

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America
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GLORY TO JESVS CHRIST! GLORY TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS!

Today's Bulletin in memory of Helen Sobolowski is sponsored by Cindy Sobolowski.

July 14, 2013 Commemoration of the Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
July 20 Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
July 21 Sunday	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

Saints of the Day: Commemoration of the Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils. All Saints of Britain and Ireland. Apostle Aquila of the Seventy, and Saint Priscilla (1st c.). New Hieromartyr Priest Constantine (1918). New Hieromartyr Priest Nicholas (1933). Venerable Stephen, Abbot of Makhrishche (Vologda) (1406). Martyr Justus at Rome (1st c.). Venerable Ellius (Hellius) of Egypt (4th c.). Venerable Onesimus, of Magnesia (4th c.). Martyr John of Merv (Turkmenistan). Venerable Nicodemus of Mount Athos, spiritual writer (1809). Saints Vladimir and Agrippina Wonderworkers of Rzhev Saint Marcellinus Priest of Utrecht (8th c.). Saint Joseph the Confessor, Archbishop of Thessalonica. Saint Heraclius, Patriarch of Alexandria (246). Saint Deusdedit, Bishop of Canterbury (664). Saint Idus, Bishop of Leinster (5th cent.)

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, 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, Andrew, David, Warren.

God Grant Many Years! To newly-baptized Samuel Alexi Mezik of Chicago, IL, and his godparents Daniel Mezik and Soraya Ortiz, and parents Dennis Mezik and Cybill Ortiz Mezik!

God Grant Many Years! To newly-wed Matthew Aaron Boncella and Nicole Renée Howard and their sponsors Demetrios and Nancy Richards!

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of David Pellack. Susanna Kappanadze, Norman Andrews and Archpriest Vincent Saverino were offered at Liturgy and Moleben today at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the souls of Priest Daniel Suders, Mary McCartney and Don Udics were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Father John Udics.

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

FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

- July 27 Saturday 4:00 pm Great Vespers and a meal with the **His Grace Bishop MICHAEL** 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.

• August 22 Tuesday **Diocesan Youth Day** 9 AM – 8 PM Six Flags Great Adventure – Jackson, NJ
All the young people of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey – from elementary to middle school, to high school, to college -- are invited to join Bishop Michael, together with friends old and new, for a day of fun, fellowship, and amazing rides! The day begins at 9:00 AM with prayer and the annual "Stump the Clergy" contest, at St. Mary's Church Hall in Jackson, NJ; then we will board the bus bound for Six Flags Great Adventure! The cost is \$32 per person. It includes Admission to Six Flags Great Adventure; round trip bus transportation from St. Mary's Church Hall, Jackson, NJ, to Six Flags, and a meal voucher worth \$11.75.

• **2013 PARISH COUNCIL CONFERENCE VIDEO AVAILABLE ON-LINE** The recently conducted **2013 Parish Council Conference** is available as a **VIDEO** of the presentations by Father Constantine Nasr are now available on-line at: http://nynjoca.org/2013_parish_council_conference.html

SAINT DEUSDEDIT OF CANTERBURY, BISHOP, Died October 28 (or July 14), 664; feast day formerly on January 14. Deusdedit was a South Saxon, who became the first Anglo-Saxon primate when he succeeded Saint Honorius as archbishop of Canterbury in 653. He helped to build the monastery of Medehamstede (Petersborough) in 657, and founded the convent on Thanet Island. He consecrated Damian bishop of Rochester. Nothing further is known of him except that he died during the great pestilence, on the same day as King Erconbert of Kent, and was buried in the monastery church of Saints Peter and Paul (later Saint Augustine's) in Canterbury. His shrine remained there until the Reformation.

SAINT IDUS OF LEINSTER, BISHOP, 5th century. Saint Idus was a disciple of Saint Patrick, by whom he was baptized. Patrick appointed him bishop of Alt-Fadha in Leinster. He is often invoked in the old Irish prayer in verse which bears the name of Saint Moling.

THE HOLY APOSTLE AQUILA was one of the Seventy Apostles. As a Jew, he first lived in Italy with his wife Priscilla. When Emperor Claudius decreed that all Jews be driven from Rome and Italy, Aquila settled in Corinth, where the Apostle Paul met him for the first time and remained in his home for a year and a half and baptized him and his wife. Burning with zeal for the Faith of Christ, Aquila and Priscilla escorted Paul to Ephesus and assisted him in his apostolic labors. Paul wrote his first Epistle to the Corinthians from Ephesus in which, toward the end, he says: "Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the Church that is their house" (1 Corinthians 16:19). After the death of Emperor Claudius, the Jews were permitted to return to Italy, and so Aquila and Priscilla returned to Rome. After this the Apostle Paul writing the Epistle to the Romans from Corinth, greets his old friends and his co-laborers: "Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus; who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles" (Romans 16:3-4). Later on, we see Aquila in Ephesus where he labors together with St. Timothy the Apostle. Chained in Rome, Paul writes to Timothy in Ephesus: "Salute Priscilla and Aquila" (2 Timothy 4:19). As a bishop, Aquila baptized many and illumined them with the Faith, destroyed idols, built churches, ordained priests and spread the glory of the Incarnate Son of God among men. In the end, he was murdered by the wicked heathens and took up habitation in the Kingdom of Christ.

THE VENERABLE HELLIUS was an Egyptian monk of the fourth century. From his early youth he dedicated himself to monastic asceticism in the wilderness, that by his life and powerful miracles, he stirred the astonishment of monks and laity alike and even though he fled the glory of men, he was unable to conceal himself. He endured great struggles with the temptations of the devil, especially during the time of prolonged fasting. One time, the devil offered him honey and another time delicious apples but Hellius did not allow himself to be deceived. He was able to discern the hearts of men, was able to discern everyone's passion and thought, not in order to show his inner knowledge, but to correct men.

REFLECTION by Saint Nikolai of Zhicha

Christians must arm themselves against the abominations of this world. They must be armed against every attack and against all temptations, so that every evil rebounds from them. Armor is not made in a day, nor in two days but is diligently and laboriously wielded by long-lasting exercise. Of what value is all our virtue if we succumb to the first abomination? Speaking of this, Saint Gregory of Nyssa cites an example with a monkey in Alexandria. He says: "An animal trainer in Alexandria taught a monkey to skillfully impersonate a female dancer on stage. The spectators at the theatre praised the monkey who was dressed as a female dancer and danced to the beat of the music. But while the viewers were occupied observing such a novel spectacle, a comedian wanted to show everyone that a monkey is nothing more than a monkey. While they all shouted and applauded at the skill of the monkey, the comedian tossed sweets on the stage, sweets that monkeys particularly like. As soon as the monkey saw the sweets, he forgot the dance, the applause, the expensive clothing and jumped with his paws for the sweets but as his dress interfered, he began to tear it apart with his nails attempting to remove it. Instead of praise and amazement, laughter commenced among the viewers." For through the torn mask of the "dancer," a monkey was revealed.

HOMILY About the steadfastness of faith by Saint Nikolai of Zhicha

"Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world" (1 Peter 5:9).

Brethren, the most important fortress of the souls of men is the fortress of faith. It is upon this fortress that the devil vehemently attacks with all his arrows and all of his wiles. For the impure and evil spirit knows that when this fortress is destroyed he enslaves the soul of man forever. That is why the holy apostles prayed to the Lord: "Increase our faith" (St. Luke 17:5). Brethren, let us also pray daily that the Lord increases our faith, that He empower and strengthen our faith. The serpent primarily protects its head in danger, which is why the Lord Himself called it wise. Let us also protect the head of our spiritual life which is faith. Nothing in this world can replace faith in God: neither philosophy, nor science, nor treasure, nor glory, neither the entire world from one end to the other with all its transitory illusions. This the devil knows. That is why he especially attacks our faith, instilling doubt in us, causing us to waver, confusing our thoughts and disturbing our hearts. Since the devil knows that faith is the principle thing, it is all the more necessary that we should know it also. Because of us Christ descended to earth, because of us He suffered on the Cross and gave us the covenant of an All-saving Faith.

We can neither strengthen faith nor increase faith except through suffering. That is why the much-suffering Apostle Peter says: "That the same afflictions (such as yours) are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world." The apostle does not speak of his affliction out of humility but rather speaks of the affliction of our brethren in Christ. One in faith and one in affliction. Brethren, you do not suffer alone for the True Faith but your other brethren also suffer for the same Faith.

Let this comfort your afflictions. But most of all let the afflictions of the First-born in suffering, our crucified Lord Jesus Christ Himself, comfort you.

O Lord Jesus, Sufferer above the sufferers and Victor above the victors increase our faith and strengthen us with the power of Your Grace as you did strengthen Your holy apostles.

To You be glory and thanks always. Amen.