



# SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS! AND GOD BLESS AMERICA!



July 7, 2013	<b>All Saints of America</b>	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
July 13	Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
July 14	Commemoration of the Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

**Saints of the Day:** Venerable Thomas of Mount Maleon (10th c.). Venerable Acacius of Sinai, who is mentioned in The Ladder (6th c.). New Hieromartyr Priest Paul (1918). Venerable Eudocia, in monasticism Euphrosyne, Grand-duchess of Moscow (1407). Uncovering of the relics (2001) of Venerable Gerasimus, Abbot of Boldino. Martyrs Peregrinus, Lucian, Pompeius, Hesychius, Pappias, Saturninus, and Germanus, of Dyrrachium in Macedonia.. Martyrs Presbyter Epictetus, and Astion in Scythia (290). Martyr Evangelus, Bishop of Tomi (Constanta) in Rumania. Martyr Cyriaca (Domnica or Nedelja) of Nicomedia (289). Saint Hedda, Bishop of the West Saxons (705). Saint Willibald, Bishop of Eichstatt (786). Saint Abbot Maelruin of Tallaght (792). Saint Pantaenus the Confessor of Alexandria (203). Hieromartyr Eustace. Martyr Polycarp the New. Saint Andronik of Kyoto and Perm. Saint Iltyd of Llantwit Abbey (505). Saint Boisil (Boswell) of Melrose, Abbot (664). Saint Medran and Saint Odran of Muskerry, Ireland (6th c). Saint Merryn (Marina) of Cornwall. Saint Ercongota of Faremoutiers (660). Saint Ethelburga of Faremoutiers (654). Saint Sethrida, Abbess and Virgin (660).

**Please remember in your prayers:** Bishop JOHN, Bishop PAUL. Archimandrites Alexander, Athanasy, Isidore, Nectarios, Pachomy. Archpriests Jason, John, Vincent. Priests Bohdan, Sergius, Jacobus, Andrij, Vasil, Vasil. Deacons Mark, Philip. Mother Raphaela, Sister Deborah, Igumenia Kallisfenia. Pat, Daniel, Catherine, Helen, Anna, Peter, Helen, Michael, Stephanie, Zara, Nolan, Emelie, Connie, Michael, Ed, Maria, Michael, John, James, Nancy, Susan, Daniel, Aaron, Mark, Jennifer, Nina, Nadine, Michael, Anna, Gregory, Marianna, Mykola, Helen, Isaiah, Albert, Kevin, Robert, Robert, Andrew, David, Warren.

**God Grant Many Years!** Prayers for the health of all the victims of the local flooding were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

**God Grant Many Years!** Prayers for the health of Ryan Anthony Desocio, Father Leonid Schmidt, Erin Thompson, and Mary Ann Williams were offered at Liturgy and Moleben today requested by Father John Udics

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of the souls of Metropolitan Leonty, uncle Joe Kushner were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Father John Udics.

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of the souls of John Tymoczko (June 30) and Jacob Eskoff (today) were offered at Liturgy and Litiya at the request the "Memory Eternal Requiem Service Fund."

### FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

**Saint Anna Sisterhood** donated all the frozen baked goods to Flood Relief food banks in Herkimer.

July 27	Saturday	4:00 pm	Great Vespers, followed by a meal with the Bishop and the Parish Council
July 28	Sunday	9:30 am	Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with His Grace Bishop MICHAEL, who will ordain Subdeacon Demetrios Richards to be a Deacon and Matthew Boncella to be a Reader
	Sunday		After Liturgy there will be a reception and meal downstairs.

### Fire Destroys Convent of the Nativity of the Mother of God (Wayne, West Virginia)

At around 6:00 AM on Pentecost Sunday, a fire burned down the Convent of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary as well as the attached candle factory, which were located on the grounds of the Hermitage of the Holy Cross. By the grace of God, the fire caused no injuries to Mother Theodora or to any of the Hermitage community members, although the damage to the Convent is totally irreparable and nearly everything in it was destroyed. It is not yet clear what started the fire, but in the words of Mother Theodora, "God has allowed this so that we will repent for our sins." We will post updates to this page and to the main Hermitage website as more information becomes available.

In the meantime, Mother Theodora is left with no cell, no means of livelihood and only the clothes on her back. She is in great need of everyone's prayers as well as whatever financial assistance you are able to give. You may make your donations on the Hermitage web site or by mailing a check with "Convent Rebuilding Fund" in the memo line to: Hermitage of the Holy Cross, Attn: Gift Shop, 505 Holy Cross Road, Wayne, WV 25570-5403

**THE HOLY GREAT-MARTYR DOMINICA [NEDELJA-KIRIAKI].** During the reign of the adversaries of Christ, Emperor Diocletian and his son-in-law Maximian, there lived in Anatolia two pious and elderly souls, Dorotheus and Eusebia. They were devout Christians, wealthy but childless. Unceasing in prayer they obtained a child from God, this holy Dominica. From her childhood, Dominica consecrated herself to God restraining from everything that unruly children do. When she matured, beautiful in body and soul, many suitors came to ask for her hand in marriage but she refused them all saying that she betrothed herself to Christ the Lord and that she desires nothing more than to die as a virgin. One of the rejected suitors denounced Dominica and her parents to Emperor Diocletian as being Christians. The emperor ordered that Dominica's parents be tortured and after torturing them banished them to the town of Melitene where they died enduring much suffering for Christ. Diocletian, however, sent Dominica to Maximian to stand trial. As Dominica confirmed her faith in Christ before Maximian, he ordered that she be placed on the ground and flogged with oxen whips. After that, the emperor handed her over to the commanders, at first Hilarion and then, after his death, to Apollonius. Both of them tortured Dominica in a beastly manner in all possible ways but all was in vain. When Saint Dominica lay in the prison cell, completely covered with wounds, Christ the Lord appeared to her, healed her and said: "Dominica, do not be afraid of torture, My grace is with you." And truly, the Grace of Christ saved this martyr both from fire and from wild beasts from which the godless judges thought that she would certainly meet death. Seeing the miraculous salvation of Dominica from so many deaths, many pagans believed in Christ. However, they were all beheaded. Dominica said to Apollonius: "In no manner can you turn me away from my Faith. If you throw me into the fire, I have an example in the Three Youths [Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego]; if you throw me before wild beasts, I have an example in Daniel the Prophet; if you toss me into the sea, I have an example in Jonah the Prophet; if you give me over to the sword, I will remember the honorable Forerunner [John the Baptist]; life for me is to die for Christ." Then Apollonius ordered that Dominica be beheaded. Dominica knelt on her knees, raised her hands to heaven and prayed to God that He would have mercy and save all those who would celebrate her memory and to give rest to her soul together with the souls of her parents. Upon completing her prayer, she rendered her soul to God before the sword was lowered on her head. Dominica suffered honorably and was received into eternal joy in the year 289 A.D. in Nicomedia.

**THE VENERABLE THOMAS OF MALEA.** At first, Thomas was a commander distinguished by his bravery and wealth. He was a very massive individual and instilled fear in his enemies. But when Thomas fell in love with Christ more than the world and everything in the world, he left all and withdrew into the wilderness where he was tonsured a monk and gave himself up to a life of strict asceticism. Saint Elijah the Prophet appeared to him and led him to a mountain called Malea next to Athos, the Holy Mountain. There he lived alone and isolated only with God, in prayer day and night. Even though he concealed himself from the world, he could not remain hidden. Upon learning about the sanctity of his life, men began to come to him and to bring their sick. Saint Thomas cured men from every infirmity and affliction. When he presented himself to the Lord in the tenth century, his relics continued to help all those who approached them with faith.

**THE VENERABLE MARTYRS EPITECTUS AND ASTIUS.** Astius, the only son of his parents, was persuaded to love the Faith of Christ by Epitectus the priest who baptized him and tonsured him a monk. After that they moved from somewhere in the eastern regions of Scythia and settled in the Scythian town of Almirida (now Ramzina) on the mouth of the Danube on the Black Sea. They were tortured and beheaded for the Faith of Christ about 290 A.D. After their deaths, they both appeared in great radiance to the parents of Saint Astius, Alexander and Marcellina, who were converted to Christ and who were baptized by Bishop Evangelus who himself, then was beheaded for Christ: "Evangelus, another angel" as is sung about him.

**HOMILY About the [sincere and pure] milk of the Word by Saint Nikolai of Zhicha**

*"As newborn babes, desire the sincere [pure] milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby: If so be, you have tasted that the Lord is gracious" (1 Peter 2: 2-3).*

"As newborn babes," this is how the great apostle regards Christians. Baptism is a new birth and man counts a new life from baptism. The spiritually new born must be fed with mild food the same as the physically new born. What kind of food does the apostle recommend for Christians? "The sincere and pure milk of the Word." The physical child is fed with the milk of insincerity, which is only the image of the "pure [sincere] milk of the Word" by which a spiritual child needs to be fed. What then is this sincere and pure milk with which Christians should be fed? The apostle himself answers this when he says: "for you have tasted that the Lord is gracious." Therefore, that is the Lord Jesus Himself, Living and Life-giving. Christ's words are the sincere and pure milk. Brethren, blessed are you if you nourish your souls with the words of Christ, as sweet milk, for your souls will expand and be blessed and you will be prepared for the Kingdom of God.

Christ's miracles are the sincere and pure milk. Brethren, blessed are you if you nourish your souls with this sweet milk, for you will be similar to the angels who sing the praises of the miracles of God day and night.

The Body and Blood of Christ are the sincere and pure milk. Brethren, blessed are you if you nourish your souls with this sweet milk, for you will become members of the Living and Immortal Body of Christ in the heavens. [And the words of Holy Scripture is the milk of the Incarnate God the Word, Jesus Christ.]

Christ's resurrected victory over death is the sincere and pure milk. Brethren, blessed are you if you nourish your souls with this sweet milk, for you will, while yet in this life, walk as victors and in the life to come stand at the right side of Christ the Victor.

Brethren, the whole of Christ is the sincere and pure milk. Let us be eager for this milk above all else that we may grow to salvation. This is the only nourishment for salvation. All else is for decay and the grave.

O Lord Jesus, Lamb of God, You Who are the sincere and pure milk, nourish us with Yourself as You did nourish Your holy apostles so that we may also grow sufficiently to salvation.

To You be glory and thanks always. Amen.