



SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America
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CHRIST IS RISEN! ХРИСТОГЪ ВОСКРЕСЕ! ХΡΙΣΤΟC ΑΝΕCΤΗ!
CHRISTUS IS OPGESTAAN! ハリストス復活! KRISTUS ZMRTVYCHVSTAL!
THA CRÌOSD AIR ÈIRIDH! SI CRISTO AY NABUHAY! ;CRISTO HA RESUCITADO!
KHRISTA AMAFOOFOOKA! ქრისტე აღსდგა! KRISTUS ER OPPSTANDEN!
그리스도께서 부활하셨네! KRISTUS NOUSI KUOLLEISTA! TA CRIOCT AR ÈIRI!
HRISTOS A ÎNVIAT! اقام سي حل! KRISTUS ÅR UPSTÅNDEN!
CRISTO È RISORTO! ХРИCΤΟC ΒΟCΚΡΕC! KRISHTI U NGJALL!
KHRISTOS HARYAV EE MERELOTS! CHRISTOS T'ENSAH EM' MUHTANI
ХРИCΤУCΑΚ ΑΓΓΛΑΓΙΚΥΚ! FOLTAMADT KRISZTUS! UKRISTU UVUKILE!

Grant Rest Eternal and Blessed Repose, O Lord, to the souls of all who gave their lives in the service of their country, and make their memory to be eternal. CHRIST IS RISEN!

May 25, 2014 Sunday of the Sunday of the Blind Man	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
Parastas will be served in memory of all who gave their lives serving in the Armed Forces and all veterans		
May 31 Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
June 1 Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Œcumenical Council	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

Saints of the Day: Third Finding of the Precious Head of Saint John the Baptist (850). Virgin-Martyr Helen (1938). New Hieromartyr Tavrion (1939). Saint Innocent Archbishop of Cherson (1857). Hieromartyr Therapon, Bishop of Cyprus (4 c.). Saint Dodo, Prince of Georgia (6 c.). Synaxis of Saints of Volhynia: Saints Yaropolk, Stephen, Macarius, Igor and Juliana. Martyrs Pasocrates, Valentinian, Julius and others at Dorostolum (302). Saint Aldehelm, bishop of Sherborne. Martyr Celestine. Saint Olbian, Monk.

Please remember in your prayers: Suffering Christians of Egypt, Syria, the Middle East and Ukraine. Bishop BOULOS Yazigi, Bishop YOHANNA Ibrahim, of Aleppo. Archimandrites Athanasy, Nectarios, Pachomy. Archpriests Alvian, John, 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, Stanley, Albert, Kevin, Robert, Robert, Andrew, David, Warren, Vincent, Diane, Abigail

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Dora Hayes Miller's father John were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Mark and Cathy Nestor, Michael Uzawa, Nolan David Albrecht, and Fran Vansuch were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

Christ is Risen! Prayers for the repose of Nicholas Konet were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of Father John Udics.

Christ is Risen! Prayers for the repose of Helen Nanoski were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of the "Memory Eternal Requiem Service Fund."

Orthodox Church in America - Diocese of New York and New Jersey

"Church Vitality Workshop" - Theme of 2014 Diocesan Parish Council Conferences

This year, the Annual Parish Council Conferences will consist of the "Church Vitality Workshop" led by Archpriest John Reeves. The conferences will each begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 14, 2014

Saint Peter and Paul Church (NY State Deanery), 210 Hill Street, Endicott NY

Lunch is provided and each event is free of charge.

To appreciate the necessity and value of this workshop for your parish, ask yourself this question:

Have you had a medical check-up in a while?

If your health is important to you, you are proactive in managing it. People who take their physical health seriously schedule annual check-ups. They probably exercise, watch what they eat, and take whatever medicines the doctor prescribes. Good health is a value for them.

Not going to the doctor, on the other hand, is not a prescription for good health. There is less likelihood to discover an ailment in its early and more correctable stages. Good health habits are harder to establish if they have been routinely avoided for years.

Parishes are much like people. Some parishes value good church health. Some don't. Some have very good

“church health habits,” but other parishes may have developed habits, routines, customs, even “traditions” over the years which are slowly, but surely, sapping their vitality. One thing is sure: if we were to do nothing to facilitate the growth and thriving of our churches, and yet expect them somehow to thrive and grow, then we would be bordering on Einstein’s definition of insanity: “Doing the same thing over and over again, hoping to achieve different results.”

The Church Vitality Workshop is a time for parishes in the Diocese of New York and New Jersey to take their vital signs, to have a church-health checkup, to begin to develop habits for living the Gospel more effectively in their local communities. Sick and even dying churches can be brought back to life if the pastor and the people are willing to adopt new attitudes and new habits. And, those parishes already enjoying health and vitality can benefit from new perspectives on how their ministry to God’s people can be even further expanded.

I cordially invite all parish clergy, Parish Council members, and interested parish members, to participate in this Workshop, which is provided free of charge as an investment in the health of our Diocesan family. Thank you for your cooperation; and may God grant you a restful and spiritually fruitful summer season.

With my prayers, my blessings, and my love,

+ M I C H A E L Bishop of New York and the Diocese of New York and New Jersey

SERMON on the Sunday of the Man Born Blind – by Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh

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

At the end of today's reading, words stand that we pass by very often. The blind man says to Christ, "And who is the Son of God?" and Christ answers, "You have seen Him and He is speaking to you".

For us, the first words are so natural; the first event of our life, the first event of a meeting is that we see a person, but what was this wonder of this man who had never seen anything in the world and who, touched by the life-giving hand of Christ, of a sudden saw! And the first person he saw was his Lord and his God, Christ, the Son of Man.

I remember a Romanian writer telling us in his biography what definitive, what profound impression the face of the first man he remembers made. He remembers himself as a child, and over him - the inexpressibly beautiful face of his father who was a priest, looking at him, with all human love, with all the tenderness, and all the depth of a human gaze. And he says that this was a first vision for him in the icon which a human face can be when it is lit from inside by love and by understanding, by depth and by eternity, a vision of God. Here this man saw God in the features of Him who was God and who had become the Son of Man.

I would like to attract your attention also to something different. On another occasion we read the story of a paralytic healed by Christ; and the Church, singing the praises of God on that occasion says, "As this man found no one to show mercy on him, the Son of Mary, God Himself, stooped down and met his need". Because this man had not found another man to show mercy, to show compassion, to show concern, God has come down to him. Now we live in another time, we live in the time with God truly having become man in our midst, and more than this: He has made us to be living members of His body, an incarnate, concrete presence of His Incarnation, the temples of the Spirit, the place of the Presence. Now any man who is in need should at the same time find in each of us a man stirred to compassion, taught mercy and understanding by God become Man, and at the same time, simultaneously, meeting with us, he should be able to see the love of God in our eyes and to perceive the active, imaginative, creative action of divine charity in our words and in our deeds.

Since Christ has come into the world, the time of man has come; but not of man as severed from God, separated from Him, alien to Him, but a wonderful time when in man, in those who have discovered Christ, who have believed in Him, who have become one with Him - those men to whom God has entrusted the care of His world - people can both receive divine and human mercy and see human compassion, human love, human joy.

Is not this a great call, is not that something which should make us capable of great things? The time of God and the time of man is one, not only in the incarnate Son of God, but in this mysterious incarnate presence which each of us represents, the presence of God in the flesh, in human compassion, in human love, and this is an earnest claim and a challenge which the Gospel presents us with. Are we to one another and to those further afield that kind of humanity? New humanity, new creatures, new men with the newness of a renewed life, the life of God. This is what we are called to be.

Let us then reflect on it, make a decision, make a move and become an icon, a vision of God, not only in the shining of love in our eyes, not only in the words we speak, but also in every action and deed, so that the time of man should have become the day of the Son of Man, the day of the Lord. Amen.

Christ Is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed!

THE PRIEST-MARTYR THERAPONTUS, BISHOP OF CYPRUS was a monk and an ascetic on the island of Cyprus. He was found worthy of the episcopal rank, but during the time of the persecution of Christians, he was found worthy of an even greater wreath, the crown of martyrdom. His body reposed in a church on Cyprus. When, during the reign of Emperor Nicephorus in the year 806 A.D., the island of Cyprus was attacked by the Hagarenes, the saint appeared to the sexton of that church and told him that the infidels will attack Cyprus and ordered him to remove his relics to Constantinople. The sexton did this immediately. While the boat was traveling on the sea with the reliquary, a great storm arose but the sea was calm around the boat and a sweet-smelling fragrance emitted around the entire boat in all directions. The sexton opened the reliquary and everyone witnessed that it was filled with myrrh [oil] which flowed from the saint's relics. By rubbing themselves with this oil, many of the sick were healed. A church was built in Constantinople over the relics of this miracle-worker who continued to grant healing to all those who with faith touched them. By the Grace of God, the gravest illness of possession, of cancer, of hemorrhaging, of insanity, of blindness, of barrenness and of various other maladies were cured by the relics of Saint Therapontus.