

# ICHC NTKRA SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America  
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## Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

December 5, 2010	30 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
December 6	Saint Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia	? Divine Liturgy ?	9:30 am
December 11	Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
December 12	31 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

**Saints of the Day:** Venerable Sabbas the Sanctified (532). New Hieromartyr Priest Elias (1932). New Hieromartyr Gennadius (1941). Saint Sergius, Priest and Confessor, (1950). Saint Gurias, archbishop of Kazan (156). Martyr Anastasias. Venerable Karion (Cyrion) and his son Saint Zachariah of Egypt (4 c). Saint Nicetius, Bishop of Trier (566). Venerable Nectarius of Bitola (Serbia) (1500), and his elder, Saint Philotheus, of Karyes Skete, Mount Athos. Venerable Martyr Justinian (Jestin), Hermit, of Wales (560). Saint Cosmas of Vatopedi (1276) and the monks of Karyes, Mount Athos, martyred by the Latins (1283). Martyr Diogenes. Martyr Abercius. Venerable Nonnus. Venerable Gratus. Saint Cawrdaf of Wales (c. 560).

**God grant many years!** Prayers for the health of Mark, Nadya and Andrei were offered today at Liturgy at the request of Andrew Belsky.

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of the souls of the servants of God Esther (Anastasia) Kappanadze and Joseph Udics were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Father John Udics.

+ **Please remember in your prayers:** newly-departed (Elizabeth) Betty, Taisia.

**Please remember in your prayers:** Archpriest Thomas, Nina, Priest Sergius, Mother Raphaela, Nadine, Nina, Thomas, Richard, Dan, Isaiah, Robert, Robert, Kevin, Andrew, David, Warren, Gregory, Gregory, Michael, Archimandrite Athanasy, Archimandrite Alexander, Archimandrite Isidore, Archimandrite Pachomy.

**A word from an Athonite Gerontikon (book of sayings of the elders).** An Athonite elder said, "Let us build a factory of good thoughts. If a factory produces bullets and we feed it with iron, it will make bullets. If the factory makes chalices and we feed it with gold, it will produce gold chalices. If we feed it with iron, it will make chalices of iron. Whatever thoughts we put in our minds, that is what we will get.

### A modern miracle of Saint Nicholas

It happened in Siberia. The White Army under Kolchak was retreating. Eugene Nikolaevich, in spite of a severe wound suffered in the First World War, served in Kolchak's forces in the rank of first lieutenant. It was a harsh winter.

Entering some village, the partisans seized a peasant suspected of collaborating with the Reds. It was decided to execute him. Eugene Nikolaevich ordered the prisoner to be locked up.

That night, as the lieutenant was sitting alone writing out the accusation, there came a knock at the door. He opened it and in stepped an old man wearing a skoufia, like those worn by monks, and an old cassock. "Mister officer," he said, "you have an arrested peasant here. Don't kill him. He's innocent."

"And who are you?" inquired Eugene Nikolaevich.

"I am the rector of the local church, Fr. Nicholas," answered the old man, and left.

Eugene Nikolaevich thought it over and decided to release the prisoner. Early in the morning he ordered a sleigh to be harnessed, had the prisoner get in, took some bread, and told the escorts: "I'm going to shoot him." Once in the forest he untied the prisoner, gave him the bread, and said: "Into the woods with you, and don't cross our path again!"

Returning to the village, Eugene Nikolaevich went to the church. It was locked. He asked a peasant walking by: "Where does Father Nicholas live? .... The Reds shot him long ago," came the reply. Eugene Nikolaevich was taken aback, but he decided to look around the church. Someone unlocked the door for him, and he went inside. Suddenly he saw to the right an icon of Saint Nicholas and immediately recognized him as his nocturnal visitor; in the icon the wonderworking hierarch was depicted wearing the very same skoufia.

**A word from the desert.** Let our mind be there where Christ is. Then our prayer will be with Him and there will no longer remain much place for passions. We will get used to living in this way, and by such a peace-filled life we will rebuild our whole being. Archimandrite Sophrony, +1993

Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh: **On the prayer before Communion** (18th September 1988)

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

Every time we come to Communion we say to the Lord that we come to Him Who is the Saviour of sinners, but we also state that we consider ourselves as the greatest of all. How much truth is there in such a statement when we make it? Or how can we make such a statement? Is it true? Can we truly say that we do consider

ourselves the worst of all sinners? [Saint] John of Kronstadt in his "Diary" makes a point which I believe is very important; he says that he also asks himself this very question, and he can answer it in all honesty, because, he says, if others had been given so much love, so much grace, so much Divine revelation as was given to him, they would have borne fruit which he proved unable to bear.

And so, this is a way in which we can ask ourselves questions when we come up to Communion, and say the words of the prayer before Communion. Is it simply that we repeat them because they are written in the books? Or is it that we are aware - but aware of what? Aware of being sinners? Yes, we all are aware of being sinners, more or less; but are we aware of how much we have received from God and how little fruit we have borne? It is only if we see vividly, clearly, the contrast between all that was possible, indeed - all that IS possible, and all that we are, that we can honestly say such words. Let us reflect on them, because we cannot speak words of courtesy, words of empty politeness to God when we pray. What we say must be true, and we must make of every prayer a test of the truth of our conscience and of our lives.

Let us take this with us until we receive Communion again, so that one day, perhaps not at our next Communion, but after a long life of searching, of praying, of passing judgement on ourselves, we can say truly, "God, O God! How much you have given me, and how little fruit I have borne! If anyone had been given what you gave me, he would already be a Saint of God". Amen.

**A word from Saint Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessalonika (1296–1359), to his Turkish captors:** "It is true that Muhammad started from the east and came to the west, as the sun travels from east to west. Nevertheless he came with war, knives, pillaging, forced enslavement, murders, and acts that are not from the good God but instigated by the chief manslayer, the devil."

#### **REMINDERS FOR YOUR CALENDARS:**

PLEASE submit your parish events for inclusion here in writing. E-mail is particularly welcome.

**January Raffle:** Ticket sales are due in by the end of this month. Please contact project coordinators Dale and Nancy Richards if you need more tickets.

**Caleendars:** The Petykiewicz, Iocovozzi and Burns Funeral Home is again underwriting the cost of the beautiful and informative wall calendars from St. Tikhon's. They will be available for pick-up at the candle window later this month.

**Offering Envelopes:** Envelopes should be available downstairs later this month. Please let Assistant Treasurer Lesia Roback know if your envelope needs have changed.

**Prayers.** If you would like Father to pray for anyone, living or departed, please let him know. For the living, we can commemorate them during Liturgy, have a 'Many Years' for them at the end of Liturgy, or have a full or partial Moleben for their health. We can commemorate the departed during Liturgy, have "Memory Eternal" for them at the end of Liturgy, or have a Litiya (brief memorial prayer) or a Panikhida for them. Just let Father know your requests, again, PLEASE submit your request in writing.

**Hello!** Yes, I'm the new priest for Saints Peter and Paul Parish. I come from Cleveland, Ohio, from Saint Theodosius' Cathedral parish. I attended Iona College in New Rochelle, New York (B.A.) and Saint Vladimir's Seminary in Crestwood, New York. After that I was privileged to attend the Institut Œcuménique of the University of Geneva, in Switzerland, where I earned their post-graduate degree 'Licence'. I went to work (crab processing ship) in the Aleutian Islands and later (French language college professor) in Sitka, Alaska. From there I was asked to teach English at the Seminary of the Orthodox Church in Japan and in their language school, for a few years. I was ordained to the diaconate by Metropolitan THEODOSIUS, Archbishop of Tokyo and All Japan. I went to Saint Tikhon's Seminary after that, to be the Librarian for a while. Metropolitan HERMAN of All America and Canada ordained me to the priesthood and assigned me to Assumption of the Virgin Church in Philadelphia. After 24 years, the parish had shrunk to where they could no longer afford a full-time priest. Archbishop ANTONY of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the USA offered me the position of Dean of Students of Saint Sophia Seminary in South Bound Brook, New Jersey, and pastorate of Nativity of the Virgin Church in South Plainfield, New Jersey. The tiny parish there couldn't support a full-time priest either – and our Bishop MICHAEL offered me to be your pastor here.

I was Dean of the Philadelphia Deanery of the OCA for 19 years, chairman of the Philadelphia Orthodox Christian Clergy Brotherhood for 15 years, a member of the Philadelphia Police-Clergy, I used to play clarinet and bagpipes (not at the same time). I'm a member of the North American Vexillological Association (NAVA), which means I'm very much "into" flags. I'm a model railroader. I prefer classical, ethnic and Big Band era music. I speak French, a little Russian and some Japanese. I'm a science-fiction and mysteries fan. I'm a pretty good cook. I'm not good at mathematics. I have three sisters: Rose (five years younger), married to James Gomes and mother of Jonathan and Elizabeth, Margaret (seven years younger) married to Father Jason Kappanadze (Holy Trinity Church, Elmira Heights) and mother of Nina, Susanna and Paul, and Mary (seven years younger) married to Ron Ray and mother of Erich and Michelle. I'm diabetic and allergic to shell-fish.

If you have questions, you're welcome to ask! I look forward to getting to know all of you (I'm slow at remembering names, but I finally get it) and am eager to start to work with you and for you in our life in Christ.

#### **Potato Clam-Cakes or Clam-Chowder Pancakes**

(A variation on potato pancakes for fasting days.) Grate 3 potatoes and a small onion, add salt, pepper, garlic, and some flour to soak up juices and to bind it together a bit, and add a can of chopped or baby clams (drained). Mix well. Put some oil in a fry pan and ladle in the batter to make 3" diameter pancakes and fry until golden brown. If you aren't fasting, serve with sour cream or Greek-style yoghurt, if you dare.