

# FC RC NIKA 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

## Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory to Him Forever!

August 17, 2014 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
August 23 Saturday  
August 24 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am  
Great Vespers 4:00 pm  
Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

**Saints of the Day:** Martyr Myron of Cyzicus (250). Venerable Pimen, Archimandrite of Ugresh (1880) New Hieromartyr Priest Alexis (1918). New Hieromartyr Priest Demetrius (1937). Venerable Alypius the Iconographer of the Kiev Caves (1114). Martyrs Paul and his sister Juliana of Syria (273). Martyrs Thyrsus, Leucius, and Coronatus, with others at Caesarea in Bithynia (250). Martyr Patroclus of Troyes (3 c.). Martyrs Straton, Philip, Eutychian, and Cyprian of Nicomedia (303). Venerable Leucius, Abbot of Volokolamsk (1492). Venerable Monk Philip, of Sukhonsk, Yankovsk (Vologda) (1662). Blessed Theodoretus, Enlightener of the Laps (Solovki) (1571). Venerable Ellas of Calabria (903). Saint Jeroen, Hieromartyr of Noordwijk (857). New Martyr Demetrius of Samarina in Epirus (1808). New Hieromartyr Archilleus Sirotin. Saint Tbeli Abuseridze of Khikhuni, Adjara (13 c.) Saint Drithelm of Melrose, Hermit (c. 700). Saint James, Deacon-Monk of York (n.d.) Saint Hiero (Jeron, Jerome) of Holland, Monk Martyr (885).

**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, Eugene, John, Jason, John, Vincent. Priests Jacobus, Leonid, Vasil, Vasil. Deacons Mark, Demetrios, Philip. Mother Raphaela, Dimitri, Nina, Daniel, Catherine, Helen, Anna, Peter, Helen, Michael, Kevin, Richard, 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, Jamie, Albert, Kevin, Robert, Robert, Andrew, David, Warren, Vincent, Diane, Abigail.

**God Grant Many Years!** Prayers for the health of Gregory and Laura Polk, Warren Ewart, Archpriest David Clooney, Rose Udics, Jim Gomes, Archpriest John and Matushka Naomi Takahashi, Diane Witiak, Margaret Udics Kappanadze, Mary Udics Ray, Bill Udics, and John Mason were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of the souls of newly-departed Archpriest Steven Jula and Priest Sergius Willis were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Archpriest John Udics.

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of the souls of Mary McCartney, Monk Sergei (Udics), Archpriest Igor Tkachuk were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Father John Udics.

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of the souls of George Rinko, Piza Dulak and John Prawlocki were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of the "Memory Eternal Requiem Service Fund."

### **Pastoral Letter from His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon to the Clergy, Monastics and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America Concerning Violence and Extremism in the Middle East**

*"We have preferred profane and material things to the commandment of love, and because we have attached ourselves to them we fight against men, whereas we ought to prefer the love of all men to all visible things and even to our own body." (Saint Maximus the Confessor, The Ascetic Life, 7)*

Beloved in Christ,

Our hearts have been deeply wounded by the stories and images of war and fighting throughout the world. The recent incidents of violence in the Middle East loom as tragic examples of an increasing disrespect for humanity and disregard for human life and dignity. The Orthodox Church in America joins those in the Middle East, in North America, and around the world who have raised their voices against the inhumane actions we are witnessing. We join all who condemn this blatant disregard for human dignity and life.

The Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East, whose ministry in the Middle East consistently witnesses to the Gospel of love of Jesus Christ and the Gospel's command to adhere to peace and non-violence, has issued a strong statement condemning the attacks against Christians in Mosul, expressed in "coercion forcing them to change their belief, pay a tax or leave their homes, while having their property confiscated." The statement calls on "states that provide fundamentalist groups with any direct or indirect foreign support to immediately stop all forms of material, logistic, military and moral support."

The Orthodox Church in America expresses its solidarity with the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch in its striving for non-violence and peace. We also express our solidarity with all the suffering Christian communities of Mosul, whose expulsion is ending the Christian presence there after nearly two thousand years.

Another story of violence is unfolding yet again between Israel and the Hamas organization in Gaza. In this violence hundreds of innocent civilians have already died, some of them Israelis, most of them Palestinians.

This humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza is overwhelming; hundreds of thousands of innocent people are losing their homes and struggling to survive without electricity and water.

Yet another narrative of violence continues in Syria. Many innocent people not involved in the fighting have lost their lives. A large proportion of the Syrian population has taken to flight, forced to live in refugee camps in the region. Millions have lost their homes, their livelihoods and their loved ones.

Those of us living in North America may feel a sense of helplessness when seeing and hearing of these tragedies. We ought to remember the words of Saint John Cassian, who writes that the “goal of peaceful improvement cannot be reached through the decisions of others, which is forever beyond our control, but is found rather in our own attitude. To be free from wrath is not dependent on the perfection of others, but stems from our own virtue, which is acquired through our own tolerance, not other people’s patience.” (Institutes, VIII.17)

Saint John is pointing to a fundamental spiritual principle: that real change only begins when we look within our own hearts. Rather than feeling helpless in the face of world tragedies, we need to recall our unity with all of mankind and to respond with prayer for the suffering and the departed. In addition, just as the ascetic struggles of the great saints, in their own time and place, have a cosmic effect, so our own effort to purify our own hearts will have an effect on the rest of the world.

Thus, a very concrete and practical way that we in North America can respond to the violence in the Middle East is to commit ourselves to establishing peace in our own families and communities. When the Holy Apostle James posed the question: “What causes wars, and what causes fighting among you?”, he immediately answers with a challenge for us to consider: “Is it not your passions that are at war in your members?” (James 4:1).

If we are truly concerned about the strife in the world today, let us begin by overcoming anger in our own hearts by striving for meekness and humility. If we are upset by the violence and destruction in the Middle East, let us direct our energy to bring peace to the conflicts within our own families. If we are horrified by images of human beings injuring and killing one another, let us offer an image of Christ by giving alms to those in need in our own neighborhood.

In this way, our deeds will be joined to our prayers, and by the action of divine grace, we will have the assurance that our merciful Lord will grant consolation to those who are suffering, will provide a place of rest for those who have departed and will bestow upon the world the peace that passes all understanding.

With love in Christ,

+Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

Those wishing to assist International Orthodox Christian Charities in its ongoing humanitarian efforts across the Middle East may do so by logging onto [www.iocc.org](http://www.iocc.org).

### **Metropolitan Onufry elected primate of Ukrainian Orthodox Church**

Kiev, August 13, Interfax - The Council of Bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate) has elected Metropolitan Onufry of Chernovtsy and Bukovina the new primate, spokesperson for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church Zhanna Shevchenko told journalists.

The enthronement of the new head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church is expected on August 17.

The previous head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church Metropolitan Vladimir died on July 5, having being the primate of the Church since 1992.

Metropolitan Onufry (Berezovsky) was elected Locum Tenens of the Metropolitan See of Kiev on February 24, 2014.

Metropolitan Onufry was born on November 5, 1944 in Chernovtsy Region in the family of a clergyman. He took monastic vows in 1971 and in 1988 graduated from the Moscow Theological Academy with a degree in theology.

In 1988 he was appointed Father-Superior of the Dormition Pochayev Laura where he served until November 1990. On December 9, 1990, he was consecrated Bishop of Chernovtsy and Bukovina. In 1994 he was raised to rank of archbishop and in 2000 - to the rank of metropolitan.

The Russian Orthodox Church has welcomed the election of Metropolitan Onufry and is expecting him to perform his peacekeeping mission successfully.

"We welcome the election of the new leader of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church," Archpriest Igor Yakimchuk, the secretary for the inter-Orthodox relations at the Synodal Department for External Church Relations, told Interfax-Religion.

"The Bishops Council has demonstrated unity, which is particularly important amidst what is happening in Ukraine," said Father Igor.

He also stressed that Metropolitan Onufry "is well known for his spiritual qualities: he is a man of fervent prayer and a true monk."

"We hope that under his leadership, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church will successfully perform its peacekeeping mission aimed at resolving the situation in the country," the priest said.

<http://www.interfax-religion.com/?act=dujour&div=36>

**Update from Holy Myrrhbearers’ Monastery:** “We write now with regret, to announce that for a number of reasons we are not going ahead with the pilgrimage and symposium we had planned for this coming September 13<sup>th</sup>. An interesting summer (more severe weather than Central New York has had since 1989) has followed the very difficult winter most everyone seems to have had thanks to our planet’s new climate. While the rest of us are well, thank God, and we continue to have a steady stream of guests sharing in our life and work, our abbess, Mother Raphaela, and the friends who planned to work with her on this gathering, were all prevented from making the necessary preparations. We realize we must leave the future of such gatherings in God’s hands.”