

# ICHC NTKA 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  
Deacon Demetrios Richards • e-mail: dwr00nhr@twcny.rr.com  
Parish Web Page: www.cnyorthodoxchurch.org

## Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory to God For All Things!

August 4, 2013	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
August 6	Tuesday	<b>THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD</b>	Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
August 10	Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
August 11	7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

**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, Dimitri, Daniel, Catherine, Helen, Anna, Peter, Helen, Michael, Stephanie, Zara, Nolan, Emelie, Connie, Michael, Ed, Maria, Michael, John, Nina, 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 Anita Hansen, Dave Donlick and Loren Bundt were offered at Liturgy and Moleben today at the request of Father John Udics.

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

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of the souls of Metropolitan Anthony (Bloom), Metropolitan Sergius (Tikhomirov) and Sophie Hartong were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Father John Udics.

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of the souls of Ann Bayzon, Jacob Elnicky and Frank Gromadzky were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of the "Memory Eternal Requiem Service Fund."

**Statement by Heads and Representatives of the Local Orthodox Churches Assembled for the Celebration of the 1025th Anniversary of the Baptism of Russia** <https://mospat.ru/en/2013/07/25/news89183/>  
25.07.2013 ·

We, heads and representatives of the Local Orthodox Churches, who have come to Moscow on the occasion of the celebration of the 1025<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Baptism of Russia at the invitation of Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, consider it our duty to raise our voice in defense of our Christian brothers subjected to persecution for their faith in various parts of the world today.

Every day thousands of believers in Christ are being tortured and driven out of their native lands; many people meet their death.

News about tortures and murders are coming from Nigeria, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and India. In Kosovo, religious shrines are being defiled, many churches have been destroyed, and many people are deprived of the opportunity to visit the graves of their relatives and to pray to God in the land of their ancestors.

The situation in the Middle East causes deep concern. Many countries of this region are swept with a wave of violence and terror, with Christians falling victims to it. Libya, where there are almost no Christians left, is breaking into warring tribes. Terrorist acts go on in Iraq, where one tenth of the former one and a half million Christians has left. The situation in Egypt is getting more and more alarming as the conflict there has entered into another bloody phase and the Christian population flees the country in a mass exodus. Grief and sufferings have befallen families of thousands of ordinary people. As a rule, the first to suffer from unfolding conflicts are the most unprotected groups of the population including ethnic and religious minorities.

In September 2010, the first meeting of the Orthodox Primates of the Middle East region took place in Cyprus. The Primates expressed their deep concern over the situation in this region and the future of Christians in the area. The same concern was expressed at the similar meetings in Jordan in August 2011, in Constantinople in September 2011, and in Cyprus in March 2012. The statement in support of suffering Christians in the Middle East was adopted at the meeting of the heads and representatives of the Local Orthodox Churches, held in Moscow in November 2011.

The situation in Syria is particularly tragic today. In the heat of the fratricidal war, Christians, as well as representatives of other religious groups, are massacred, driven out of their native cities, towns and villages, out of the places where they used to live for centuries in peace with people of other religious traditions.

Paramilitary groups do not hesitate to use every possible means to achieve their goals. Their radical members carry it too far in their crimes. Horrific scenes of violence, public executions, humiliation against human dignity and violation of human rights have become habitual. Abductions and murders often committed for mercenary ends have become a common occurrence. Extremists do not stop at insulting religious leaders who have always enjoyed respect in the East.

The world mass media, as well as many politicians, are silent about the tragedy of Christians in the Middle East.

We express solidarity with His Beatitude Patriarch John X of Great Antioch and All the East who could not share our joy of celebrations today since he has to stay with his flock at the moment so difficult for them. Our

prayers are with him and our brothers in Christ who *are being killed all day long* (Rom. 8:36).

We are grieving together with all the suffering people of Syria. We demand that the outstanding Christian hierarchs of Syria – Metropolitan Paul of Aleppo and Iskenderun and Syrian Jacobite Metropolitan Mar Gregory John Ibrahim of Aleppo be immediately freed.

We make this appeal to all the warring sides and those who can make a political impact on the situation: Stop the wave of violence and extermination of civilians! Impose a moratorium on the military hostilities so that a basis for peaceful settlement of civil conflicts could be worked out at the negotiation table! Free the captured clergy and other civilians!

As servants of the Almighty God, we ardently pray to the Author of Peace, the Lord Pantocrator that peace and love of brothers may be restored in the Middle East, refugees may come back to their settlements as soon as possible, the wounded may be healed and the innocent people who were killed may rest in peace. May the Lord inspire all those involved in the hostilities with wisdom and the good will to stop them!

*Translation from Russian*

The ever-growing list of **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors** has made it possible for our diocese to offer much-needed support to mission parishes, seminarians, and older struggling parishes. When Bishop Michael inaugurated the Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors initiative three years ago, it was hoped that many people throughout our diocese ... those so blessed and able to offer financial support ... would “step-up” to the challenge of funding essential ministries that would otherwise go unattended due to budgetary limitations. Well, many have come forward! Last year, over \$120,000.00 was contributed by Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors. So far this year we are short of our goal ... but summer is here and the sun is shining, and there are 5 months of opportunity to support the Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors! **A 60-second promotional video for Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors** is also available on the diocesan website at: <http://nynjoca.org/> Feel free to forward the video to your friends!

**Romania: Church offers prayer service for safe drivers** 30 July 2013 Last updated at 05:43 ET

Orthodox priests in Romania are presenting a new blessing service which offers prayers for the safety of drivers, their cars and passengers, it's been reported.

The patriarchy of the Church introduced the service after increasing demand from car owners, the regional news website Balkan Insight says. According to reports, there's no fixed fee for the service; drivers can pay as much or as little as they want. It's common practice in Romania for worshippers to write down prayers for such things as good health or examination results, which are read out by priests for a small fee. Romania remains one of Europe's most devout countries, with 2011 census data showing that 85% of the country belong to the Orthodox Church. The Church, in turn, remains popular, turning to the internet, TV and radio to reach believers.

For the religious, prayers may be a necessary precaution: the European Commission's Eurostat service says that Romania has the third highest road traffic accident rate in Europe, with data released in September 2011 showing 142 traffic deaths per million of population, compared to the UK's 43 per million.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/blogs-news-from-elsewhere-23502928>

**Official statement from the Committee of the Syrian Orthodox Patriarchate concerning the two Archbishops Yohanna Ibrahim and Boulous Yazigi** July 29, 2013 - World Church News

**“One hundred days since the abduction of the two Archbishops Yohanna Ibrahim and Boulous Yazigi**

On Monday, April 22, 2013, which has become known to everyone, His Eminence Archbishop Mar Gregorios Yohanna Ibrahim of the Syrian Orthodox and Boulous Yazigi of the Greek Orthodox church were kidnapped at the hands of an unknown group near the Turkish-Syrian border between Aleppo and Antioch.

The two sister churches have publicly and in private and continue today to exert every effort at local, regional and global levels. These efforts concentrated on all types of communication with honorable ministers, members of parliament, ambassadors, their holiness patriarchs and their graces archbishops and bishops and extending the communication channels to include the United Nations and many other stakeholders and friends, as the two churches pursued every opportunity that was proposed by the loving friends and left no stone unturned to secure their release which to date has not eventuated.

We note with utmost surprise how small and big states have shown their ignorance when it came to this serious and dangerous event. Today, on the occasion of the centenary day of this inhumane absence and unethical handling of two Archbishops that represent the love of God and serve the people of every religion and national affiliation, especially humanitarian organizations working in the service of human beings.

The kidnapers have not indicated the whereabouts of the two Archbishops and have not announced their identity or their demands or the purpose behind their inhuman act. The Archbishops are in captivity and their will is being suppressed. Due to their age, they suffer from medical conditions that need to be addressed.

We, as a committee of the Patriarchate represent the Syrian Orthodox Church in line with the order and guidance of His Holiness Mar Ignatius Zakka I Iwas, who entrusted to us the task of following up the case of the two kidnapped Archbishops in constant coordination with the Patriarchate of the Greek Orthodox Church. We appeal to the international community on various levels and in every place to work with us to facilitate the work of our committee and the friends of the two Archbishops who seek to spread peace and tranquility all over the world, and emphasize that any service provided to this committee is a service to God and humanity, remembering the words of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. (Mathew 5:9)

This is an appeal from the hearts of friends and family and all people of pure conscience and people of goodwill thanking in advance all those who cooperated and sought to help materialize the will of God in this world providing freedom to the kidnapped Archbishops and all other hostages, so they may return to their churches and their people and to the civil society to which we all belong.