

# IC XC 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

**CHRIST IS RISEN! ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΒΟΚΡΕΞΕ! ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!**  
**¡CRISTO RESUCITÓ! KRISTUR ER UPPRISINN! CRISTO RESSUSCITOU!**  
**LI CRIST A RAVIKÉ! DASSORET EO KRIST! KRISTUS AUGŠAMCĒLIES!**  
**CHRISTVS RESURREXIT! Υ ΧΡΙΣΤ ΑΤΓΥΦΟΔΟΔΔ! Christus Ist Auferstanden!**

May 10, 2015	Sunday of the Samaritan Woman	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
May 16	Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
May 17	Sunday of the Blind Man	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

**God Grant Many Years!** To all our mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, aunts and sisters  
**Christ is Risen!** For the repose of all our mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, aunts and sisters.

**Saints of the Day:** Apostle Simon the Zealot (1 c). Saint Simon, Bishop of Vladimir and Suzdal (Kiev Caves) (1226). Martyrs Philadelphus, Cyprian, Alphaeus, Onesimus, Erasmus, and 14 others, in Sicily (251). Martyr Hesychius of Antioch (4 c). Venerable Isidora the Fool of Tabenna (Egypt) (365). Blessed Thaïs (Taisia) of Egypt (5 c). Blessed Simon of Yurievits and Zharki, fool-for-Christ (1584). Venerable Monk Laurence of Egypt (6 c). Venerable Dionisius of Radonezh (14-15 c). Translation of relics (1670) of Martyr Basil of Mangazea (Siberia) (1602). Saint Synesius of Irkutsk, friend of Saint Sophronius (1787). Saint Conleth, Hermit and Bishop of Kildare (520).

**Please remember in your prayers:** Suffering Christians of Egypt, Syria, the Middle East and Ukraine. Bishop BOULOS and Bishop YOHANNA, of Aleppo. Archimandrites Athanasy, Nectarios, Pachomy. Archpriests Alvian, Eugene, Leonid, John, Jason, John, Vincent. Priests Jacobus, Leonid. Deacons Mark, Demetrios, Philip. Mothers Raphaela, Michaela, Catherine, Anna. Monk Victor, Mary, Valentina, Dimitri, Nina, Daniel, Helen, Catherine, Anna, Peter, Helen, Michael, Stephanie, Zara, Nolan, Emelie, Michael, Ed, Nettie, Anita, Maria, Michael, John, James, Nancy, Susan, Daniel, Aaron, Nicole, Ashley, Mark, Jennifer, Nina, Nadine, Michael, Anna, Gregory, Marianna, Isaiah, Jamie, Albert, Kevin, Robert, Robert, Andrew, David, Warren.

**God Grant Many Years!** Prayers for the health of all our mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, aunts and sisters were offered at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

**God Grant Many Years!** Prayers for the health of newly-baptized Liliana Catherine Deacon and Stevie Helen Kinzey, Salvatore Uricola and family were offered at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

**God Grant Many Years!** Prayers for the health of Richard Mauro and Mary and Craig Williams were offered at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

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

**Christ is Risen!** Prayers for the repose of newly-departed Helen Ciko were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of Father John Udics.

**Christ is Risen!** Prayers for the repose of all our mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, aunts and sisters were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of Father John Udics.

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

## FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

**NEXT SUNDAY AFTER LITURGY – IMPORTANT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

## MEDITATION: A Different Perspective on Giving, Part 1

"We need new vestments." "The utility bills are adding up." "The heating plant needs to be replaced." "The budget needs cutting." "Everyone needs to pray, pay and obey!" (Especially the second part.)

It can be exhausting to take in a litany of woes, wants and wishes from the amvon after services, especially in small parishes, where so much is demanded from so few.

It's a good thing that God can't be outdone in generosity.

As the numbers slide inexorably into the red, a new visitor shows up to the parish. Who is it? – A savior? – A billionaire? – A wonderworker?

Nope – it's just Fear. Sorry to disappoint. "Here's a bulletin, please join us for coffee hour."

At least this guest doesn't come empty-handed. Fear brings his favorite parish devitalization technique – the Inward Spiral – and shares it 'round.

Soon everyone – the priest, the council, the parishioners – adopts the Inward Spiral as their modus operandi. "We need to focus on our expenses, our budget, our payroll, our problems, our buildings." And why not? "We can't take care of ourselves now, let alone think about anyone else." "Are there any wayward souls we can

reach out to – to collect past dues?” Fear gets his way because it makes perfect sense. Like the body’s reaction to extreme cold, the blood flow gets cut off from the extremities; everything “pulls in” to preserve the core.

Small problem: the Inward Spiral can only end one way. For the ever-increasing focus on the parish as its own little world of hurt fails to reach anyone outside. And if, by chance, someone happens to drop by for a visit, they’ll see the writing on the wall: Join this parish and become its new savior, or flee and preserve your sanity.

We shouldn’t be shocked by this. It’s human nature – or, rather, fallen human nature in a fallen world. Someone once said: “For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.” And this isn’t just true about the spiritual life, or even parish life. It applies to rock climbing and tight-rope walking, public speaking and sermon preaching, business ventures and musical overtures. Fear and the Inward Spiral are a deadly duo.

The only antidote is an abandonment to Christ and His Gospel. “Perfect love casts out fear.” And while our love may be far from the perfect love of God, the best way to learn perfect love is to do something entirely foreign to our culture: forget about yourself, focus entirely on God and the people He has put into your life.

Now imagine this on a parish level. What if we made it our priority to look outside the parish to offer spiritual nourishment? You might be surprised at how practical this change in perspective can be.

Take, for example, the humble photocopier. By no means is a photocopier a luxury item for a parish. There are bulletins to print, letters to mail, choir books to arrange, agendas to distribute. For these reasons alone we could ask for donations to purchase a copier. But let’s try a different way. Have you heard these words before?

“The dark storm clouds of life bring no terror to those in whose hearts Thy fire is burning brightly. Outside is the darkness of the whirlwind, the terror and howling of the storm, but in the heart, in the presence of Christ, there is light and peace, silence.”

We’ve served this Akathist, called “Glory to God For All Things,” a number of times over the past year and a half. The entire hymn is filled with soul-startling beauty. The first time I heard it I was brought to tears – a “joyful sorrow,” indeed.

These words need to find their way to the places that Beauty turned her back on – the places without comfort, where God seems far away and tears are rarely mixed with joy. Due to the courageous samizdat (self-publishing) movement in Russia, this Akathist was given to Protopresbyter Gregory Petrov, a prisoner in a Soviet gulag. Who knows what joy and peace these forbidden words brought him while he suffered through hell on earth?

Today the message of God's love is not forbidden but forgotten. Could a change of perspective make our parish a witness to the oft-ignored, yet steadfast, love of the Gospel? Could focusing on those outside and forgetting ourselves lead to a renewed life here? If so, then our offering to the parish takes on a new meaning. It is not just for us, just to keep our parish going, but so that the embrace of Saint Gregory's might be extended.

With love in the Risen Lord, Priest Leonid Schmidt

**THE HOLY APOSTLE SIMON, THE ZEALOT** was one of the Twelve Great Apostles. He was born in Cana of Galilee. The Lord Jesus, with His mother and His disciples, came to his marriage feast. When the wine ran out, the Lord changed water into wine (St. John 2: 1-11). Witnessing this miracle, Simon the groom left his home, parents and bride and followed after Christ. Zealot means zealous. Simon was called the Zealot because of his great and fiery zeal for the Savior and His Gospel. After receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit, Simon went to preach the Gospel in Mauritania in Africa. Because he succeeded to convert many to the Faith of Christ, Simon was tortured and finally crucified, as was his Lord, Who prepared for him a wreath of glory in the immortal kingdom.

**THE HOLY MARTYRS ALPHAEUS, PHILADELPHUS AND CYPRINUS** were three brothers and the sons of Prince Vitalis in Southern Italy. They were men of nobility and strong in faith. Condemned for their faith in Christ they were led from one judge to another; from one torturer to another. They were taken to Sicily and were slain there during the reign of Emperor Licinius. Alphaeus' tongue was severed and having shed much blood, he died. Philadelphus was burned on an iron grate and Cyprinus in fire. Their incorrupt relics were discovered in 1517 A.D. The three brothers appeared to Saint Euthalia (March 2).

**THE VENERABLE ISIDORA, FOOL FOR CHRIST** lived in the fourth century and was a nun in a convent in Tabennisi. She pretended insanity in order to conceal her virtues and her mortification. Isidora performed the most menial tasks, fed on the leftovers on the dishes, served all and everyone and was despised by all and everyone. At that time, an angel of God revealed to the great ascetic Pitirim about Isidora's secret. Pitirim came to the convent and when he saw Isidora he bowed down to the ground before her. And so, she to him. Then the sisters informed Pitirim that she was insane. "All of you are insane" replied Pitirim, "and this one is greater before the Lord than I and all of you; I only pray that God will render to me that which is intended for her at the Dreadful Judgment!" Then the sisters became ashamed and begged both Pitirim and Isidora for forgiveness. From then on, everyone began to show respect for Isidora. And she, to escape the honors of men, fled the convent to a place unknown and died about the year 365 A.D.

**THE BLESSED THAÏS** was a wealthy Christian maiden in Egypt. She decided not to enter into marriage and distributed her property to the monks of the desert. When she spent all of her possessions, she began to live a life of debauchery. Learning about this, the hermits begged Abba John Colovos to come to Alexandria and he did and began to weep before Thaïs. When she heard that the elder was crying because of her sins, she repented in an instant, left home and everything she owned and withdrew into the wilderness with the saint. One night while Thaïs was sleeping and while John stood at prayer, he saw where angels descended with a great light and took the soul of Thaïs. John learned that her instantaneous but warm repentance was more pleasing to God than the long years of external repentance of many hermits.