

+ 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!

August 2, 2015	9th Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
August 6	TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
August 8	Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
August 9	10 th Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

Saints of the Day: Translation of the relics (428) of the Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen (428) and Translation of the relics (415) of the Righteous Nicodemus, Gamaliel, and Abibus. Blessed Basil of Moscow, Fool-for-Christ (1552). New Hieromartyr Platon (1937). Blessed Basil of Kuben Lake (1472). Hieromartyr Stephen, Pope of Rome (257). Saint Marco of Belavinsk (Vologda) (1492). Saint Friardus of Vindumitta (573). Translation of the relics of Martyrs Maximus (286), Dada, and Quinctilian at Dorostolum in Moesia. New Martyr Theodore of the Dardanelles (1690). Martyr Phocas. Saint Etheldritha of Croyland, Nun and Virgin (d. 834). Saint Plegmund, Bishop of Canterbury (d. 914). Finding of Saint Alban's Relics. Saint Wulvella (6th c.)

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, Luke, Pachomy. Archpriests Alvian, Eugene, Leonid, John, Jason, John, Vincent. Priests Jacobus, Leonid. Deacons Mark, Demetrios, Philip. Mother Victoria. Mothers Raphaela, Michaela, Catherine, Anna. Sister Piama. Monk Victor, Mary, Valentina, Dimitri, Nina, Daniel, Helen, Catherine, Anna, Peter, Helen, Michael, Stephanie, Zara, Nolan, Emelie, Michael, Ed, Nettie, Anita, Maria, Michael, John, Linda, James, Nancy, Susan, Daniel, Aaron, Nicole, Ashley, Mark, Jennifer, Nina, Nadine, Michael, Anna, Gregory, Marianna, Isaiah, Jamie, Albert, Kevin, Robert, Robert, Andrew, Betty, David, Warren.

God Grant Many Years! Anniversary Prayers for the health of Deacon Demetrios and Matushka Anastasia Richards were offered at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Protopresbyter Emmanuel Pratsinakis, Daniel Witiak, Ed Hansen and Anita Hansen were offered at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the soul of Olga Prawlocki were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of John and Helen Kowansky.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Metropolitan VLADIMIR (Nagosky) and Metropolitan ANTHONY (Bloom) were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Jacob Elnicky and Frank Gromadzky were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of the "Memory Eternal Requiem Service Fund."

We are Fasting again for two weeks until August 15. There are reasons; da da da dabut please, speak to my Heart - Why do I want to?

You may find your own reasons for fasting. For me, I fast because it's good discipline. It seems easy to do. But that's only the part about abstaining from various foods. Of course, real fasting includes using the things we abstain from to do good. Abstain from gossip and talking dirt about others, and use the time to speak only good things and to teach those who may be ignorant. It's not so easy to do when bad mouthing has become a habit!

We can abstain from all wickedness – and having done so we can confess our sins and cleanse our hearts and souls and minds. This spiritual refreshment reinvigorates us.

The food we don't eat, we can give to the poor. Not so easy to identify who should benefit from our fasting, but there are plenty of agencies who will eagerly accept anything we can give them.

Along with abstaining from food, we can abstain from noise – turn off the computer, radio, cd player, television, iphones and similar devices, avoid the movies – and spend those extra moments communing with God in prayer. Include attending church services which you might normally avoid as abstinence from laziness.

Oh! Laziness! We can surely abstain from doing nothing. Do something good and useful and profitable and kind and generous. Visit the sick and shut-in. We can continue to use the computer to write letters to distant relatives, especially to people who love us and to the elderly who so crave our contact.

That's already quite an effort. If we can do even one of these things successfully and well, we will have accomplished a great work. The idea that we succeed is not the goal, because that makes us prideful and conceited, but that we triumph over sinfulness and discover how much further we have to go!

And for me, it makes my spirit lighter and makes the summer heat that much easier to bear!

THE FINDING AND THE TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF SAINT STEPHEN, THE ARCHDEACON AND PROTO-MARTYR

When the wicked Jews slew Saint Stephen by stoning, they left his body for the dogs to consume. However, God's Providence intended otherwise. The martyr's body lay in an open place at the foothill of the city for one night and two days. The second night Gamaliel, Paul's teacher and secretly a disciple of Christ, came and removed the body and took it to Caphargamala on his estate and there he honorably buried it in a cave. Gamaliel also buried his friend Nicodemus who died weeping over the grave of Stephen in the same cave. Gamaliel also buried his baptized son Abibus there and according to his will, was buried there also. Since that time, many centuries passed and no one living knew where the body of Saint Stephen was buried. However, in the year 415 A.D. during the reign of John, the Patriarch of Jerusalem, Gamaliel appeared three times in a dream to Lucian, the priest at Caphargamala and, at length, related everything to him concerning the burial of all the afore-mentioned showing him the exact spot of their forgotten graves. Excited by this dream Lucian informed the patriarch and with his blessing went with a group of men and exhumed the four graves. Gamaliel had already told him in the dream whose grave was which. A strong sweet-smelling fragrance from the relics of the saints permeated the entire cave. The relics of Saint Stephen were then solemnly translated to Zion and honorably buried there and the relics of the remaining three were moved to a hill above the cave and were placed in a church. That day, many healings of the sick occurred by the relics of Saint Stephen. Later on, Saint Stephen's relics were translated to Constantinople. Thus the Lord crowned him with much glory who, for His Name, shed his blood.

THE HOLY AND BLESSED BASIL, "FOOL FOR CHRIST" OF MOSCOW

Basil's father was named Jacob and his mother Anna. At age sixteen, he dedicated himself to a life of asceticism as a "Fool for Christ" and in this difficult mortification persevered for seventy-two years. Altogether, he lived to be eighty-eight years old. He traveled barefooted, bareheaded and in rags. He did not have any permanent dwelling place. He admonished sinners, reprimanded the noblemen, prophesied the truth and had visions of distant places. Having suffered greatly from hunger, frost and from the insults of men, Blessed Basil presented his holy soul to God. Tsar Ivan, with the Metropolitan, attended his funeral. He is buried in Moscow in the Church of the Most-holy Birth-giver of God, later named after him.

A Short Christian Moral Guide by Saint Theophan the Recluse

Christians, remember what God is, and that He looks not only on your works, but also on your very thoughts and intentions, and that you are not able to hide anywhere or anything from Him.

Remember, that He preserves your life, health, and strength, and that whatever good fortune you may have in life, He has bestowed it all on you. And so thank Him at every hour for the mercy He has shown you, love Him with all your heart, revere Him, obey Him in all things, and call on Him for help in your every endeavor. When He helps you, then all your deeds and efforts will bring you benefit and will meet with success.

Remember, that the Heavenly Father sent our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ into the world. Believe in Him, and submit to His Divine teaching which is revealed to you in the Gospel, and portrayed here in brief, so that you may fulfill the vows that you made to God at Baptism, and inherit eternal life, and not be called a Christian in vain.

On Sundays and feast days come to church, and falling down with reverence before God, be mindful of all the mercies you may ever have received from Him. Thank Him for them with all your heart, and as a sign of your thankfulness, promise to live as He has commanded you. This is a sacrifice most pleasing to God.

Honor the sovereign foremost as the authority appointed by God, and submit to him in all things. Honor your spiritual pastors, your father and mother, and all elders and virtuous people, and obey their useful counsels. Try to be virtuous not only in your person, but counsel your wife, children, and in every good and God-pleasing deed. Avoid not only doing what is bad before them, but even saying it, lest you accustom them to evil. Thus God's blessing shall rest on your house.

Always remember that you were born into this world so that you may do good to all insofar as possible on every occasion.

Love not only those close to you and your benefactors, but even your enemies, so that you might thereby pacify them, correct them, and make them good people. And so do not fight with anyone, and do not curse; and though someone may have offended you, try to endure it as far as possible, and at the appropriate time do him good. Have compassion on also your cattle, which God gave you to serve you.

Avoid not only impure deeds, but even words, so that you may be a pure and undefiled man not only in your deeds, but also in your words.

Do not steal anything from anyone, and take nothing, and be content with what you earn by your own labors. Be diligent and avoid idleness. For as diligence is pleasing to God, so idleness on the contrary, as a source of every evil, is a sin very offensive to God.

Never lie, but always tell the truth. For all falsehood and deceit is the most harmful of all vices, and the customary work only of the devil.

Do not become drunk, for God turns all the more away from a drunkard, since a drunkard is more quickly able to do every bad deed than a sober man.

When you observe all these things, then God Who is compassionate will be merciful to you not only in this life, but He shall glorify you in the next with the glory with which His Saints are glorified, and all men shall love you.