

# IC XC NIKA SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America  
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## Before Thy Cross, We Bow Down in Worship.

<b>March 23, 2014</b>		<b>Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross</b>	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
March 25	Tuesday	<b>Annunciation to our Most Holy Lady</b>	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
March 26	Wednesday	Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts	6:00 pm	
March 28	Friday	Akathistos Hymn to the Mother of God	6:00 pm	
March 29	Saturday	Soul Saturday	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
	Saturday		Great Vespers	4:00 pm
<b>March 30</b>		<b>Sunday of Saint John of 'the Ladder'</b>	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

**Saints of the Day:** Monk-martyr Nikon and 199 disciples, in Sicily (251). New Hieromartyr Priest Macarius (1931). New Martyr James, New Hieromartyrs Priests Basil, Stephen, Virgin-martyr Anastasia, Martyr Alexis (1938). New Hieromartyr Venerable Confessor Archbishop Sergius (Serebriansky) (1948). Venerable Nikon, Abbot of the Kiev Caves (1088). Martyrs Philetas the Senator, his wife Lydia, their sons Macedon and Theoprepus, the Notary Cronides, and Amphilocheus the Captain, in Illyria (125). Saint Basil of Mangazea in Siberia (1600). Martyr Dometius the Persian, under Julian the Apostate (ca. 360-361). Venerable Luke the New of Mytilene, Mount Athos (1802). Venerable Pachomius, Abbot of Nerekhta (1384). Saint Bassian, Archbishop of Rostov (1481). Saint Gwinear of Cornwall.

**Please remember in your prayers:** Suffering Christians of Egypt, Syria, the Middle East and the Ukraine. Bishop BOULOS Yazigi, Bishop YOHANNA Ibrahim, of Aleppo. 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, Alex, Anne Marie, Helen, Joseph, Carla.

**God Grant Many Years!** Prayers for the health of Hideo Takahashi, Thomas Slosky, Terence Joseph Dunn and Peter Witiak were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of Father John Udics.

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

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of Archpriest Alexander Marciniuk, Metropolitan THEODOSIUS (Nagashima), Archpriest Vasili Takeoka and Archpriest Samuel Sulich were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Father John Udics.

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

### A MEDITATION ON THE HOLY CROSS, THE ICON OF CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION

Today we celebrate the Veneration of the Holy Cross on the third Sunday of Great Lent.

Have you ever taken a careful look at the Cross and all the elements in the icon? Most of us think only of the cross itself, without even seeing its other parts. Starting at the top, we have the upper bar placed on the cross by the Romans. On it is a mocking note: INBI, or in Latin, INRI: Jesus of Nazareth, King of Israel.

Next is the great bar, on which Our Lord's arms were outstretched and nailed, and upon which his weight hung until he died.

And then, the slanting bar which it seems, people think that only the Russians use.

On the icon, "The Son of God" is written.

"We bow down in worship, O Master, and Thy Resurrection we glorify."

At the base of the cross, we see the skull and bones of Adam, the first man. The old man.

We see the inscription IC XC NIKA: Jesus Christ Conquers or is Victorious.

On either side of the Cross, we see the sun and the moon.

And we see angels hovering over the Cross on either side.

There is the spear and the sponge, the ladder and the tongs.

We see the body of our Lord stretched upon the cross, never usually with all the wounds which would have been made when He was beaten by those cruel whips, and with all the blood dripping from His body.

We see also the walls of Jerusalem – Our Lord was not crucified in the city, but on the outskirts of it.

Not portrayed are the garments of the Lord, upon which the soldiers gambled to win them.

Sometimes we see our Mother, Mary, the mother of God, standing on one side of the crucified Christ, and sometimes on the other side, we see our Father John the Evangelist, 'the one who Jesus loved.' Both are usually

seen weeping, averting their gazes.

The Holy Myrrhbearers: • Saint Mary Magdalene, Equal to the Apostles. While all the disciples of the Savior ran away, she remained fearlessly at the Cross together with the Mother of God and the Apostle John. • Mary the mother of the Apostle James,, • Mary, the wife of Cleopas, • Martha of Bethany, sister of Lazarus, and • Mary of Bethany, sister of Lazarus, • Joanna, wife of Chusa, the household steward of King Herod, was one of the women following and attending the Lord Jesus Christ during the time of His preaching and public ministry. According to Tradition, she recovered the head of Saint John the Baptist after Herodias had disposed of it (February 24). • Salome, mother of James and John, sons of Zebedee, • Susanna, and lastly • Saint Joseph of Arimathea, • with Nicodemus, who craved the Body of Christ from Pilate, and who buried him in his own new tomb. • In late medieval times, legend held that Saint Anne was married three times first to Joachim, then to Clopas and finally to a man named Solomas and that each marriage produced one daughter: Mary, mother of Jesus, Mary of Clopas, and Mary Salomæ, respectively

Please also remember OUR Myrrhbearers in your prayers: Igumenia (Mother) Raphaela, Mother Michaela, Mother Catherine, Mother Anna and novice Theodora, and their helpers and benefactors.

### **SUNDAY OF THE CROSS - a sermon by +Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh**

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

Together with the Holy Scriptures we proclaim that our Lord Jesus Christ is King, Prophet and High Priest of all Creation. And the Lord has told us that in the Christian Church and in the Kingdom, a King is not one who overpowers others to exact from them unconditional and slavish obedience, but He is the one who serves and gives His life for others. Saint John Chrysostom teaches us that anyone can rule, but that no one but a king gives his life for his people, because he so identifies with his people that he has no existence, no life, no purpose but to serve them with all his life and if necessary with his death.

When we keep the Feast of the Cross we can realise with new strength, perceive with new depth what the Kingship of our Lord Jesus Christ means. It means a love for us so complete, so total that He can forget Himself ultimately, without any reservation, forget Himself to the point of existing, of living and of dying for us and together with us; forgetting Himself to such an extent, and identifying Himself with us in such a way that in His humanity He accepts the loss of the perception of His oneness with God, with the source of life eternal - indeed, with life eternal within Himself, and become one with our deadness, with our mortality. This is the love that makes our Lord Jesus Christ our worthy King; this is a Kingship which makes every knee to bow before Him.

And it is because He is such that He can also be the High Priest of all Creation. The high priests of the pagan world as well as the High Priests of Israel brought forth as a sacrifice victims with which they identified only metaphorically, symbolically, ritually. The Lord Jesus Christ brought as a victim His own Self, although there was nothing in Him that condemned Him to the death He has taken upon Himself. Doesn't He say in His High-priestly prayer, talking to His disciples that the adversary is coming near, but there is nothing in Him - in Christ - that belongs to him. There is nothing in Christ which belongs in the realm of death and of sin. And to His Father He says: I sanctify Myself for them, I bring Myself as a holy offering for My people. The High Priest who brings Himself frees thereby all other creatures from the horror of blood-offering, but confronts us with an immensity, a depth of love divine which otherwise we could not even fathom: life accepting to be quenched, light accepting to go out, eternity accepting to die the mortality of a fallen world.

And that is why the Word of God can speak to us as a Prophet. A prophet is not one who foretells the future; a prophet is one who speaks for God. One of the prophets of old says that a prophet is one with whom God shares His thoughts. Christ, the Word of God, Christ, the perfect image of Love divine, Christ who not only speaks for God, but who acts, enacts in His life and in His death the Love of God, sacrificial, total, perfect, given ...

And this is why the Feast of the Cross is such a wonder in the experience of the Church. We will never be able to experience what it meant for Him to die upon the Cross, even our own death cannot disclose to us what His death was: how can Immortality die? But what we can learn, what we can discover by communing ever more deeply, ever more perfectly through a daring, wholehearted endeavour with the life, and the teaching, and the ways of Christ - what we can learn is to love in a way that approximates more and more to that love divine, and discover in this love the quality which unites death as forgetfulness of self, ultimate and perfect, with the victory of love, Resurrection and eternal life. Amen.

23 March 1984

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### **FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

**The Altar Society** plan on making Pascha Breads for Easter. Anyone interested in ordering bread please call Nancy Richards at 315-865-5382 and/or look for the order sheet posted on the wall outside the kitchen. We are only be making breads for our parishioners, and will not be advertising to the general public. Please also note there will not be a Spring Bazaar this year and we are only taking pre-orders for the bread. Cutoff date: April 6.

### **LENTEN RECIPE – CASHEW NUT CHILI**

In 2T vegetable oil, sauté (all chopped) 2 onions, 4 cloves garlic, 2 green peppers and 2 stalks of celery until softened. Add 2T cumin, 1T coriander, 1/4t cayenne (optional), 1/2t oregano, 1/2t basil, 1/2t dill, 1/2t ground black pepper, 1t salt, optional (maybe not if you use salted cashews). Add 1 qt. canned tomatoes with liquid. Simmer 20 minutes. Add 3 cans kidney beans or other or beans, plus liquid from cans (?). Toast cashews to light brown (when they just start to turn color), in pan or in oven and add to chili. Add 2t red wine vinegar. Simmer 30-40 minutes. Serve over rice.