



# SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## Have Mercy on Me O God, Have Mercy on Me.

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|----------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>March 9, 2014</b> | <b>Sunday of the Triumph of Orthodoxy</b> | Divine Liturgy                        | 9:30 am |
| March 12             | Wednesday                                 | Great Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete  | 6:00 pm |
| March 14             | Friday                                    | Divine Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts | 6:00 pm |
| March 15             | Saturday                                  | Great Vespers                         | 4:00 pm |
| <b>March 16</b>      | <b>Sunday of Gregory Palamas</b>          | Divine Liturgy                        | 9:30 am |

**Saints of the Day:** The Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste: Cyrion (or Quirio), Candidus, Domnus, Hesychius, Heraclius, Smaragdus, Eunoicus, Valens, Vivianus, Claudius, Priscus, Theodulus, Euty chius, John, Xanthias, Helianus, Sisinius, Angus, Aetius, Flavius, Acacius, Ecdicius, Lysimachus, Alexander, Elias, Gorgonius, Theophilus, Dometian, Gaius, Leontius, Athanasius, Cyril, Sacerdon, Nicholas, Valerius, Philoctimon, Severian, Chudion, Aglaius, and Meliton (320). New Hieromartyr Archpriest Mitrophan Buchnoff of Voronezh (1931). New Hieromartyrs Priests Michael, Alexis, Demetrius, Sergius, Sergius and Deacon Nicholas, New Hieromartyr Iosaph and Virgin-martyrs Natalia and Alexandra (1938). Urpasianus of Nicomedia (295). Righteous Caesarius, Brother of Saint Gregory the Theologian (369). Saint Tarasius of Liconium. Saint Philoromus the Confessor of Galatia (4th c.). Saint Pacianus, Bishop of Barcelona (390). Saint Jonah, Archbishop of Novgorod (1470). Saint Vitalius of Castronovo (994). Saint Bosa of York, Bishop (+686). Saint Constantine (+575) of Govan, King of Cornwall, Monk, and in Kintyre, Proto-martyr of Scotland.

**Please remember in your prayers:** Abducted nuns and orphans of Saint Tekla Monastery in Syria, Suffering Christians of Egypt, Syria, the Middle East and the Ukraine. Bishop BOULOS Yazigi, Bishop YOHANNA Ibrahim, of Aleppo. Archimandrites Athanasy, Isidore, Nectarios, Pachomy. Archpriests Jason, John, Vincent. Priests Bohdan, Sergius, Jacobus, Leonid 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, Juanita.

**God Grant Many Years!** Prayers for the health of Juanita Fuentes were offered last Sunday at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of aunt Lauren Jedlan.

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of Irene Alexander and Donald Udics were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Father John Udics.

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of Tatiana Keblish and Michael Steciak were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of the "Memory Eternal Requiem Service Fund."

### The Prodigal Son: Five liberal secular extremes that distort Godly and beneficial love.

NOTE: The following five traits of our liberal culture describe attitudes that can place people—especially young people—on a road that eventually leads away from the love of God and Church. These are attitudes that distort good intentions into confusing mixed signals. These take hold when humanity learns to “love” from the fallen world, and not from God Who IS love itself.

These were published on the Internet’s “Town Hall” page, written by columnist John Hawkins, and aptly titled “Virtues that Liberals Take to the Extreme.”

There are few things on the planet more necessary than water. In fact, roughly 60% of the human body is water. Yet, water isn’t ALWAYS a good thing as Noah could tell you. Virtues can be like this as well. In moderation, they’re good for you, but taken to extremes, they become destructive.

**1) Tolerance:** A little tolerance is a good thing, but too much tolerance makes people blind, dumb and stupid. It’s just fine for people and societies to set boundaries instead of giving the thumbs up to wallowing in a human pig pen. Yes, the Bible does say, “Judge not, that ye be not judged.” However, it doesn’t say there’s no difference between the Bible and the Koran, right and wrong, or good and evil. We’ve taken tolerance to such an extreme that many Americans think it’s better to abandon their morals, common sense, and history lessons rather than come across as “being judgmental.”

**2) [Misused] Compassion:** Compassion and \$2.00 will get you a cup of overpriced coffee at Starbucks. At best, compassion doesn’t mean much and at worst it has become an act of destructive self-congratulation. America is packed with angry, spiteful, nasty people who never give a dime to charity or personally help a soul; yet they consider themselves to be deeply compassionate for supporting harmful government programs with pleasant-sounding names. If you get into trouble, pray you’ll be spared what passes for “compassion” in America today in favor of actually getting some real help.

**3) Being nice:** Sure, nice beats mean, but it’s not an end unto itself. “Nice” is vanilla. “Nice” is generic. If all you bring to the table is “nice,” you don’t have much to offer. Furthermore, wanting to be “nice” keeps

people from saying what needs to be said. It's the "nice" parent who has brats bothering everyone in the store because she won't discipline them. It's the "nice" relative who enables an alcoholic rather than encouraging him to go to rehab. It's the "nice" politicians who don't want to say "no" to anyone no matter how bad his lifestyle choices turn out to be. Meanwhile, our society seems to be getting ruder, stupider and more degenerate by the day, mainly because there are so many "nice" people who aren't willing to stand up and do something about bad behavior. Unfortunately at the end of the day, the nicest dog in the dung heap is still living in a dung heap.

**4) Self-Esteem:** We may be the first society in history to completely divorce self-esteem from actual accomplishment and self-worth. So, what happens when little Johnny, who coasted through school being told how "special" he was gets into the real world and starts getting his teeth kicked in on a regular basis because he brings nothing of value to the table? Next thing you know, he's marching at an Occupy protest, demanding government handouts and trolling the comment sections on conservative websites because he doesn't understand why he can't do anything productive with his life despite the fact he's been told that he's gifted. Instead of building a kid's self-esteem, we should be teaching him how to be good at things. Then he'll be of use to himself, his family and his society while building REAL self-esteem in the process.

**5) Diversity:** Diversity is a strength? Tell that to Afghanistan or Iraq. Both nations are so diverse they want to murder each other. That's not to say there isn't some value to diversity of thought, but we've taken it to such an extreme that we've started embracing tribalism. We tell immigrants to forget about the melting pot and embrace their old culture. We treat illegal immigrants who waltzed across the border two months ago as if they're indistinguishable from Americans. We sneer at patriotism and encourage Americans to fragment off from each other by race, gender, age, and sexual orientation. Then we're shocked that Americans have become so alienated from each other. Anyone emphasizing diversity should be aware that diverse groups of people generally don't get along particularly well. Conservatives and liberals? Northerners and Southerners? Muslims and Jews? Jocks and nerds? If these groups don't tend to see eye to eye, why should we expect other equally diverse groups of people to be best buddies while we're celebrating how different they are from each other?

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**Note well:** As we remember at the end of each Divine Liturgy: "Every good gift, every perfect gift is from above, coming down from Thee the Father of Lights." Everything good is a gift from God, starting with love. God IS love, and He desires to shower it down on us; to teach us the true love that is so far removed from the distortions that are listed above. If we are to love our parents, spouses, children, coworkers, fellow parishioners, the high and the lowly and humanity in general, *we MUST ask Him for the gift of true love!* The Prodigal Son's love for his father failed him when other things blinded him so that he left his father and went to live with pigs. He had never learned from God how to maintain love in the midst of temptation. Thankfully, God gave him the gift of "coming to his senses" and he returned to his father's home where he was forgiven his failure. God taught him, and all of us, about true love as repentance and forgiveness. Only God can give us the gift of true love.

**THE HOLY FORTY MARTYRS OF SEBASTEA** were all soldiers in the Roman army and steadfastly believed in the Lord Jesus. When the persecution of Christians began during the reign of Licinius, they were brought to trial before the commander. When he threatened to strip them of their honor as soldiers, one of them, Saint Candidus, responded, "Not only the honor of being a soldier, but take away our bodies, for nothing is more dear or honorable, to us than Christ our God." After that, the commander ordered his servants to stone the holy martyrs. While the servants were hurling stones at the Christians, the stones turned and fell back on the servants, severely striking them. One of the stones struck the commander's face and knocked out his teeth. The torturers, angry as wild beasts, bound all of the holy martyrs and tossed them into the lake and stationed a guard around it so as to prevent any of them from escaping. There was a terrible frost and the lake froze around the bodies of the martyrs. So that their pain and suffering would be worsened, and in order to persuade one of them to deny Christ and acknowledge the idols of Rome, the torturers heated a bath by the side of the lake in sight of the frozen martyrs. Indeed, one of them was persuaded. He came out of the water and entered the bath. And behold, an extraordinary light appeared from heaven which warmed the water in the lake and the bodies of the martyrs. With that light, thirty-nine wreaths descended from heaven over their heads. Upon seeing this, a guard on the shore removed all his clothes, confessed the Name of the Lord Jesus and entered the lake so that he could become worthy of the fortieth wreath in place of the betrayer. Indeed, the last wreath descended upon him. The next day the entire town was astonished when they saw that the martyrs were still alive. Then, the wicked judges ordered that the lower part of their legs be broken and their bodies thrown into the water so Christians could not recover them. On the third day the martyrs appeared to Peter, the local bishop, and summoned him to gather their relics and remove them from the water. The bishop with his clergy went out into the dark of night and beheld the relics of the martyrs shining brightly in the water. Every bone which was separated from their bodies floated to the top and glowed like a candle. Bishop Peter gathered and honorably buried them. The souls of these martyrs, who suffered for all of us, went to the Lord Jesus, resurrected with glory. They suffered honorably and were crowned with unfading glory in the year 320 A.D.

#### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

**FIND A PARISH** -Thanks to a request by the Council of Presbyters, a link has been added to the **PARISH DIRECTORY** on our website. It provides access to the **comprehensive directory of canonical parishes throughout the US and Canada** offered by the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America. This resource is invaluable to those traveling or relocating, allowing a "search" for parishes in a given city, state, or zip code. The PARISH DIRECTORY icon-link is found on our homepage, near the top of the series of icon-links to important webpages ... and it includes listings of diocesan parishes and clergy as well as the link to the Assembly of Bishops searchable list. [http://nynjoca.org/parish\\_listing.html](http://nynjoca.org/parish_listing.html)