

+ 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

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory to God For All Things!

August 23, 2015	12th Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
August 29	Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
August 30	13 th Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

Saints of the Day: Martyr Lupus (306), slave of Saint Demetrius of Thessalonica. New Hieromartyrs Ephraim, Bishop of Selenginsk (1918) and Archpriest John Vostorgov of Moscow (1918) and Martyr Nicholas. New Hieromartyrs Priests Paul and John (1937). Hieromartyr Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons (202). Venerable Eutychius (540) and Florentius (547) of Nursia. Saint Callinicus, Patriarch of Constantinople (705). Holy Martyr Ebba the Younger, Abbess of Coldingham, Northumbria, and her companions (870). 38 Martyrs of Thrace. Venerable Nicholas the Sicilian, who struggled on Mount Neotaka in Euboea. Hieromartyr Pothinus, Bishop of Lyons (177). Martyr Victor of Marseilles (3rd c.). Saint Tydfil of Glamorgan, Martyr (+480). Saint Eugene, Bishop of Tyrone (+618).

Please remember in your prayers: Suffering Christians of Egypt, Syria, the Middle East and Ukraine. Bishops BOULOS and YOHANNA. 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, Isabella.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Archbishop MICHAEL, Priest Vasyl Pasakas, sisters Mary Ray and Matushka Margaret Kappanadze, cousin Bill Udics, John Mason and Dan and Eleanor Witiak 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 Laura Zabriskie.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Archpriest Eugene Vansuch, Priest John Platko, and Dr Georges Barrois were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Daniel Krenichyn were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of the "Memory Eternal Requiem Service Fund."

THE HOLY MARTYR LUPUS was a servant of Saint Demetrius the commander of Thessalonica. When Emperor Maximian beheaded Saint Demetrius, Lupus dipped the hem of his garment and his ring in the blood of the martyr. With this garment and ring, Lupus worked many miracles in Thessalonica, healing people of every pain and infirmity. Emperor Maximian, who was then still residing in Thessalonica, discovered this and ordered that Lupus be tortured and killed. However, the soldiers who took up weapons against Lupus turned against one another and severely wounded themselves. As he was not yet baptized, even though he was a Christian, Lupus prayed to God that He would somehow plan his baptism before his death. At that moment, rain unexpectedly fell from the clouds upon this holy martyr and thus he received baptism from on high. After great sufferings, Lupus was beheaded and took up habitation in the Kingdom of Heaven.

SAINT VICTOR suffered and died in Marseilles [France] in the third century. After prolonged and bitter tortures, he was cast into prison where he converted the guards to the Faith of Christ. He died by crucifixion.

THE PRIEST-MARTYR POTHINUS, THE BISHOP OF LYON was sent by Saint Polycarp from Asia Minor to preach in Gaul [France]. He became the first bishop of Lyon and converted many pagans to Christianity. During the time of the persecution of the Christians in the year 177A.D., Pothinus was brought to trial: more correctly, he was carried [in the arms of others] for he was ninety years old. The Pro-consul asked him: "Who is the Christian God?" The aged Pothinus replied: "You will know if you become worthy of that." The pagans attacked him with canes and stones and beat him without mercy. Thrown into prison, Saint Pothinus died from the beatings two days later and took up habitation in the Kingdom of Heaven.

THE PRIEST-MARTYR IRENAEUS, THE BISHOP OF LYON. In his youth, Irenaeus was a disciple of Polycarp, who was a disciple of the apostles, who sent him to preach in Gaul. Following the martyrdom of Saint

Pothinus, Ireneus was installed as bishop. In his countless writings, Ireneus at times defined the Orthodox Faith and, again at times, he defended it from heretics. Ireneus was martyred and died for Christ at the time of Emperor Severus in the year 202 A.D. along with many thousands of Christians (19,000).

SAINT EUGENE, BISHOP OF TYRONE. (Eogain, Eoghan, Euny, Owen) Born in Leinster, Ireland; died 618 (or 570). Saint Eugene is another of the many Irishmen who laboured in the mission fields of England and the Continent. Thereafter he returned to Ireland, where he became the first bishop of Ardfrath (Ardstraw), on the river Derg in Tyrone, which is now the see of Derry. Eugene was an excellent and assiduous preacher, born of the royal blood of Leinster and related to Saint Kevin (f.d. June 3). They report that, like Saint Patrick (f.d. March 17) in reverse, he was kidnapped as a child and taken into slavery in Britain and then removed to Brittany with Saint Tigernach (f.d. April 4) and Coirpre (who later became bishop of Coleraine). Eventually they were manumitted by their master and all returned to Ireland. He then spent 15 years with Saint Kevin at Kilnamanacg, helped Tigernach found Clones Monastery about 576, and then was consecrated bishop c. 581. He was buried in his own churchyard, over whose sepulchre a chapel was afterward built. He is the patron of the diocese of Derry.

REFLECTION by Saint Nikolai of Zhicha

Mysterious is the power of the Cross no matter how unexplainable, it is true and indisputable. Yet, Saint John Chrysostom speaks of the custom of his time that the sign of the cross is attached "on the emperor's diadem, on the accouterments of the soldiers and tracing it on parts of the body: the head, the breast [chest] and the heart and also on the table of oblations and over beds." "If it is necessary to expel demons", says he, "we use the cross and it also helps to heal the sick." ' Saint Benedict made the sign of the cross over a glass which contained poison and the glass burst as though it were struck by a stone. Saint Julian made the sign of the cross over a glass of poison brought to him and drank the poison, but he did not feel any pain in his body. The Holy Martyr Basilissa of Nicomedia enveloped herself with the sign of the cross, stood amidst the flames and remained unharmed. The Holy Martyrs Audon and Senis crossed themselves when the wild beasts were released on them and the beasts became docile and meek as lambs. Among the ascetics of old, as it is today, the sign of the cross was the most powerful weapon against the temptations of the demons. The most horrible fears of the devil vanish into nothing, as smoke, when man traces the sign of the cross over himself. Thus, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself willed to the one time sign of crime and shame, the Cross, following His crucifixion on the wood of the cross, all victorious power and might.

HOMILY by Saint Nikolai of Zhicha

About John the Precursor [the Forerunner] and how Isaiah prophesied concerning him

"The voice of him that cries in the wilderness: Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God" (Isaiah 40:3).

When a king wants to visit a certain place, he sends before him in advance his heralds. To an unusual king an unusual herald is appropriate. The herald of Christ the King in the wilderness was Moses; in Jerusalem, the Prophets; in Nazareth, the Archangel; in Bethlehem, the Magi of the East; on the Jordan, John. Not one king in the history of mankind has had such heralds. Saint John the Baptist was also as unusual and special as were the other heralds of Christ. He was the voice crying in the two-fold wilderness: in the wilderness of Jordan and in the human wilderness. Just as the wilderness of Jordan was fruitless and dry, so the wilderness of the human spirit, was unfruitful and dry. John was not able to make the human wilderness green and fruitful, but he cleared and plowed it and, in that way, was preparing the earth and leveled it [the earth] for the great Sower Who, by His coming, brings with Him the seed and the rain to sow the seed of knowledge and the rain of grace from on high to make it green and be fruitful. By repentance, John prepared the way and by baptism in water, made the path straight. The way and the paths these are the souls of men. By repentance, the souls of men were prepared to receive the seed of Christ and by baptism in water to bury that seed deep in the earth of their heart. The proud and the lowly when they are immersed naked in the water are all as one, equal in their nothingness before the majesty of the All-glorious Christ the Savior: "Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill shall be made low" (Isaiah 40:4). The word here is not about earthly valleys and hills but of lowly and proud men. As corpses in the grave are all the same before the eyes of a living man, thus all sinners, lowly and proud, slaves and masters are equal before the living God.

Such a wondrous vision was seen by Isaiah, the son of Amos, the prophet of the living God, the one and true God.

O Lord, Heavenly King, to Whom the heavenly hosts worship day and night, look down once again upon our nothingness and because of Your humiliation and passion for us, save us.

To You be glory and thanks always. Amen.

GOSPEL ARITHMETIC...The denarius was one day's wage for a typical day laborer, who worked six days a week with a Sabbath day of rest. Allowing approximately two weeks for various Jewish holidays, the typical laborer worked 50 weeks of the year and earned an annual wage of 300 denarii (50 weeks x 6 days). Therefore, 100 denarii was one-third of a year's salary, or four months' wages. Now suppose you continued to work as a day laborer earning 300 denarii each year. After 20 years of such labor, you will have earned 6,000 denarii. At this point, the king would say to his debtor, "Congratulations. You have worked for 20 years and have now earned 6,000 denarii. That's enough to pay back one talent. You only have 9,999 more talents to go." From this, we can easily see that if it takes 20 years to earn one talent, then repaying 10,000 talents would require working 200,000 YEARS! Father John Cox