

SAIN'TS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America
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CHRIST IS BAPTIZED! IN THE RIVER JORDAN!

January 18, 2015 32nd Sunday after Pentecost

January 24 Saturday

January 25 33rd Sunday after Pentecost. Sunday of Zacchaeus

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Great Vespers 4:00 pm

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Saints of the Day: Saint Athanasius the Great (373) and Saint Cyril (444), Archbishops of Alexandria. Venerable Schemamonk Cyril and Venerable Schemanun Maria (1337) (parents of Saint Sergius of Radonezh). New Hieromartyr Priest Michael (1919). New Hieromartyr Priest Eugene (1930). New Hieromartyrs Priests Vladimir, Nicholas, Sergius Alexander (1938). Venerable Abbot Athanasius of Syanzhema (Valaam) (1550). Venerable Monk Athanasius of Novolok, (16-17 c.). Venerable Monk Marcian of Cyrrhus in Syria, (ca. 303). Martyr Xenia. Saint Maximus of Serbia, Metropolitan (1516). Venerable Monk Silvanus, of Palestine. Saint Leobardus of Marmoutier (6 c.). Martyr Theodula and her companions Helladius, Boethius, Evagrius and Macarius of Anazarbus in Cilicia, (304). Saint Ephraim the Lesser, the Philosopher (1101). Venerable Hieromonk Alexi (Shushania) of Teklati (1923). Saint Joachim, Patriarch of Turnovo (1235). Saint Ninnidh of Inismacsaint (6 c.). Saint Dicuil Abbot of Lure (c.624). Saint Day. Saint Dermot, Abbot of Innis-Clotran Island.

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, Leonid, John, Jason, John, Vincent. Priests Jacobus, Leonid, Thaddaeus. Deacons Mark, Demetrios, Philip. Mothers Raphaela, Michaela, Catherine, Anna. Monk Victor, Dimitri, Nina, Daniel, Catherine, Helen, Anna, Peter, Helen, Michael, Stephanie, Zara, Nolan, Emelie, Michael, Ed, Nettie, Maria, Michael, John, James, Nancy, Susan, Daniel, Aaron, Mark, Jennifer, Nina, Nadine, Michael, Anna, Gregory, Marianna, Helen, Isaiah, Jamie, Albert, Kevin, Robert, Robert, Andrew, David, Warren, Diane, Abigail.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Mary Bruchko DeMeo were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Catherine Kavalkovich and Barbara Andrews, Margaret Pellack and Peggy Walker were offered at Liturgy and Moleben today at the request of Father John Udics.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Archpriest Jason and Matushka Margaret Kappanadze, Dr Bill Mazur, Archpriest John Takahashi, Ron and Mary Ray were offered at Liturgy and Moleben today at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the soul of newly-departed John Saltourides (76) were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of his family

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the souls of Protopresbyter Pavel Souček, Archpriest John Platko, cousin Joseph Udics and newly-departed Mary Bruchko DeMeo (90) were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Father Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the soul of Walter Jovorsky Sr were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of the "Memory Eternal Requiem Service Fund."

SAINT ATHANASIUS THE GREAT, ARCHBISHOP OF ALEXANDRIA was born in Alexandria in the year 296 A.D. and from his early childhood had an inclination to the spiritual life. He was a deacon to Archbishop Alexander and accompanied him to the First Ecumenical Council [Nicaea, 325 A.D.]. It was at this Council that Athanasius became renowned for his learning, devotion to and zeal for Orthodoxy. He contributed greatly to destroy the heresy of Arius and to strengthen Orthodoxy. He wrote the Symbol of Faith [The Creed] which was adopted at the Council. Following the death of Alexander, Athanasius was elected Archbishop of Alexandria. In his calling as Archbishop of Alexandria, he remained for forty years, although not for the entire time on the archepiscopal throne of the archbishopric. With few exceptions, throughout his life he was persecuted by heretics. Of the emperors, he was persecuted mostly by Constantius, Julian and Valens; of the bishops, by Eusebius of Nicomedia and many others; and by the heretic Arius and his followers. Athanasius was forced to hide from his persecutors, even in a well, in a grave, in private homes and in the deserts. Twice he was forced to flee to Rome. Only before his death, did he live peacefully for a while as the good shepherd among his good flock who truly loved him. Few are the saints who were so mercilessly slandered and so criminally persecuted as Saint Athanasius. His great soul patiently endured all for the love of Christ and, in the end, emerged victorious from this entire, terrible and long-lasting struggle. For counsel, for comfort and for moral support, Athanasius often visited Saint Anthony, whom he respected as his spiritual father. For a man who formulated the greatest truth, Athanasius had much to suffer for that truth until in the year 373 A.D., the Lord gave him repose in His kingdom as His faithful servant.

HOUSE BLESSINGS, 2015. Would you like to have your home blessed for 2015? Call Father John and leave a message if he's not there. Suggest a good time for him to visit. So far, 2 homes are blessed for the new year.

REFLECTION by Saint Nikolai of Zhicha

To the question: "Why did the Son of God appear on earth in a human body and not in another form of creation?", the brilliant Saint Athanasius replied in this manner: "If they ask why did He not appear in some other better form of creation, for example: as the sun or the moon, or the stars or fire, or the wind but just as a man? Let them know that the Lord did not come to show Himself but to heal and teach sufferers. For, to reveal Himself only to amaze the viewers would mean to come for a show. It was necessary for the Healer and the Teacher, not only to come, but to serve for the benefit of the suffering ones and to reveal Himself as such so that this revelation would be bearable for the sufferers. Not one single creature was in error in the eyes of God, except man alone: neither the sun, nor the moon, nor the sky, nor the stars, nor water, nor wind did betray their ranks but, on the contrary, knowing their Creator and their King - The Word [The Logos], they all remained as they were created; only human beings separated themselves from good and replaced truth with deceit, and the honor belonging to God, as well as the knowledge about Him, they transferred to devils and to men carved out of stone [idols]. What is, therefore, so unbelievable in this, that the Logos [The Word - The Son of God] appeared as a man to save mankind?" Indeed, even as we ask the unbelievers of our day: In what form would you wish God to appear, if not as a man?

ELDER PAISIOS WAS CANONIZED on Tuesday (1/13) by Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople as he was unanimously accepted by the Holy Synod of the Greek Orthodox Church. As reported by the Ecumenical Patriarchate, he is now Saint Paisios and is added in the Greek Orthodox Church Hagiology.

Saint Paisios the Athonite was born Arsenios Eznepidis in July 1924, in Farasa Cappadocia and passed away in July 1994. He was a Greek monk who became widely known for his life and prophecies. His father was called Prodromos and his mother Evlampia. He had eight siblings. On August 7, 1924, a week before the Greeks of Farasa returned to the homeland, he was baptized by the parish priest, Arsenios, whom the Orthodox Church recognized as a saint. Arsenios gave him his name "to leave a monk in his place," as he said.

Five weeks after the boy's christening, on September 14, 1924, the Eznepidis family, along with other refugees, arrived in Piraeus and then went to Corfu, where they stayed for eighteen months. The family then moved to Igoumenitsa and then to Konitsa where Arsenios finished elementary school and got his diploma with "excellent conduct." Ever since he was a child, he was writing down the miracles of Saint Arsenios. He had an inclination towards monasticism and wanted to become a monk.

Arsenios went to Mount Athos to become a monk in 1949, right after his discharge from the army. He stayed for one night at the Monastery of Saint John the Theologian in Karyes and then slept in the hermitage of Saint Panteleimon, in the cell of the Virgin Mary, where he met father Cyril, abbot of the monastery, and followed him faithfully. After spending time in various retreats of Mount Athos and Sinai, he moved to Koutloumousio monastery until he became seriously ill and passed away in the summer of 1994.

He was buried in the Holy Monastery of Saint John the Theologian in Souroti, Thessaloniki. Since then, every year on July 11 to July 12, the anniversary of his death, there is a vigil in the Sanctuary Retreat, with thousands of believers attending.

Elder Paisios wrote four books, published by the Holy Monastery Saint John the Theologian: Saint Arsenios the Cappadocian (1991), Elder Hadji-Georgis the Athonite, 1809-1886 (1986), Athonite Fathers and Athonite Matters (1993) and Letters (1994).

Next Sunday is already **THE SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS**, Zacchaeus, whose climb up the sycamore tree is the first reminder of the coming of Great Lent. It's not too early to begin to think of preparations for Lent. Dust off your Lenten cookbook, if you have one. If not, contact the Altar Society for a copy of our cookbook which has so many recipes. There are plenty of parishes who sell cookbooks for Lent alone. Greek recipes, Arab recipes, Romanian and Serbian recipes for Lent are all new and interesting for us.

Have you given thought to your preparations for Lent? Have you singled out charities to patronize? Have you arranged your schedule to attend Church? Have you cleaned out the clothes closet of old clothes still valuable to those who don't have good clothes? How about hand-me-down clothes for children, clothes you or your children have outgrown? What about donating books ('clothing' the minds of those are still thirsting for knowledge? And toys for orphanages – toys no longer so interesting and whose boxes you haven't opened for years? And what about visiting the sick and those in prisons? You could get addresses of those who are ill or in prison so that you could write to them about good things... And working a bit for your own parish? The Altar Society is planning the spring Bazaar. You could offer to bake, cook, sew, do all sorts of things. Join the Altar Society! Many hands make work light! **PLANNING!** That's the key!

Good, easy, simple (almost instant!) – Cousin Paula's POTATO SOUP!

5 thinly sliced potatoes (or cubed)	1 small can cream of celery soup
2 cups water (DO NOT DRAIN)	2 cups milk
1 tbsp salt	2 tbsp margarine (butter)
1 diced onion	black pepper to taste
8 oz cream cheese	1 tsp garlic powder (not garlic salt – too much salt)
1 small can cream of mushroom soup	

Cook potatoes in salted water until tender. Sauté the onion in the margarine or butter. Add to potatoes. Add cream cheese, reheat to smooth texture. Add both soups, milk, black pepper and garlic. Reheat on low until hot
* Cousin Paula adds minced/chopped clams, or gnocchi pasta. For stronger flavor, you could chop some celery and real garlic in with the onion, add some diced mushrooms – and use cream instead of milk and cream soups.