



# SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!

**Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord!**

<b>April 13, 2014</b>	<b>Entrance of Our Lord Into Jerusalem</b>	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
April 16	HOLY WEDNESDAY	Holy Unction	6:00 pm
April 17	HOLY THURSDAY	Vespers and Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
	HOLY THURSDAY	Matins of the Twelve Gospels	6:00 pm
April 18	HOLY FRIDAY	Vespers - Burial Service, Procession	6:00 pm
April 19	HOLY SATURDAY	Vespers and Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
<b>April 20</b>	<b>HOLY PASCHA</b>	<b>Midnight Service</b>	<b>11:30 pm</b>
	<b>HOLY PASCHA</b>	<b>Matins, Divine Liturgy, Blessing Baskets</b>	<b>midnight</b>
<b>April 20</b>	<b>HOLY PASCHA</b>	<b>Vespers</b>	<b>1:00 pm</b>

**Saints of the Day:** Hieromartyr Artemon, Presbyter of Laodicea in Syria (303). New Hieromartyr Stephen (Bekh) Bishop of Izhevsk (1933). Virgin-martyr Martha (1941). Martyr Crescens of Myra in Lycia. Martyr Thomaïs of Alexandria (476). Martyr Demetrius of the Peloponnesus who suffered at Tripoli (1803). Martyr Eleutherius of Persia (4 c.). Martyr Zoilus of Rome (4 c.). Venerable Martin, Abbot, of Clermont. Saint Martin the Confessor, Pope of Rome (655). Martyrs Maximus (286), Dada and Quinctilian at Dorostolum in Moesia. Saint Martyrius, Archbishop of Jerusalem (486). Saint Guinoch of Buchan. Martyr Theodosius.

**Please remember in your prayers:** 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, Diane, Abigail.

**God Grant Many Years!** Prayers for the health of David Blaire, Priest Rick Campbell, and Michael Zaugg were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of Father John Udics.

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of Vera and Nick Keblish were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Margaret and Nick Keblish.

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of Patriarch ALEKSEI I and Archpriest John Platko were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Father John Udics.

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of Walter Jovorsky Jr, Walter Jovorsky, Theodosia Kluka, Mary Gromadsky, Dimitri, Olena, Michael and Michael Alexczuk and Paul and Kay Sokol were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of the "Memory Eternal Requiem Service Fund."

### FOR YOUR READING PLEASURE

<http://orthodoxinfo.com/general/a-liturgical-explanation-of-holy-week.pdf> Father Alexander Schmemmann's Liturgical Explanation of Holy Week is downloadable (22 pages, large print) explanation of what's happening in the services of Holy Week.

### HOMILY About recognizing the Son of Man among the common darkness by Saint Nikolai of Zhicha

*"Truly, this was the Son of God" (Saint Matthew 27:54).*

These words were spoken by the captain who carried out his duties conscientiously as a soldier. Under orders of his superiors, he had to guard the body of Christ on Golgotha. Externally, like a machine, but internally, a soul wide awake.

He, a Roman soldier, a pagan, and an idolater, saw all that had occurred at the time of the death of Christ the Lord, and cried out: "Truly, this was the Son of God." Not knowing about the One God and not knowing the Law and the Prophets, he immediately comprehended that which the priests of the One God and authorities of the Law and the Prophets were unable to comprehend! On this occasion, the word of God came true. "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see, might see, and those who do see, might become blind" (Saint John 9:39). Truly, he who was blind in the spirit saw and those who thought they could see were completely blinded. Was it not possible that the elders of the Jews did not see the darkened sun, did not feel the earthquake, did not notice how the rocks were split, did not see that the veil in the Temple was rent, did not recognize many of the saints who came out from opened graves and appeared in Jerusalem? They saw all of this and all of them accurately witnessed all of this. Nevertheless, their spirits remained blind and their hearts, stony.

All of these manifestations, the awesome and the unusual, they probably interpreted as the unbelieving would do today - accidents and illusions. The pagans of all times interpret everything as accidents or self-deceptions whenever the finger of God appears to reprimand men, to direct or to inform them. The Roman captain Longinus, which was the soldier's name, saw all that occurred without prejudice and beneath the cross confessed his faith in the Son of God. His exclamation was not wrested accidentally from his frightened heart. But that was his confession of faith, for which he later on laid down his life to embrace a better life in the Kingdom of Christ.

O brethren, how great is this Roman captain, who upon seeing the lifeless Lord between thieves crucified on the dunghill of Golgotha, recognized Him as God and confessed Him as God. O brethren, how petty are those Christians who recognize the Lord as resurrected, as Glorified, as the Victor and the Victor-bearer through thousands of His saints but, nevertheless, retain in their hearts doubt like a poisonous serpent who poisons them every day and buries their lives in eternal darkness.

O crucified and resurrected Lord, have mercy on us and save us!

To You be glory and thanks always. Amen.

Dear All,

It's been a beautiful day with vigil last night and friends joining us and Father David for the Divine Liturgy this morning. I love this feast [Laudation of the Virgin Saturday] -- of course it only gets 2 days of celebration since it's in Lent, but it is a welcome break from the more sober Lenten services. I've always felt the hymns are some of the most beautiful of the year -- especially the canon which we sang again before Liturgy and the trio we sing for the Matins Magnification. ....

Have I told everyone that we have a new woman here? Theodosia has been here a little over a month. She lived near the Serbian women's community in Indianapolis, IN for over 2 years and was hoping they would change their policy about not accepting new people but they wouldn't. She then went to SS Mary and Martha in Wagener, SC for a few months as a seeker and then asked to come here for a long-term visit with the intent to try her vocation with us. As of this week she is an official applicant and there seems no reason not to accept her. She is intensely sincere and has been living like a postulant since the day she arrived. The chancery offered to do an official background check on her for us (they said they are doing these routinely for the seminaries, so why not the monasteries?) and hers came out fine. We'll go through the motions of checking her most recent references, including the other monasteries, but checking job references etc. really doesn't help much these days since no one can/will tell you anything. And even in the past, there is so much misunderstanding about monastic life that even priests have admitted afterwards when women have "crashed and burned" that they were a bit less than truthful ("I lied" one priest told us flat out) in order to "place" difficult parishioners... Also just because a person can do well in a 9 to 5 job does not mean she can live 24/7 in community. However, if we never take the risk, we will never grow, and grow we will. So we have begun the process of testing another vocation, and ask your prayers for all of us in the process, however long it may last.

We have been given some very generous donations this month and it has been a relief not to have to worry about expenses, even with horrendous fuel bills. Donald Henderson gave us \$5,000 in stocks at the end of last year, asking that we consider keeping it invested with his advisor. I must say I'm impressed with what I've learned -- Mr. Anderson is investing differently than our fund with your parish, Father Dan, and we'd like permission to add to it for a while. We'd like to add \$1,500 now: we paid off the Subaru with Christmas money and since the Mission is now paying for part of the priest's stipend, we should be able to put away \$500 a month and this would bring us up to date for the year. We don't have a huge fund, but every bit will help to keep it growing.

Father John Udics has a parishioner who has offered to do an audit of our books. He just sent us an e-mail as the initial introduction and God willing I will get back to him tomorrow as well. Things were let go too long for Ernie to feel comfortable auditing us -- John is willing to start without going back to 2006...

Mother Anna has been having toothaches and the new dentist she found just did a full scan x-ray which showed that she had a bad sinus/ear infection rather than an abscess -- but she has a lot of other problems with her teeth that the x-ray showed up. We'll find out the prognosis. Like me, she had excellent teeth and few trips to the dentist until she had chemo for her cancer... She may just have everything pulled and get a full set of dentures -- we'll try to do some fund-raising for that; it's probably the least expensive way to go short of going completely toothless... I'd like to spare her that if it is possible. (Did we tell you our old dentist died last year from pancreatic cancer? We will never find someone as generous as he was!)

I admit to struggling at the end of this very difficult winter. Between the few hours I can dose myself sufficiently to be functional each day and (thankfully) needing added time for training a new woman in the ways of monastic community life, I'm way behind again... Sigh. The story of my life. But Theodosia gets along well with everyone, is willing to work outdoors (after getting over the initial shock of a record-breaking Upstate winter after spending her life mostly in the deep South), is computer-literate and has done secretarial and bookkeeping work. We don't need to and won't turn official monastery books over to her, but already she is helping to clean, helping Mother Katherine and Mother Anna with their animal chores and helping me plow through things like filing and the dozens of e-mails that pile up daily. So as long as she is with us -- for a shorter, longer or permanent time -- she is an added enthusiastic chanter in the chapel and a help to us all with the work, some of which is the same whether there are 2 people here or 20... Theodosia has more experience than most women of monastic community life from long visits at 2 other monasteries, so she is ahead on that score. We're somewhat amazed that with that experience she feels we are the "closest to what the books all say a monastery should be." That in and of itself has been a cheer-up!

She is, by the way, a convert, received into Dormition Greek Orthodox Church in Greensboro, NC in 2002. She is 52 years old, never married, retired last year from 20 years with the U.S. Coast Guard and then U.S. Navy Reserves (so her medical care is taken care of), working at the same time for 11 years as a Customer Service Representative for American Express Cards, then a year as a temporary, and 4 years with Pepsi Bottling Group, again as a Retail Sales Representative. She met the Indiana sisters in 2010 while serving there full-time (2010-2013) for her last stint in the Reserves. She has a High School diploma. She has approximately 3 years of college level work at San Francisco State University (1988-1991) and North Carolina A&T State U..

Let me know if you have any questions/comments etc., especially about the investment fund...

With love and prayers (and very much trusting in yours) Mother Raphaela et. al.