

IC XC NIKA SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America
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Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory to Him Forever!

August 31, 2014 13th Sunday after Pentecost
September 6 Saturday
September 7 13th Sunday after Pentecost

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

This week's Bulletin was donated in memory of the Ptasznik / Bobyk Family and for the health of Irene Ptasznik and Natalie Ptasznik.

Saints of the Day: The Placing of the Cincture (Sash) of the Most Holy Theotokos (395-408). New Hieromartyrs Priest Alexander and Deacon Vladimir (1918). New Hieromartyrs Priests Michael and Myron (1937). New Hieromartyr Demetrius (1938). Hieromartyr Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage (258). Saint Gennadius, Patriarch of Constantinople (471). Saint John, Metropolitan of Kiev (1089). Saint Paulinus, Bishop of Trier (358). Saint Gennadius Scholarius, Patriarch of Constantinople (1372). Saint Eanswythe, Abbess, of Folkestone (England) (640). Saint Cuthburga, Abbess of Wimborne. Saint Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne (651). Four Martyrs of Perge in Pamphylia. Martyrs: Menas, Faustus, Andrew, Heraclius, Phileortus and Diadoch. Martyr Phileortus. Martyr Diadoch Eight Virgin-martyrs of Gaza. 366 Martyrs of Nicomedia. New Martyrs of Jasenovac (1941-1945). Saint Aidan of Lindisfarne, Bishop (651). Saint Cuthburga, Queen and Abbess of Wimborne, England. Saint Eanswitha (Eanswyth), Abbess of Folkestone, Kent, England. Saint Columban of Ireland, Abbot and Founder of Luxeuil Abbey in France.

Please remember in your prayers: Suffering Christians of Egypt, Syria, the Middle East and Ukraine. Bishop BOULOS Yazigi, Bishop YOHANNA Ibrahim, of Aleppo. Archimandrites Athanasys, Nectarios, Pachomy. Archpriests Alvian, Eugene, John, Jason, John, Vincent. Priests Sergius, 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 Helen Makara Riley, Archpriest Daniel and Matushka Mary Geeza, Paul Kachur, Nina Tkachuk Dimas, Protodeacon Sergei Kapral and Priest Geoffrey Korz were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the souls of John and Rose Medvick were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of nephew Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the souls of Michael Ciko, Mary Mezick and Walter Spytko were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of the "Memory Eternal Requiem Service Fund."

An update from the Holy Myrrhbearers

Vigil of Dormition 2014

Dear friends at Saints Peter and Paul Church, Herkimer,

Greetings to you during this season of the great summer feasts completing the Church year! Father James Dutko joined us and our guests for the beautiful Divine Liturgy of the Transfiguration. We had a good representation of "first fruits" from the farm and garden to be blessed at the end of the Liturgy. Now we look forward to having our flowers blessed at the beautiful, Paschal feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos.

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 13th. 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. He seems to think our contribution to the life of the Church lies elsewhere. We thank Him that we can continue our daily life of prayer, work and hospitality in ways that bring us closer to our beloved Desert Fathers and Mothers.

Nevertheless, Mother Raphaela with Mother Anna was able to join a number of other heads of OCA monasteries at a gathering called by Metropolitan Tikhon at the OCA Chancery in Syosset, NY. We quote here briefly from the news release and issued statement from that gathering: "His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, called for the Synaxis as an expression of his commitment to the strengthening of monastic life within the OCA

and in an effort to identify areas of concern for the OCA's monastic communities that could be better addressed on a wider level within the Church or by means of stronger inter-monastery cooperation".

To see photographs, learn more about this inspiring gathering and about the growing number of indigenous monasteries in our Orthodox Church in America, go to <http://oca.org/media/photos/monastic-conference-opens-at-at-oca-chancery> , <http://oca.org/news/headline-news/monastic-synaxis-closes-statement-issued> and <http://oca.org/media/photos/monastic-conference-opens-at-at-oca-chancery>

We are grateful to announce that as of July 1, St. Innocent's Mission became independent, and now meets in Oneonta under Bishop Michael of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey. We are glad to have been of aid to the Diocese in starting this new Mission. Now, as a stavropighial monastery, our chapel is under the jurisdiction of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon.

We have recently made the acquaintance of our newest and closest Orthodox neighbor, Father Michael Vladimirov, who with his family has built a beautiful Orthodox retreat in nearby Franklin, NY under the auspices of the ROCOR jurisdiction. It has been a delight to visit and attend Liturgy in his beautiful retreat and small house chapel and to welcome him at the monastery in turn. We are grateful for the rapprochement that now allows such friendship and look forward to the day when our bishops join us in person as well as with their blessings.

The present climate is difficult on roofs as well as on people. Last summer we had to replace the chapel roof; this summer, with the generous help of our friends, we are replacing the roof on the large barn that houses our livestock and their hay supply. In addition, our handyman, Chris, is replacing the deck at our guest house, and we will be painting and refurbishing the interior for the first time in over 10 years.

We thank all of you for your interest and support. As we were reminded by the Superior's gathering in Syosset, fifty years ago, there were no functioning monasteries in the OCA. Today, while we are all still small and aware that American parishes are not yet preparing men and women to take our places, there are numbers of us throughout North America, praying for all of you and for God's people, suffering in so many places throughout this increasingly violent world.

With love in Christ,

The Nuns of Holy Myrrbearers Monastery

SAINT AIDAN, born in Ireland; died 651. Saint Aidan is said to have been a disciple of Saint Senan (f.d. March 8) on Scattery Island, but nothing else is known with certainty of his early life before he became a monk of Iona. He was well received by King Oswald (f.d. August 9), who had lived in exile among the Irish monks of Iona and had requested monks to evangelize his kingdom. The first missionary, Cormac, was unsuccessful because of the roughness of his methods, so Aidan was sent to replace him. Oswald bestowed the isle of Lindisfarne (Holy Island) on Aidan for his episcopal seat and his diocese reached from the Forth to the Humber.

By his actions he showed that he neither sought nor loved the things of this world; the presents which were given to him by the king or other rich men he distributed among the poor. He rarely attended the king at table, and never without taking with him one or two of his clergy, and always afterwards made haste to get away and back to his work.

The centre of his activity was Lindisfarne, off the coast of Northumberland, between Berwick and Bamburgh. Here he established a monastery under the Rule of Saint Columcille; it was not improperly been called the English Iona, for from it the paganism of Northumbria was gradually dispelled and barbarian customs undermined. The community was not allowed to accumulate wealth; surpluses were applied to the needs of the poor and the manumission of slaves. From Lindisfarne Aidan made journeys on foot throughout the diocese, visiting his flock and establishing missionary centres.

Aidan's apostolate was advanced by numerous miracles according to Saint Bede (f.d. May 25), who wrote his biography. It was also aided by the fact that Aidan preached in Irish and the king provided the translation. Saint Aidan took to this monastery 12 English boys to be raised there, and he was indefatigable in tending to the welfare of children and slaves, for the manumission of many of whom he paid from alms bestowed on him.

The great king Saint Oswald assisted his bishop in every possible way until his death in battle against the pagan King Penda in 642. Oswald's successor, Saint Oswin (f.d. August 20), also supported Aidan's apostolate and when in 651, Oswin was murdered in Gilling, Aidan survived him only 11 days. He died at the royal castle of Bamburgh, which he used as a missionary centre, leaning against a wall of the church where a tent had been erected to shelter him. He was first buried in the cemetery of Lindisfarne, but when the new church of Saint Peter was finished, his body was translated into the sanctuary.

Saint Bede highly praises the Irish Aidan who did so much to bring the Gospel to his Anglo-Saxon brothers. He wrote that Saint Aidan "was a man of remarkable gentleness, goodness, and moderation, zealous for God; but not fully according to knowledge. . . ." By which Bede means that he followed and taught the liturgical and disciplinary customs of the Celtic Christians, which differed from those of Continental Christianity. Montague notes that one effort of Anglo-Saxon education being conducted by Irish monks was that English writing was distinguished by its Irish orthography. Aidan brought to Ireland the custom of Wednesday and Friday fasts.

In art, Saint Aidan is portrayed as a bishop with the monastery of Lindisfarne in his hand and a stag at his feet (because of the legend that his prayer rendered invisible a deer pursued by hunters). He might also be portrayed (1) holding a light torch; (2) giving a horse to a poor man; (3) calming a storm; or (4) extinguishing a fire by his prayers, He is especially venerated at Glastonbury, Lindisfarne, and Whitby.