

+ 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 25, 2015	21 st Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
October 31	Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
November 1	22 nd Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

This week's bulletin is offered for the health of Ashley Buttino at the request of Sonia Buttino.

Saints of the Day: Martyrs Marcian and Martyrius the Notaries of Constantinople (355). Saint Matrona the Confessor of Diveyevo (1963). Venerable Martyrius the Deacon (13th c.) and Venerable Martyrius the Recluse of the Kiev Caves. Martyr Anastasius the Fuller at Salona in Dalmatia (3rd c.). Saint Tabitha, the widow raised from the dead by the Apostle Peter (1st c.). Saint Front, Bishop of Perigueux (2nd c.). Saint George of Amastris, Bishop and writer of canons. Two Martyrs of Thrace. Saint Macarius, Bishop of Paphos in Cyprus. Saints Philadephus and Polycarp. Saints Crispinus and Crispinianus, Romans, martyred under Diocletian at Soissons (286). Martyr Miniatus of Florence (251).

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 Metropolitan THEODOSIUS (Lazor) were offered at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Archpriest Sergei ©arklavs were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya 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 Becky and John Hawranick.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Mikhail Welle were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Helen Nanoski and Stephen Nichols were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of the "Memory Eternal Requiem Service Fund."

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

HARVEST DINNER: Today after Liturgy. \$10.00

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ends next Sunday. Spring forward, Fall back!

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 MARTYRS MARCIAN AND MARTYRIUS were clergymen under Paul, the Patriarch of Constantinople, during the reign of Emperor Constantius. With the death of the great Emperor Constantine, the Arian heresy, which until then had been suppressed, revived and gained momentum. Even Emperor Constantius himself leaned toward this heresy. There were two influential noblemen at the emperor's court, Eusebius and Philip, both of whom were ardent Arians. Under their influence, Patriarch Paul was ousted from the patriarchal throne and banished to Armenia, where the Arians strangled him. Then the dishonorable Macedonius seized the patriarchal throne. At that time Orthodoxy had two bitter struggles: against the pagans and against the heretics. Marcian and Martyrius interceded with all their strength and determination on the side of Orthodoxy. Marcian was a reader and Martyrius was a subdeacon at the cathedral church of Hagia Sophia; under Patriarch Paul they had been patriarchal notaries (secretaries). The Arians at first tried to bribe them, but when these holy men rejected this with scorn, the heretics condemned them to death. When they were brought to the executioner, they raised their hands and prayed to God, giving Him thanks for a martyr's end to their lives: "Lord, we rejoice that we depart from this life by such a death. Make us worthy to be partakers of eternal life. Thou art our life!" They placed their necks beneath the sword and were beheaded in the year 355. Later, Saint John Chrysostom built a church in their name over their miracle-working relics.

SAINT TABITHA (which means "gazelle") was a disciple of the apostles and lived in Joppa. She was full of good works and almsdeeds (Acts 9:36), but suddenly became weak and died. The Apostle Peter was then in the town of Lydda, and the grieving disciples sent for him, imploring him to comfort her kinsmen. Upon his arrival, the great Apostle of Christ told everyone to leave the room where the corpse lay, then knelt in prayer. Then, turning to the body, he said: Tabitha, arise (Acts 9:40) and Tabitha opened her eyes and stood up. Many believed in the Lord Jesus Christ because of this wonderful miracle.

HOLY MYRRHBEARERS MONASTERY UPDATE, FALL 2015

With unexpected building projects this summer here at the monastery, much as been going on with a lot of desk and book work, tracking funds, updating computers etc... So it is past time to send you an update!

By the grace of God we are doing well – our new postulant Sabira (Piama in the Church) has been with us for over a month now and seems to be settling in peacefully. She is a woman of retirement age who is very energetic and in excellent health. She has been a great morale boost: Mother Anna pointed out early on that she brings out the best in all of us! She is a great cook and an avid gardener. When she has more time under her belt, God willing, we also plan to use her computer skills.

Mother Raphaela says she has learned now to watch for things she would never have thought to consider in beginners; time have truly changed! And having been told she was "too young" to be a monastic guide when Holy Myrrhbearers began, she is not inclined now to think that she is "too old"! Her health really was too poor at one point, but she is stable now and all of us have learned to recognize and live with her limitations.

Father Jim Dutko, Father John Udics and Father Michael Vladimirov are our regular celebrants and over the summer we also had liturgies here on some Sundays when priests on vacation spent time in our guest house even though work was going on there. We are happy to report that it is now fully renovated and ready for guests. Initially we planned to paint the interior and do a few other minor repairs needed after housing a young priest and his family for a couple of months when they first moved up to the area. When we received a generous legacy from a departed friend we decided to go ahead with the deck replacement which then blossomed into a full-scale renovation taking up virtually the whole summer.

Throughout this time, however, the guest room next to the monastery chapel has rarely been vacant. With the Millhouse being renovated, we also moved a folding bed into our guest parlor where it may well remain since it frequently serves as a convenient day bed for weary pilgrims and their children stopping by just for the day.

We have used all these funds however: along with our regular ongoing expenses, the repairs and renovations to our guest house, including replacing the deck and balcony, far exceeded the contractor's initial quote when the pond side of the basement was found to be in dangerously weakened condition. It is at ground level and is the only section we had not already replaced under this house built with hand-hewn beams in 1790. We had expected to use up our friend's legacy on the guest house and had left it to our savings account even before we discovered the problems with the foundation. In addition, the old well down there seemingly flooded once too often and when we had the water tested this spring, the County told us that we needed to put a filtration system in place to the tune of several thousand dollars. We have kept up with all of this, only dipping once into our investment fund – all of you are amazingly loyal and generous friends! We are grateful we have also been able to keep up with our new caretaker who works far more regular hours than our previous one so regularly earns his full weekly stipend – as well as stabilize the floor of the old Baptist Church before winter before winter *and* work with the company that owns the pipeline put through our property years before we bought it and plans to upgrade the old road that leads from the guest house to our "poustinia". They are paying for the first half and the contractor who has done the work on the guest house will do the remainder up to the poustinia at a price we can't afford to let pass.

We are also having our trailer-sized storage container placed on a gravel pad down near the monastery basement garage. We got it initially on rent-to-own basis to store the furniture from the Baptist Church while the floor was take up. It has skylights and a pleasant interior. We can run electricity there without much difficult. It will give Mother Katherine space for some of her "fiber arts:" spinning, weaving and storing extra fleece. We aren't sure yet what we will use for heat: the wood stove we used in the old farm house is too big for the space, so perhaps another pellet stove.

With Mother Raphaela's health limitations and all the renovations here, we were sorry not to have attended the All American Council this summer. We kept our beloved Orthodox Church in America in our prayers especially though that time, trusting that prayer is our main job anyway!

We also enjoyed hosting Alexei Krindatch this summer, research coordinator for the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America. He is a true ambassador, traveling throughout the country to every monastery and making us hopeful for the future of Orthodox unity. His report on American monasteries including a nice report on his visit to Holy Myrrhbearers may be found at <http://www.assemblyofbishops.org/assets/files/docs/research/StudyOfUSMonasteriesReportFinal.pdf> . We have the sense that our hierarchs, both within the OCA and in the bishops' assembly are noticing our American monastic communities and beginning to understand that we may have a role in the Church – and may also need encouragement. Mother Raphaela is planning to attend the superiors' conference Metropolitan Tikhon is calling together in October, this time on the West Coast at Saint John's Monastery in Manton, CA.

We trust also in your prayers and support. We hope you will come to see our newly-refurbished guest house, sit out on the deck and enjoy the view and perhaps even stay in the upstairs "pond" bedroom with its second-floor balcony overseeing our beautiful pond and wetlands. Whether or not you can visit us, please know we count you as part of our extended community. May we all together find our way to the Kingdom of Heaven!

With love in Christ,
The Mothers and Sisters,
Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery