

# ICHC NTKRA SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

November 24, 2013	24 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
November 30	Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
December 1	25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

**Saints of the Day:** Great-martyr Mercurius of Caesarea in Cappadocia (259). Great-martyr Catherine of Alexandria (305). Hieromartyr Mercurius of Smolensk (1238). Venerable Mercurius, the Faster of the Kievan Caves, Far Caves (14 c). New Hieromartyr Eugraphus (1919). New Hieromartyrs Priests Eugene and Michael, Virgin-martyr Anysia (1937). New Hieromartyrs Priests Alexander, Alexis, John, Cornelius, and Metrophanes (1937). Martyrs Augusta (Faustina) the Empress, Porphyrius, and 200 soldiers at Alexandria with Great-martyr Catherine (305). Venerable Mastridia of Alexandria (1060). Venerable Simon, Abbot of Soiga Monastery (Vologda) (1561). Martyr Philothea of Romania (1060). Saint Gregory, founder of the Monastery of the Golden Rock in Pontus. Martyr Alexander at Corinth (4 c). Venerable Luke, Steward of the Kiev Caves (13 c.). Saint Hermogenes, Bishop of Agrigentum (ca. 260). Venerable Romanus of Bordeaux (382), and Venerable Protasius, Hermit of Auvergne (6 c.) Venerable Portianus of Arthone (527). Saint Minver, Virgin of Cornwall. Maryrs Philemenus, Christopher, Eugene, Procopius, and another Christopher. Martyr Chrysogenes and Monk-martyr Mark Triglinos. Hieromartyrs Clement, Pope of Rome (101), and Peter, Archbishop of Alexandria (311). Saint Malchus of Chalcis in Syria (5 c.). Saint Nicodemus the Younger of Philokalos in Thessalonica (1305).

**Please remember in your prayers:** Suffering Christians of Egypt, Syria and the Middle East. Bishop Boulos Yazigi, Bishop Yohanna Ibrahim, of Aleppo. Archimandrites Alexander, Athanasy, Isidore, Nectarios, Pachomy. Archpriests Jason, John, Vincent. Priests Bohdan, Sergius, Jacobus, Andrij, Vasil, Vasil. Deacons Mark, Demetrios, Philip. Mother Raphaela, Dimitri, Nina, Daniel, Catherine, Helen, Anna, Peter, Helen, Michael, Stephanie, Zara, Nolan, Emelie, Connie, Michael, Ed, Nettie, 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, Vincent, Archpriest Leonid, Diane, Abigail.

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of Michelle Long and Olga Hubiak were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Mary Ann and Ed Mamrosch.

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of Paul and Kay Sokol were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of the "Memory Eternal Requiem Service Fund."

### FOR YOUR BULLETIN BOARDS:

- **HOLIDAY BAZAAR: Saturday, November 23, 11am.** Doors open at 11 a.m. Cookie Trays, Breads, Rolls, Pies, Pierogi, Halupki. Russian Café serving Borscht, Halushki, Halupki, Pierogi. Volunteers are needed and welcome.
- **NATIVITY PAGEANT – Sunday, December 8.** Contact Ann Gale to help.
- If you need the Altar society to help with gifts, candy, or food - please advise.
- If anyone would like to **JOIN THE CHOIR**, please do so - we would appreciate your voice.

**As we give thanks to God in our snug, warm and cozy, light-filled homes, surrounded by family and food, for all the blessings given us, let us remember the victims of the devastating storm in the Philippines, as well as the victims of the 80 tornados in the Midwest U.S.A., let us add a prayer:**

“Lord, Who calmed the storm at sea: Quiet the fears. Ease the pain. Tend the grief and light the darkness of your children in Philippines as they are faced with the consequences of devastating Typhoon. Be the voice of the injured. Shelter the waiting. Blanket the weary with your tender touch.

“May those who have lost homes and properties find shelter, enough food and clean water. Comfort those who are traumatized and those who are grieving for the loss of their families, neighbors and friends. Bless those who are sick and those who are injured that their health may be restored and their wounds cured. May you lead all who are stranded or lost back to those who love them. Guide the hands of the rescuers, the doctors and nurses and other volunteers and give them strength as they serve others with joy.

“Shake us from our comfort to share our sisters’ and brothers’ sorrow and burden. May this tragedy bring people closer together, to help each other and to care for the environment. Give us the faith, the hope and the love to carry on. For You are a Merciful and Loving God and unto you do we ascribe glory: Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.”

**Many Orthodox Christians are sending donations to the International Orthodox Christian Charities.** The IOCC is a registered 501(c)(3) organization and all donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Make your donations payable to our church, earmarked: **International Orthodox Christian Charities, Typhoon relief**, and we’ll mail them all in together.

**THANK YOU!** To all who cooked, baked, pinched, rolled, cleaned, set up, sold goodies, cleaned up and who participated in the Altar Society's Winter Bazaar, GOD BLESS YOU ONE AND ALL!

### **FROM THE SERMON NOVEMBER 21, 1993**

In last Sunday's Gospel we heard the story of the man who worked hard all his life, did all the things he was supposed to do, and then, having accumulated great wealth, decided that before he could rest and take it easy, he needed to build a new warehouse to store all his goods. Jesus says that he was a fool – that very night his soul would be required of him – in other words, he would die that night, and his soul will return to his Maker for judgment.

How many of us are doing the same thing this poor man did - deluding ourselves that our plans and projects, riches and wealth and retirement are so important? The Church teaches us that when we give these ideas such importance, we make them our gods. And by working at these earthly schemes, we worship them as false gods, and are not following Christ. Christ will not be asking us about these things at the Judgment Day, when our souls are required of us.

Our Lord will not ask us about how rich we are, or how many projects we set aside for our retirement days. He will ask us if we followed the commandments to the best of our ability - did we love God with all our hearts and minds and strength and soul? and did we love our neighbors as much as we loved ourselves? Did we do the things He told us about in His Gospel? Did we feed the hungry, did we clothe the naked, visit the sick and infirm and insane and imprisoned? Did we use all the talents He gave us to the best of our abilities? Did we preach the Gospel either verbally or through our good actions in His name? Did we only do the actions of Martha, or were we occasionally like Mary, sitting at the Lord's feet and listening to His teaching, feeding our souls?

When we sit at His feet like Mary and listen to His words, when we take care of the world He gave to us as His stewards, when we 'feed' His flock, either physically or spiritually, we are doing what He expects of us. These are things we do because we love God with all our hearts and souls and minds and strength.

Our Lord will not ask us how many candles we burned, how many Liturgies we attended, how many icons we purchased, how many trees we trimmed or lights we strung. He may not even ask us how much we fasted, or prayed, or read the Bible. We do those things anyway because we love God completely, but we do those things along with the necessary and important tasks He asks of us. That's one of the differences between mature and immature Christianity - the ability to discern what's of immediate importance, and what's of secondary importance.

Remember, if we live for plans, projects, riches and wealth, Jesus tells us that we have our reward already. If we live not for ourselves, but for others, then we are doing our Lord's work on this earth. By feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, working with those in prisons and hospitals and old age homes and mental institutions and with widows and shut-ins, we are helping Jesus Himself. One of the Fathers tells us that when we help others, we are making a loan to Jesus, who will repay us in His kingdom, and with interest for the good deeds we do in His name, here on this earth.

As we sit around our tables on Thanksgiving, will we even offer a prayer to God, giving thanks for the goodness He has given us over the past year? Or were we thinking the thoughts of the rich man and planning the building of the new barn to hoard all the riches, instead of sharing those riches we received freely from God, sharing with others the overabundance we received?

It was President Abraham Lincoln who created the feast of Thanksgiving, in order to help to heal the wounds caused by the fratricidal war we call the Civil War, fought over whether we have the right to treat certain human beings as property, or as men endowed with the same life we have, given by the same Creator and Judge. Even President Lincoln knew that along with thanksgiving comes healing and forgiveness, and peace and prosperity of soul and body are not far behind.

Let's not forget, as we thank God for His many blessings to us, the need to prepare for His greatest gift, the gift of His Son. In order to properly perceive the life around us, and realize the meaning of the Gospel message, and recognize all God's gifts, we must cleanse our hearts, minds and souls in order to prepare room for Him to come in there. That, like His holy Mother, we will see Him in the Silent Night of His holy birth, if only we remember what is important, and that it might be this very night when our souls will be required of us.

#### **- on conduct that goes with one's calling - from Saint Nikolaj of Zhicha**

*'.. that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering' (Eph. 4:1-2)*

Do not be proud; do not be angry; do not be despondent, for that is all unworthy of a Christian's calling. This calling is so high and wonderful that it is hard for a man to keep himself from pride and to hold himself above despondency among all the dangers and misfortunes. Against these three unhealthy states, the Apostle stresses three healthy ones: against pride, lowliness; against anger, meekness; against despondency, longsuffering. These three virtues: lowliness, meekness and longsuffering, do not, let it be said, express in full measure the heights of a Christian's calling. Nothing in this world can fully express the heights of a Christian's calling. The preciousness and richness of this calling cannot be seen here on earth; it is like a chest that a man carries closed through this life, then opens it and takes out its contents in the other world. The heights of a Christian's calling can only be assessed by him who is able to rise up to the heights of heaven and see Christ the Lord in glory with the angels and the saints. There is the victorious gathering of all the godly men on earth, the men who were made worthy of the highest honours. O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, Thy name is the name dearest to us. To Thee be glory and praise forever. Amen.