



SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America
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Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory to God For all things!

June 14, 2015	All Saints of America	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
June 20	Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
June 21	3 rd Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

Saints of the Day: Prophet Elisha (10th c. B.C.). Saint Methodius, Patriarch of Constantinople (847). Finding of the relics (1992) of New Hieromartyr Vladimir, Metropolitan of Kiev. New Hieromartyr Priest Joseph (1918). New Hieromartyrs Priests Nicholas, Alexander, Paul and Deacon Nicholas (1938). Saint Mstislav-George, Prince of Novgorod (1180). Venerable Methodius, Abbot of Peshnoshia (1392). Venerable Monk Elisha, of Suma (Solovki) (15th- 16th c.). Venerable Monk Niphon of Kapsokalyvia, Mount Athos (1330). Venerable Julitta (Julia) of Tabenna in Egypt. Saint John (Mavropos), Metropolitan of Euchaita (1100). Saint Joseph, Bishop of Thessalonica, brother of Saint Theodore of the Studion (830). Saint Sabbas the Fool-for-Christ of Vatopedi, Mount Athos (1349). Saint Dogmael, Monk of Pembrokeshire..Saint Cyril of Gortyne. Saint Brendan the Navigator, Abbot and Founder of Clonfert, Ireland, Who Sailed to America. Saint Cearan the Devout, Abbot of Bellach-Duin, County Meath, Ireland (870). Saint Nennus, Abbot of the Isle of Arran, Scotland (7th c.). Saint Psalmodius, Hermit of Limoges, France, Disciple of Saint Brendan (690)

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 Priest John Southern, Albert Kaba and Michael Stehnach were offered at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of James and Katherine Kochis, parents of Father Michael Kochis were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of Father Stephen Hutnick.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of aunt Rose Udics Medvick and mother Mary Konet Udics were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Walter Jovorsky Sr and Walter Jovorsky Jr, Joseph and Julie Firlet, Justina Staley and Elizabeth Spytko were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of the "Memory Eternal Requiem Service Fund."

FOR YOUR CALENDAR: GENERAL PARISH MEETING: TODAY after Liturgy

A Holy Myrrhbearers' Update. Dear All, ...Much has happened in the months since our last trustees' meeting. More needs to happen -- I have not yet followed through in contacting the people recommended as new trustees, for example.

And while this update is focused on the business-end of the monastery, let me say that the spiritual life of the monastery continues. Given my health, I am not the poster child for chapel services, but the others are very faithful each day. Father John Udics continues to come for confessions. Having Sunday Liturgies in nearby Franklin is a blessing and Father Michael Vladimirov and Father Jim Dutko have also served occasional new calendar feast and mid-week liturgies in our chapel. Father Jim served a beautiful leave-taking of Myrrhbearers liturgy for us and a group of friends gathered strictly by word of mouth, including 3 nuns from the Jordanville convent. As for our individual spiritual health -- I continue to be grateful for being with a group of women who are committed to lives of continuous prayer with "repentance" and all that means.

John Elnicky or "John-the-Auditor" as he is referred to by us these days has been doing a yeoman's job with our books. We aren't quite sure what happened to our previous auditor and are very grateful that John visited and agreed to the job. We have never had this kind of thorough-going search through just about everything and it is a relief to have him continue to say we've been doing a good job. While we've had our share of incompetence in the past, the present monastery members can't be accused of hiding anything...

We have been waiting for him to reconstruct annual reports that went missing. ...I filed the last financial report hard copies in our trustees notebook myself in 2007, assuming the rest were filed by the person doing the bookkeeping then -- and assuming they had been sent to you each year along with the minutes of our annual trustees meeting. I discovered only in January that nothing was filed after 2007. Thankfully we had digital copies of minutes and reports which could be printed out; John is now supplying the financial ones.

We may be a small monastery but we have become a relatively large business: We also run the farm and mail order business which keep us steadily writing checks and recording sales along with donations. I am most grateful that John has taken over most of the end-of-month chores, along with his audit of everything back through 2007, the year we began using QuickBooks as more than a glorified adding machine. I still need to get recent petty cash straightened out -- the one "guilt pile" still on my desk...

With the savings account in amazing shape after the Nativity-Theophany holidays, we made the decision to go ahead with replacing the floor in the guest parlor, entry, refectory and kitchen. Mother Michaela is a wizard at getting on the phone and getting contractors in line. I apologize for not keeping you all updated while that was going on; the complete job came to \$6,606.67. We will all see complete facts and figures at our annual meeting next month (Tuesday, June 16, 2015)

Thankfully, Popadaea Betsy Tumbas made a flying trip East last week to rescue us from the piles of donor letters and envelopes that needed to be acknowledged with letters. While a new small pile sits on my desk again already, I'm feeling caught up enough that (God willing and the creek not rising) I should get to it before it becomes another monster...

Chris, our handyman, is not in very good shape. His wife said she is divorcing him and whether or not it happens, he is not handling the situation well. So while he shows up, it is not regularly or for long hours. He spent some time in our guest house and presently is staying in our poustinia. Getting his own place to live has to happen, but he isn't there yet and I haven't made it a priority. His work, when he gets to it, continues to be of high quality, but we are actively recruiting volunteers to help with landscaping chores, painting the monastery inside and out (its age is showing!) and the house cleaning that we often let go with our small "staff," so things like window-washing are also on the list.

Last week our kitchen sinks backed up. They are now fixed, but in the process we discovered that they, the dishwasher and the upstairs bathroom sinks were together on a separate septic system from the rest of the house and the "maps" left to find the pump-out lid (and a small section of clogged pipes) were way off. Thankfully the dig-out required does not touch our flower beds any more...

The generations of volunteers that built our monastery are no longer with us -- only 1 chapel builder, Andy Tarbay, is still living. It seems that everywhere volunteers are another victim of the sea change in technology that keeps the modern world racing at an inhuman pace. Plus at least in New York, parishes with their traditional Carpatho-Russian background have absolutely no interest in American monasteries (or in any Christian vocation, as far as we and the clergy who speak with us can see).

However just a couple of days ago, Daria York, director of St. Andrew's Camp (OCA) in Jewel, NY phoned me, asking if I would come to speak with the teen-camp group this summer. Much of this paragraph comes from quoting her. Perhaps her new awareness and concern are evidence of Metropolitan Tikhon's conversations with Bishop Michael, stemming from the conference he called last summer with "heads of monasteries?"

Mother Michaela has heard about a Christian bikers group (yes, bikers, not bicyclists) that turns out to have a local chapter. They are coming to help us get the furniture from the old Baptist Church out of the rented storage it's been in, up into a barn loft. Old Baptist church repair is taking a lot longer than we'd anticipated -- more on that later -- and we don't want to keep shelling out the monthly rental fees.

Mother Katherine is doing an amazing job of taking care both of the sheep and the goats. She is only kidding and milking one doe and also not having a large lambing season. She is continuing to let old age attrition cut back the size of her flocks, while maintaining the fleeces she needs for our online yarn sales and the new products (such as fleece insoles -- still best sellers, woven scarves and rugs, roving, etc.) we offer through our online store and also through the local Artisans Guild on Main Street, Oneonta. A parish in Connecticut is also setting itself up as an outlet for our yarns, prayer ropes, etc...

Mother Anna with the help of a small but dedicated group of friends of the monastery continues to turn our yarn into prayer ropes by the score and fill, package and mail the other orders that come in -- in addition to her "chicken chores" and sacristan duties.

Last, but by not least, we received a copy of Paul Koronchick's will recently which listed us among the equal beneficiaries of his estate. Last week we received a letter from his executor, an attorney in Pittsfield, MA, asking us to sign a release for a \$50,000.00 check, a small initial amount, since settling the real estate etc. will take some time...

Since we have already been able to add several thousand dollars to our investment fund since the first of the year in addition to replacing some flooring, we would like to put the bulk of that amount towards the restoration of the Baptist Church. I asked Mother Michaela several weeks ago to start sounding out some local contractors about that job, now that it is obvious Chris will not be able to handle that, even with volunteers. Years ago, coincidentally, a restoration contractor had given me \$50,000 as a ball-park figure for stabilizing it. (You may recall that some volunteers who tried to replace the floor ended up creating a much bigger problem when they discovered they'd put the flooring over deteriorating beams and joists... without a building permit.)

On Friday Mother Michaela gave me copies of the contractor estimates that have come in so far. She thinks the others who came out to look are probably not interested in the job. The estimate ranges are \$15,000, \$18,500, \$47,215 (partial -- he leaves out what it might cost to replace the portions of the sill that are rotten and deteriorated nor does he include any electrical work) and \$57,075.00 which includes all the work including electrical.

It seems obvious that the men who offered the \$15,000 and \$18,500 estimates don't know what they are getting into -- they each handed in one-sheet estimates. Mother Michaela is personally impressed with the mid-range contractor and thinks Chris could handle the electric work, although I would prefer to have the contractor do it so we can count on a finished job. I would like to have an independent person, such as Bob Carpenter, review the estimates. Let me know if any of you would like to see them. Replacing the small barn is still a hope.

While at the moment we don't have any new candidates, we have not "given up" and have some long-term visits scheduled this summer from new women.

With love and prayers, Mother Raphaela