



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!

September 22, 2013	15 th Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
September 28	Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
September 29	16 th Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

Saints of the Day: Prophet Jonah (9th c. B.C.). Hieromartyr Phocas, Bishop of Sinope (117). Venerable Jonah the Presbyter (9th c.), father of Saint Theophanes the Hymnographer and Saint Theodore Graptus. Blessed Parasceve of Diveevo (1915). New Martyr Benjamin Bishop of Romanovsk (1930). Venerable Jonah, Abbot of Yash Lake (1589). Venerable Macarius, Abbot of Zhabyn (1623). Martyr Phocas the Gardener of Sinope (320). Saint Peter the Tax-collector of Constantinople (6th c.). Hieromartyr Theodosius of Brazsk (1694). The 26 Martyrs of Zographou Monastery, Mount Athos, martyred by the Latins (1284). Martyrs Isaac and Martin. Venerable Theophanes the Silent, recluse of the Kiev Caves. Venerable Cosmas, desert-dweller of Zographou, Mount Athos (1323). Hieromartyr Emmeram, Bishop in Gaul, martyred at Regensburg (690).

Please remember in your prayers: Suffering Christians of Egypt, Syria and the Middle East, Bishop JOHN, Bishop PAUL. Archimandrites Alexander, Athanasy, Isidore, Nectarios, Pachomy. Archpriests Jason, John, Vincent. Priests Sergius, Jacobus, Andrij, Vasil, Vasil. Deacons Demetrios, Philip. Mother Raphaela, Dimitri, Michael Andrew, Nina, Daniel, Catherine, Helen, Anna, Peter, Helen, Stephanie, Zara, Nolan, Emelie, Geoff, Connie, Michael, Ed, Maria, Michael, John, James, Nancy, Susan, Daniel, Aaron, Mark, Jennifer, Nina, Nadine, Michael, Anna, Gregory, Marianna, Mykola, Helen, Isaiah, Kevin, Robert, Robert, Andrew, David, Warren.

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

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Thomas McCloghry, Bishop DANIEL and Eric Stehnach were offered at Liturgy and Moleben today at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the souls of Michael and Elizabeth Spytko were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of their family.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the souls of John and Ann Garbera were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of the Garbera Family.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the soul of Anna Karpowich were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of the Elnicky Family.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the soul of infant Vera Tkachuk were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today requested by Father John Udics.

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

FOR YOUR INFORMATION :

- **Saint Anna's Sisterhood** will hold a meeting today after Liturgy.
- **Special Collection (cash)** today and next Sunday for the **Herkimer-Mohawk Interfaith Food Pantry**
- **"Sexual Misconduct and Abuse Prevention in Our Parishes"** ~ a specially dedicated webpage on the Diocesan website has been updated to include a list of valuable resources. You will always be able to find the webpage through an icon on the website homepage: http://nynjoca.org/sexual_misconduct_prevention.html **All Parish Council Officers and Teachers** are responsible for being familiar with this information.
- **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors:** An update on the **2013 DDB program** has been published on the Diocesan website as a banner news item. See the details. <http://nynjoca.org/>

FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF BISHOPS OPENS IN CHICAGO

September 17, 2013: His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon and the members of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America are among 65 hierarchs participating in the 2013 annual meeting of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America at the Chicago Marriott here Tuesday through Thursday, September 17-19, 2013.

The first annual meeting was held in New York City in 2010, while the second and third gatherings were held in Chicago in 2011 and 2012.

The schedule and agenda as posted on the Assembly web site may be accessed at: <http://www.assemblyofbishops.org/assets/files/Proposed Agenda for the 2013 AB Meeting.pdf>

According to the announced schedule, the Assembly will open with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at Holy Virgin Protection Cathedral (Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia), Des Plaines, IL and a commemoration of the 1700th Anniversary of the Edict of Milan. During the opening plenary session the

Assembly Chairman, His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, will deliver his opening address. Reports by the Treasurer, Secretary, and Coordinator for Committees; a proposal from the Coordinator for Agencies and Endorsed Organizations; and an announcement concerning the establishment of Permanent 501(c)(3) status are slated to follow. Other issues on the agenda include proposals for canonical restructuring, a regional model for communications, and a proposal to plan an Assembly-sponsored national conference for Orthodox Christian youth.

By way of background, delegates from the 14 Autocephalous Orthodox Churches participated in an historic Fourth Pre-Conciliar Pan-Orthodox Conference at the Center of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Chambésy-Geneva, Switzerland June 6-12, 2009. The Conference was a direct result of the Synaxis of the Heads of all the Orthodox Churches, convened by His All Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I at the Ecumenical Patriarchate October 10-12, 2008. At that time, the Heads of the Churches expressed their “desire for the swift healing of every canonical anomaly that has arisen from historical circumstances and pastoral requirements, such as in the so-called Orthodox Diaspora, with a view to overcoming every possible influence that is foreign to Orthodox ecclesiology.”

Acting as formal representatives of the Autocephalous Churches, the members of the Fourth Pre-Conciliar Conference in Chambésy in 2009 affirmed “that is the common will of all of the most holy Orthodox Churches that the problem of the Orthodox Diaspora be resolved as quickly as possible, and that it be organized in accordance with Orthodox ecclesiology, and the canonical tradition and practice of the Orthodox Church.” The Conference decided to establish an “Episcopal Assembly” (aka “Assembly of Bishops”) in specific geographic regions which are beyond the boundaries of the Autocephalous Churches. The Conference identified 12 such regions throughout the world, including North and Central America.

SINAI'S SAINT CATHERINE'S STARVES, MONASTERY SHUTS DOWN

By: **Mohannad Sabry for Al-Monitor** Posted on **September 4**.

SAINT CATHERINE'S — In the Sinai city of Saint Catherine, a few thousand people and around 800 camels have been left struggling since the first week of July, when Egyptian security authorities ordered the total shutdown of the town's **1,500-year-old monastery**. Bedouin residents of the mountainous area were forced to sell their camels, which they cannot feed, to feed their families.

Over the past 50 years, Saint Catherine's Monastery closed its gates twice, in 1977 when former President Anwar Sadat made his historic visit to Jerusalem, and in 1982 when the Egyptian military entered Sinai after the withdrawal of Israeli forces. This time, the shutdown, which wasn't explained by any official statements from either the Defense or Interior Ministry, was allegedly ordered after a failed attempt to kidnap a monk traveling in South Sinai in June and rising suspicions of a possible attack on the monastery.

"This is the third time we've closed since the early 1960s before the Israeli occupation. And even during the occupation, we remained open," Father Paolos, a member of the monastery's Holy Council who's been serving in Saint Catherine's since 1972, told *Al-Monitor* on Monday, September 2 "After the attacks on churches around the country in the past two months, we received orders from security authorities to shut down for security reasons."

"Despite having more time to pray and practice, our priests live without crowds of visitors, we are suffering a major financial crisis, and we cannot cover the monastery's expenses and dozens of families that we constantly support," said Paolos, who wore his farming clothes covered in mud.

Saint Catherine's Monastery employs 400 workers from the surrounding community at its olive groves, grape farms, honey bee farms and several processing facilities including an olive oil press. As of the beginning of September, the monastery reserves decreased to a level that is barely enough to cover two months of expenditure. "We respect the Egyptian government, and we will continue to close if they require the closure," said Paolos, "But we will have to drastically cut down salaries and other expenditures. We are saddened to lose the income we shared with the Bedouin community."

Meanwhile, the state authorities haven't moved to help rescue the ailing community despite generating millions of dollars in revenues from hundreds of thousands of tourists who have visited Saint Catherine's over the past two decades. One example of the income generated by the state is the entrance tickets imposed by the Ministry of Environment in 2004. Since then, every single tourist is required to pay \$5 to enter the town of Saint Catherine's.

The monastery's administration told *Al-Monitor* that it operated at full capacity between 2004 and 2011, receiving 4,000 visitors — mostly foreign tourists — five days a week. And even on the monastery's days off, the town received hundreds of tourists climbing Mount Sinai and venturing around the mountains on Bedouin safari trips.

"We demanded the Egyptian government allocate a portion of those profits to the development of the local community to resolve its long-standing issues, but our requests were never answered since the entrance tickets were imposed," said Paolos.

Akin to the rest of Sinai's Bedouin communities, and despite being a bustling, internationally known tourist destination, residents of Saint Catherine's have no other sources of income and their infrastructure remains considerably substandard, even non-existent. Until today, potable water hasn't reached Saint Catherine's houses, and those who don't have enough capital to dig wells are forced to buy water or carry their jerry cans to public taps built by other residents who have operating wells on their farms.

Since the January 2011 uprising that toppled Hosni Mubarak's 30 years of dictatorship, the prosperous, tourism-dependent life Saint Catherine's Bedouins once enjoyed started dwindling as Egypt descended into political and security turmoil, but no other time was as devastating for this community as the two past months since the ouster of President Mohammed Morsi on July 3.

Read more: <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2013/09/st-catherine-shutdown-monastery-sinai-unrest.html#ixzz2e30QBlj2>