

# **IC XC NIKA SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH**

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America  
305 Main Road, Herkimer, New York, 13350 • 315-866-3272  
Archpriest John Udics, Rector • e-mail: john.udics@gmail.com  
Deacon Mark Bohush • e-mail: markabohush@aol.com  
Parish Web Page: www.cnyorthodoxchurch.org

## **Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory to God Forever!**

July 21, 2013	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
July 27	Saturday	Great Vespers	6:00 pm
July 28	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

**Saints of the Day:** Prophet Ezekiel (6th c. B.C.). Venerable Symeon of Emesa, Fool-for-Christ (590), and his fellow faster Venerable John. New Hieromartyr Priest Peter (1938). New Hieromartyrs Simo Banjac and Milan Stojisavljevic and his son Martyr Milan of Glamoc, Serbia (1941-1945). Venerable Onuphrius the Silent of the Kiev Caves (12th c.) and Saint Onesimus, Recluse of the Kiev Caves (13th c.). Uncovering of the relics (1649) of Venerable Anna of Kashin (1337). Martyr Victor of Marseilles. Martyr Acacius of Constantinople. Venerable Eleutherius of "Dry Hill." Saint Parthenius of Radovizlios, Bishop. Saint Anna, mother of Venerable Sabbas the Serbian. Hieromartyr Zoticus of Comana in Armenia (204). Martyrs Justus, Matthew, and Eugene of the 13 who suffered at Rome together with the Martyrs Trophimus and Theophilus (305). Martyr Bargabdesian, Deacon, at Arbela in Assyria (354) Saint Paul, Bishop, and Saint John, Presbyter, Ascetics near Edessa (5th c.). Saint Arbogast of Strasbourg, Bishop (678).

**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, Dimitri, 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!** Prayers for the health of Father Senan Taylor, Ken Kavalkovich, Matushka Fran Vansuch were offered at Liturgy and Moleben today at the request of Father John Udics.

**God Grant Many Years!** Prayers for the health of Father Leonid and Matushka Laura Schmidt were offered at Liturgy and Moleben today for their wedding anniversary at the request of Father John Udics.

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

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of the soul of Michael Rinko were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of John Rinko.

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of the soul of Rose Sokol were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of the Sokol Family.

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of the soul of Protopresbyter John Meyendorff were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Father John Udics.

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

Due to the strong winds and heavy thunderstorms which caused the flooding in our area, **the United States flag** on our flagpole is beginning to fray and unravel. We are asking someone to make a donation to allow us to purchase a new flag. The same person bought the last three flags, and we would offer someone else to make the donation – in memory of someone who gave his or her life in the guarding of our country, perhaps.

### **INFORMATION FOR YOUR CALENDAR:**

- July 27 Saturday 6:00 pm Great Vespers and a meal with the **His Grace Bishop MICHAEL** and the Parish Council (NOTE SPECIAL TIME FOR VESPERS)
- 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

**THE VENERABLE SIMEON AND JOHN.** These two young men left their homes and relatives: Simeon, his aged mother and John, his young wife. Both received the monastic tonsure at the hands of the Abbot Nicon in the Monastery of St. Gerasimus and withdrew into the wilderness where they lived an austere life of asceticism for many years. Through rigorous asceticism, they mortified their bodies so much that they resembled two withered trees. One day Simeon said to John that, according to God's command, he must depart from the wilderness and go among the people and there serve God. John gave him this counsel: "Guard our heart against

all that you will see in the world. Whatever you touch with your hand, do not allow it to touch your heart. Whatever you eat with your mouth, let not your heart be satisfied. When your feet begin to walk, let there be peace within you. And whatever you do outwardly, let not your mind remain disturbed. Pray to God for me, that He does not separate us, one from the other, in the future life." Saint Simeon accepted the counsel of his companion, kissed him and, after that, departed the wilderness and went among the people as a "fool for Christ," to teach men and to convert them to the Faith of Christ. He pretended insanity before men but his heart was the temple of the Holy Spirit and, in that temple, was unceasing prayer. He possessed abundant grace from God and was able to discern all the inner secrets of men, both near and far, healing men from evil spirits and other ailments. Dancing in the streets as one insane, he approached men and whispered their sins in their ears and called them to repentance. He even appeared to sinners in dreams, rebuked them for their sins and called them to repentance. Thus it was with Bali, a pagan actor, who openly mocked Christian shrines and to whom Saint Simeon appeared in a dream, rebuked and warned him so that he repented and became a model Christian. A young fornicator went out of his mind because of sexual promiscuity. Seeing this insane young man, Saint Simeon struck him across the face with his hand and said: "Do not commit fornication." At that moment the unclean demon departed from the young man and he became well.

**SAINT ARBOGAST, BISHOP OF STRASBOURG (678)** was born in Aquitaine, France; died c. 678. Although the Irish and Scottish both claim Arbogast as their own, the 13th-century Chronicle of Sens by Richer and the Life of Saint Florentius, his successor, strongly support the claim of Scotland. His acta, however, tell us that Arbogast was born of a noble family in Aquitaine, France. His vita, attributed to Bishop Utone of Strasbourg (died 965), tells us that Arbogast was living as a recluse in the Sacred Forest (Heiligesforst or Haguenau) of Alsace when King Dagobert took an interest in him. The holy hermit was often called to court to share his wisdom with the king, who, about 630, forced on Arbogast the see of Strasbourg. Shortly after his consecration, Arbogast raised Dagobert's son Sigebert to life when he had been killed by a fall from his horse. Although many other miracles are ascribed to the saint, he was famed for humility and wisdom.

Because of the king's affection for the bishop, the see was endowed with several large estates, including Rufach and the old royal palace of Isenburg. Arbogast founded or endowed several monasteries, including Surbourg, Shutteran, and possibly Ebersheimmunster (although Saint Odilia's father, Adalric, and Bishop Saint Deodatus of Nevers are the principal founders of this last one).

Apparently Saint Arbogast retired before his death, because the year before Dagobert offered the see of Strasbourg to Saint Wilfrid, who was on his way to Rome to challenge the division of his see. When Wilfrid declined, Saint Florentius was consecrated.

At Arbogast's request, he was interred on a mountain in the place set apart for the burial of criminals. The church of Saint Michael was built over his tomb and Saint Arbogast's Abbey rose nearby. His second successor translated his body with honour into the abbey church. A church was built in his honour in 1069, but it was destroyed by the Protestants in 1530. His relics were scattered during the Thirty Years War.

In art, Saint Arbogast is portrayed as a bishop walking dryshod over a river, sometimes with Saint Sebastian. He is the patron of Strasbourg, but his feast is also kept in several Swiss cantons.

**THE HOLY PROPHET EZEKIEL** was the son of a priest from the town of Sarir. He was taken to Babylon into captivity with King Jeoiachim along with many other Israelites. Living in captivity, Ezekiel prophesied for twenty-seven years. He was a contemporary of the Prophet Jeremiah. While Jeremiah taught and prophesied in Jerusalem, so Ezekiel taught and prophesied in Babylon. The prophecies of Jeremiah were known in Babylon and the prophecies of Ezekiel were known in Jerusalem. Both of these holy men agreed in the prophecies of each other. Both were mistreated and tortured by the unbelieving Jewish people. Saint Ezekiel had frightening and unimaginable visions. By the river Chebar, Ezekiel saw the heavens open, "a great cloud and a fire infolding itself and a brightness was about it" (Ezekiel 1:4) and four wild creatures like molten copper [burnished brass]. One creature had the face of a man, the second the face of a lion, the third the face of a calf [ox], the fourth the face of an eagle [Ezekiel 1:10]. The face of the man signifies the Lord Incarnate as a man, the face of the lion, His divinity, the face of the calf, His sacrifice and the face of an eagle, His resurrection and ascension. At another time he was shown the vision of the resurrection of the dead. The prophet saw a valley full of dry dead bones and when the Spirit of God descended upon them, they came to life and rose to their feet [Ezekiel 37:1-10]. He also saw the most terrible destruction of Jerusalem when the wrath of God mowed down all, except those who were earlier marked with the Greek symbol called Tau [Ezekiel 9: 1-7]. This mark is like our letter T which is also the sign also of the Cross. The evil of the Jews did not even spare this holy man. Infuriated at him because he rebuked them, the Jews tied him to the tails of horses and ripped him in two. He was buried in the same sepulchre with Shem, the Son of Noah.

#### REFLECTION by Saint Nikolai of Zhicha

If you give alms to the poor, know that as much as you do good works for your fellow man so much you do for yourself and even more for yourself. Saint Anthony says: "Both life and death comes to us from our fellow man." Saint Peter Damaskin writes: "As the poor should give thanks to God and love the rich who do them good, so even more should the rich should give thanks to God and to love the poor because they are saved by the Providence of God both now and in the future ages [life to come] because of their alms [Charity]. For without the poor, they not only cannot gain salvation of their souls but they cannot avoid the temptations of wealth." Alms which are given out of vanity or with disdain do not benefit anything. In earlier times, the wealthy ones brought gold to the hermits and begged them to accept it. It is a rare occurrence that the hermits gladly accepted alms and, when they did accept it, they accepted it out of compassion toward the wealthy ones giving it. The most destitute of men received alms out of compassion!