

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

## *Let Heaven and Nature sing!*

**December 15, 2013 Sunday of the Forefathers of the Lord** **Divine Liturgy 9:30 am**  
**Adam, Enoch, Noah, Melchizedek, Blessed Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Twelve Patriarchs: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulon, Joseph, Benjamin, Dan, Naphthali, Gad and Asher: Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Samuel, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, the Three Holy Youths Shadrach, Mesach and Abednego (or Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah): the Twelve Prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi: Elijah, Elisha, Zachariah, and John the Baptist and others.**

December 21 Saturday Great Vespers 4:00 pm  
December 22 Sunday before the Nativity of our Lord Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

**Saints of the Day:** Hieromartyr Eleutherius, Bishop of Illyria, and his mother, Martyr Anthia and Martyr Corivus the Eparch (126). Venerable Paul of Mount Latros (956). Saint Stephen the Confessor, Archbishop of Surozh in the Crimea (790). Synaxis of All Saints of Crimea. New Hieromartyrs Joseph, Metropolitan of Petrograd (1938), Hilarion (Troitsky), Bishop of Verey (1929); Virgin-martyr Victorina (Diobronravova). New Hieromartyrs Priests Alexander, Basil, Victorinus (1937). Venerable Tryphon, of Pechenga or Kola (1583), and his martyred disciple Venerable Jonah. Synaxis of All Saints of Kolsk. Martyr Eleutherius at Constantinople (4 c). Venerable Pardus, Hermit of Palestine (6 c). Monk-martyr Bacchus of Mar Saba (8 c). Martyr Susanna the Deaconess of Palestine (4 c). Venerable Nektarius of Bitel'sk (1500). Saint Aubertus, Bishop (668).

**Please remember in your prayers:** Abducted nuns and orphans of Saint Tekla Monastery in Syria, 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.

**God Grant Many Years!** Prayers for the health of Pelagia, mother of Matushka Patricia Bohush were offered December 8, at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of Deacon Demetrios and Matushka Anastasia Richards.

**God Grant Many Years!** Prayers for the health of Graham Shin and John Stehnach were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of Father John Udics.

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of mother Theresa were offered at Liturgy and Litiya December 8 at the request of John Kowansky.

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of Maria Ivanovna Krakow were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Father John Udics.

### **Syrian Islamists Demand 1,000-Hostage Swap to Free 12 Kidnapped Nuns**

Posted by Jim Hoft on Friday, December 6, 2013

Syrian Islamists affiliated with Al-Qaeda demanded the release of 1,000 female prisoners in exchange for the release of 12 kidnapped nuns. The Daily Star reported: A group calling itself the Free Qalamoun Battalion is demanding the release of 1,000 Syrian women detainees as part of a swap deal to secure the release of 12 nuns seized earlier this month from a convent in Syria.

"The nuns are in a safe place, but they will not be released until several demands have been implemented, most notably the release of 1,000 Syrian [women] held in the prisons of the Syrian regime," the group's spokesman, Mohannad Abu al-Fidaa, said in comments to pan-Arab Asharq al-Awsat published Friday.

Fidaa said the group's demands were conveyed to the Syrian regime through the Vatican after establishing contact between the head of the Mar Takla monastery, Mother Pelagia Sayyaf, and the Vatican by a satellite-operated phone. He said the demands were made jointly by the Free Qalamoun Brigades and the al-Qaeda-affiliated Nusra Front.

The nuns along, with several orphans, were feared kidnapped on Monday after Syrian rebels, including fighters from the Nusra Front, recaptured the Christian town of Maaloula, located north of Damascus, from Assad's forces after three days of heavy clashes.

<http://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2013/12/syrian-islamists-demand-1000-hostage-swap-to-free-12-kidnapped-nuns/>



Saint Tekla Monastery, Maaloula, Syria

**THANK YOU!** to Ann Gale and the children of our parish who all came together to put on a wonderful Nativity Pageant in verse and song. The success of the program makes us sure that our parish has a secure and positive future. **Thank you!** to those who decorated the Church with lights, piney bouquets and vigil candles on the windowsills and poinsettias and our annual tree! **Thank You!** to the members of the Saint Anna Altar Society and those who cooked, baked, prepared the hearty Dinner – a real smörgåsbord of choice mouth-watering bites. **Thank You!** to Saint Nicholas for his simple gifts to our children. And **Thank You!** to those who cleaned up after the Dinner and returned our hall to spick ‘n span shining order. The donations in the free-will offering baskets at the Dinner will be sent to the Bethany School for Girls of the Gethsemane Convent, Jerusalem, which Bishop MICHAEL and the Diocesan Assembly designated for Advent donations. **God bless all who participated in the Pageant and the Dinner** on a freezing winter day.

#### **Japan and the United States to take part in an expedition to places associated with Saint Innocent**

IRKUTSK. The Irkutsk Region has developed the project "The Way of Saint Innocent," which provides for the organization of cultural and educational four expeditions to places associated with the name of a prominent religious and social activist of the XIX century.

"Participation in this project, supported by the Russian Geographical Society, has been confirmed by the eight subjects of the Russian Federation, as well as Japan, Alaska, California and Hawaii. The schedule of the expedition has been approved," - said in a Wednesday, the press service of the regional government, citing the deputy governor, Larissa Zabrodskaya.

For example, in 2014 the event will take place in the Trans-Baikal region, Yakutia, Amur Region, in 2015 - in the Khabarovsk and Kamchatka territories, Chukotka Autonomous area, in 2016 - in Sakhalin, Japan, in 2017 - in Alaska, California, Hawaii and the Irkutsk region.

In addition, in 2017, celebrations dedicated to the 220th anniversary of the Apostle of America and Siberia, Saint Innocent, will be held in Moscow -- particularly, a prayer service in the Cathedral of Christ the Savior.

In the bishop's birthplace, in the village of Anga (Kachug District of Irkutsk Region) in 2015, the project is expected to open a spiritual and educational center, to restore the parental home of Saint Innocent. A house-museum already functions there, a church is under construction.

The project is included in the federal target program "Strengthening the unity of the Russian nation and the ethnic and cultural development of the people's of Russia." 90% of the funds needed for the project will be allocated from the federal budget, 10% - from the coffers of the Irkutsk region.

Metropolitan Innocent (Veniaminov, 1797-1879), Metropolitan of Moscow and Kolomna, Apostle of Siberia and America has gone from a rural parish priest in the diocese of Irkutsk to the cathedra of Moscow's bishops. For 45 years he enlightened those in the Kamchatka Peninsula, the Aleutian Islands, in North America, Yakutia and the Far East. He compiled the first dictionary and grammar of the Aleut language. His works on geography, ethnography and linguistics received world-wide fame.

Minimally edited machine translation. [Russian] <http://www.sedmitza.ru/text/4215319.html>