

+ 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!

October 18, 2015	20 th Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
October 24	Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
October 25	21 st Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

This week's Bulletin is donated for the health of Aaron Buttino at the request of Sonia Buttino.

Saints of the Day: Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke (1st c.). Translation of the relicts (2001) of Venerable Joseph of Volokolamsk (1515). New Hieromartyrs Priests Andrew, Serius, Nicholas and Sergius, Virgin-martyr Elizabeth (1937). New Martyr Jose Munoz-Cortez (1997). Martyr Marinus the Elder at Anazarbus (4th c.). Venerable Julian the Hermit of Mesopotamia (4th c.) and Venerable Didymus the Blind. Martyr Chrysa (Zlata or Golda) of Bulgaria (1795). Venerable Abbot David, of Serpukhov (1520). Hieromartyr Mnason, Bishop of Cyprus (1st c.). New Martyrs Gabriel and Cirmidol of Egypt (1522). Venerable Monks Symeon, Theodore, and Euphrosyne, who found the Icon of the Mother of God in the Great Cave of Peloponnesus (9th c.). Saint Peter of Cetinje, Metropolitan of Montenegro, Serbia (1830). Saints Gwen and Selevan, martyred Welsh missionaries, in Brittany.

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, Andrew. Deacons Mark, Demetrios, Philip. Mother Victoria. Mothers Raphaela, Michaela, Catherine, Anna. Sister Piama. Monk Victor, Matushka Joanna, 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! Prayers for the health of Nina Dudek were offered for her birthday at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Matushka Naomi Takahashi and Matushka Patty Bohush were offered at Liturgy and Moleben today at the request of Father John Udics.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Mark Petrochuk were offered at Liturgy and Moleben on October 11 at the request of Father Demetrios and Matushka Anastasia Richards and today at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Olga Prawlocki were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of John and Rose Gala.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Marie Scalise were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of John Elnicky.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Protopresbyter Rastko Trbuhovich and Monk Sergius (Udics) were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Anna Tymoczko, Sava Chlus and Walter Jovorosky Sr. were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of the "Memory Eternal Requiem Service Fund."

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

HARVEST DINNER: OCTOBER 25 AFTER LITURGY. \$10.00

November 21 **BAKE SALE** at church Saturday 11am. On sale will be:

Pierogi – frozen. Haloopchi –frozen. Fresh baked bread.

For more information call Barbara at 867 7853. You can help make pierogi – please call Barbara.

THE HOLY APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST LUKE was born in Antioch. In his youth, he excelled in his studies of Greek philosophy, medicine and art. During the ministry of the Lord Jesus on earth, Luke came to Jerusalem, where he saw the Savior face to face, heard His saving teaching and was witness to His miraculous works. Coming to belief in the Lord, Saint Luke was numbered among the Seventy Apostles, and was sent out to preach. With Cleopas, he saw the resurrected Lord on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24). After the descent of the Holy Spirit, Luke returned to Antioch and there became a fellow worker of the Apostle Paul and traveled to Rome with him, converting Jews and pagans to the Christian Faith. Luke, the beloved physician, greets you, writes the Apostle Paul to the Colossians. (Colossians 4:14). At the request of Christians, he wrote his Gospel in

about the year 60. Following the martyrdom of the great Apostle Paul, Saint Luke preached the Gospel throughout Italy, Dalmatia, Macedonia and other regions. He painted icons of the Most-holy Theotokos-not just one, but three-and icons of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul. Hence, Saint Luke is considered to be the founder of Christian iconography. In old age, he visited Libya and Upper Egypt. From Egypt he returned to Greece, where he continued to preach and convert many with great zeal despite his old age. In addition to his Gospel, Saint Luke wrote the Acts and dedicated both works to Theophilus, the governor of Achaia. Luke was eighty-four years old when the wicked idolaters tortured him for the sake of Christ and hanged him from an olive tree in the town of Thebes, in Boethia. The miracle-working relics of this wonderful saint were transported to Constantinople in the reign of Emperor Constantius, the son of Constantine.

SAINTS JULIAN AND DIDYMUS THE BLIND. Saint Julian, called the “Hermit,” was a Persian and an unlearned peasant, but because of the purity of his heart he was a vessel of the grace of the Holy Spirit. He lived a life of asceticism beside the Euphrates River in Mesopotamia, and possessed the gift of clairvoyance. In the same moment that Julian the Apostate perished, Saint Julian discerned this in the spirit, and declared it to his disciples. Saint Didymus the Blind was his contemporary. He lived in Alexandria, and also perceived in the spirit the death of Julian. Saint Didymus was at prayer during the night when a voice came to him from heaven, saying: “Today the Emperor Julian is no more, inform Patriarch Athanasius of this.” Saint Anthony the Great greatly respected this wondrous blind saint who had the spirit of discernment. He stayed with him and prayed to God with him whenever he came to Alexandria from the desert. Both Saint Julian and Saint Didymus, wonderful servants of God, entered into rest some time after the year 362.

APPROACHING THE HOLY CHALICE by +Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh

Every time we approach the holy chalice to receive Communion to the Body and Blood of Christ we say a prayer that contains words that must become true on our lips, otherwise they are a lie before God. We say to God that we are the worst sinner, we are the chief sinner that there is.

And isn't it natural that so often we say these words thinking, ‘This was true of the saints, who could feel that way, but I can't feel that I am the worst of sinners’. When we look around, when we look at the state of the world in which we live, we can see a number of people who in our eyes are worse than we are. And regarding this I would like to remind you of a passage in the diary of Saint John of Kronstadt, who also asked himself the same question, and in the end answered it in the affirmative: ‘Yes, I am the worst of all the sinners I know’. And the reason he gave for this judgement of his was that he was aware of how much God had given him, and how little he had given to God in response.

I think we must all of us begin in this frame of mind, ask ourselves: What are the gifts which God has bestowed upon us? What is it that makes us so happy in ourselves, or makes others so happy in us, rightly or wrongly? And when we have come to understand how much we have received, then we can ask ourselves: what are the fruits which we have borne of these gifts?

And we will see that, according to the first Beatitude, there is nothing in us, in our life, which is our own, of our own making. God gave us life. He gave us a body, a soul, a mind. He gave us all that fills our lives with richness. All that we are and all that we possess are gifts of his. Do we give Him gratitude for it, or do we appropriate these gifts, thinking no, they are our own really? And even when we are aware of the fact that they are not of our making, that it is God who has given us all that we are and all that we have, do we know how to be grateful and also to ask ourselves the question which I have already mentioned: what have I done with all the gifts of God? And if we go ever more deeply within ourselves and in our lives, can we begin to be able to say: yes, I really am the worst of all the sinners around me because I am so richly endowed by God and look how little, how very little, I have brought to God and to my neighbour as a result of it?

Let us all reflect on this. And when we come next time to Communion and we think or say these words, let us say them with at least a beginning of understanding that yes, it is true, and I know why. But come with an incipient understanding, because it takes a very long time for us to see how richly God has endowed us and how poorly we have responded to Him. But gradually, step by step, these words will become true and we will receive Communion with a new depth of broken-heartedness and with gratitude. Amen.

REFLECTION by Saint Nikolai of Zhicha

Can a sinner repent of his sins in ten days? According to the immeasurable compassion of God he can. During the reign of Emperor Maurice, there was a well-known bandit in the vicinity of Constantinople. He inspired fear and trembling both within the capital and without. One day, the Emperor Maurice himself sent the robber a cross as a sign of faith that he would do him no harm if he surrendered. The robber took the cross and surrendered. Arriving in Constantinople, he fell before the feet of the emperor and begged for forgiveness. The emperor kept his word, had mercy on him and released him. Immediately after that, the robber became gravely ill and sensed that death was drawing near. He bitterly repented of all his sins and tearfully prayed to God that He forgive him, as the emperor had forgiven him. He shed so many tears at prayer that his handkerchief was completely soaked. After ten days of weeping and praying, the repentant man reposed. The same night he passed away, his physician saw a wondrous vision in a dream: when the robber had given up his soul, there gathered around him black, manlike demons with pieces of paper on which were written all his sins. Two radiant angels also appeared. The angels set a scale between them, and the joyful demons placed all those papers on it, weighing down their side of the scale; but the other side was empty. The angels held counsel: “What shall we place on it? Let us seek something good in his life!” And then that handkerchief soaked with tears of repentance appeared in the hands of one angel. The angels quickly placed it on their side of the scale and it outweighed all the demons' papers. Then the black demons fled, howling sorrowfully, and the angels took the soul of the repentant thief and carried it to Paradise, glorifying the man-loving God.