Christ's Kingdom and entered into rest in the Lord in the year 829, at the age of seventy-three.

Saint Sophronius, Archbishop of Cyprus was born and brought up in Cyprus. Because of his great spiritual learning and his many virtues, especially compassion, he was appointed archbishop following Saint Damian. Having faithfully served the Church and pleased God, Sophronius died peacefully in the sixth century.

Update from the Holy Myrrbearers Monastery

Many good things happening here. I'll start with the one downside to get it over with -- not by huge amounts, but expenses do continue to outstrip income right now. We are making decisions about ways to further tighten our belts and are not in a panic over this. We have also decided, in spite of that, to go ahead and send out a slightly shorter issue of Essays & Notes with announcements both about future publishing and pilgrimages. Father Vincent and Tatiana are discussing pilgrimage options and more on that later -- at the end of this I will post what we have written there. We still have interest on our investment accounts and we will see this coming week if and what we will take out in order to cover this.

On the very positive side, Susanna continues to flourish. Please continue your prayers for her -- she is young, and her first Christmas so far away from family and friends is weighing on her. I will be leaving for my rest in Florida on January 7th, right after Theophany and trust she will survive that. While we remind ourselves that she is here to test her vocation, she has weaseled her way into our hearts and we do hope that she will continue to settle in and persevere in a life here.

In addition, yesterday I received the final response from references in the application of Nancy Weeks, a woman in her mid-forties who has been visiting us for some time. Her medical reports clear her; I telephoned her pastor and her work supervisor. Her pastor states that he would only be willing to lose her to our monastery, that their Mission began in the house of her basement and she has been a steady, prayerful presence in their life from the beginning; her work supervisor tells me that Nancy has been working at their agency (Nancy is certified and has a degree as a social worker and works primarily as an addictions counselor) for longer than the 9 years she has been employed; that Nancy sees her people as "more than clients" and "goes above and beyond" to make sure their needs are met. She also said that Nancy's ability to work with and through stressful people and situations is "remarkable." She sees her as a gifted, steady person and if she were not being transferred to another department herself, she would mind very much that Nancy will be leaving.

Nancy will be listing her home with a realtor, and her coming will depend on how quickly her house sells, so again, we ask your prayers.

That is the main news; here is what we will be mailing out in Essays and Notes:

All of you and your loved ones continue in our prayers -- please pray also for us through this beautiful Advent Season!

With love in Christ, Mother Raphaela

Christmas Lent 2012. Dear Friends,

We give thanks for the amazing outpouring of love and support shown by our friends during this past anniversary year. ...In any age the survival of monastics and monasteries is a miracle of God; in our age of restless change coupled with growing apathy towards God and towards any who live for Him, this is especially true. We thank Him individually and as a community for giving us these years!

You may continue to support us by going to our web site (www.holymyrrbearers.com) and looking through our online catalog. See page 18 for a sampling of the products found there that are the fruit of our monastery's work.

During this Christmas Lent we look forward to the Birth of Love, Truth, Joy and Light into the darkness of this world. Let us make the time to prepare ourselves that we may greet Him with glad and open hearts:

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

With love in Christ, The Mothers and Sisters