



SAIN'TS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

NEWSLETTER MAY, 2011

Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church
A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America
Archpriest John Udics, Rector
305 Main Road, Herkimer, New York, 13350
Parish Web Page: www.cnyorthodoxchurch.org

CHRIST IS RISEN! ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΒΟСКРЕСЕ! ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!

CHRIST IS RISEN! ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕСЕ! ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!
CHRIST EST RESSUCITÉ! KRISTUS ON ÜLES TÕUSNUD!
CHRISTUS ZMARZYCHSTANAŁ! CRISTO RESURRETO!
HRISTOS A INVIAT! ALMASEEH QAM! KRISTUS ĀR UPSTĀNDEN!
CHRISTUS IS OPGESTAAN! ハリストス復活! KRISTUS ZMR TVYCHVSTAL!
THA CRIOSD AIR ÈIRIDH! SI CRISTO AY NABUHAY! ;CRISTO HA RESUCITADO!
ХРИСТУСАЌ АГГЛАГΙΚΥΚ! FOLTAMADT KRISZTUS! UKRISTU UVUKILE!
اقام لمسيح! KHRISTA AMAFOOFOOKA! ქრისტე აღსდგა!
KRISTUS ER OPPSTANDEN! ΠΙΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΒΤΟΝΦ ΕΒΟΛ!
그리스도께서 부활하셨네! KRISTUS NOUSI KUOLLEISTA! ΤΑ CRIOST AR €IRI!
KRISTUSAQ UNGUXTUQ! XRISTOS BANUYTASHTCHEY! XRISTOS KUXWOODIGOOT!
CHRISCHTÜS ISCH UFERSTÄNDE! KRISTUS ZMR TVYCHVSTAL!
ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣЪ ВОСКРЕСЕ! KRISTUS TELAH BANGKIT!
קם באמת קם! המשיח קם! KRISTUS IR AUGŠĀMCĒLIES! ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΒЪЗКРЕСЕ!
基督复活了! ХРІСΤОС УВАКРԵՍ!! CRISTO ES RINASCHIEU!
ਖ਼ਿਸਤੁਰੁ ਖ਼ੁਸ਼ੀਯੁ ਖ਼ੁਸ਼ੀਯੁ! ತೃಪ್ತಿಯು ತೃಪ್ತಿಯು! ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΒΟΚΡΕΣΕ!
ICRISTO RESUCITÓ! KRISTUR ER upprisinn! CRISTO RESSUSCITOU!
LI CRIST A RAVIKÉ! DASSORET EO KRIST! CHÚA KI-TÔ ã PHỤC SINH !
CHRISTVS RESURREXIT! Y CHRIST ATGYFODODDI Christus Ist Auferstanden!
 How many languages do you recognize?

Indeed, He is Risen!

Paschal Homily of Basil, Archbishop of Seleucia (†468)

Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, has made one continuous feast of the life of men. Thanks to Him men live no more on earth but in heaven, a gracious starting point of joy. St. Paul, the mouthpiece of Christ, testifies, *But our citizenship is in heaven from which also we eagerly await a Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ (Phil. 3:20)*. And who does not celebrate this day in his expectant hopes? Who, reflecting on the coming of the Savior, does not joyfully anticipate the experience of the reality? Who, hearing of the approach of an earthly king, does not become alert in mind, and joyful in soul in anticipation of the joy of actually seeing him? On such an occasion the people are moved, children exult, old men try to forget that they are old, since their hopes give them new life. The king's coming stirs everybody to joy.

But what will one say when the one coming is the immortal King Christ, and He comes not to adorn cities and raise towers, or to distribute gifts that wear away with time, but to clothe man with immortality and to establish him, once the prey of death, in the security of heaven.

Today Christ risen from the dead has appeared again to the disciples and his second appearance strengthens their faith in His resurrection. He appears although the doors are closed. For He who had seen the gates of hell gaping wide open did not need open doors to enter. God's will suspends all the usual laws. Once He walked on the sea and liquid water was able to sustain His feet of flesh; His footsteps trod on the waves and the sea to assist Him became as hard as the ground.

So Jesus entered although all the doors were closed. And yet at His resurrection the stone at His tomb was rolled back and the entrance to the sepulchre was opened. But there it was shown that what happened to the visible tomb also happened to invisible Hades; with the opening of the tomb death is also shown to be without doors. It was only fitting then that the sepulchre should be emptied along with hell, and that the visible should become blighted with the invisible. He entered, then, although the doors were closed so that those who were skeptical about the resurrection should be astounded at His entry and hold be led by the hand to a miracle by a miracle. ...

Christ, then, appeared to the apostles huddled in a room. He entered, although all the doors were closed. But Thomas, absent at the time, remained incredulous. He wanted to see Jesus with his eyes and refused to believe his ears. He closed his ears and wanted to open his eyes. He was struck with the desire and wounded: *Unless I put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe (John 20:25).*

Longing to see, Thomas protests his disbelief in the hopes that he may be allowed to see. "You will dissolve my lack of faith" he says, "by appearing. I will put my finger in the place of the mails. I will embrace the Lord whom I love. Let Him blame my lack of faith and grant the grace of appearing to me. As an unbeliever I will see Him, and as a believer I will embrace and enjoy Him. Let me see the wounds in the hands which restored health to the prevaricating hands of Adam. Let me see the side by which death, which came from a side, was taken away. I want to see the Lord, not to hear about Him. Hearing of Him only inflames my desire. You increase my sorrow by the news you bring. My malady will be cured only by taking the cure into my own hands."

But the Lord appeared again and dispelled both the sorrow and the doubt of His disciple. What did I say? He did not dispel his doubt, but he satisfied his desire. He enters closed doors. This unheard-of exploit confirms the unheard-of resurrection. He finds a new subject of astonishment to convince Thomas [In Greek, Thomas means 'wonder' or 'marvel.'] *Put your finger in the place of the nails,* He said to him. You looked for me when I was not there; now take advantage of my presence. I knew your wish in spite of your silence. Before you spoke to me I knew what was no your mind. I heard you speak and although invisible I was in your presence, to witness your doubts and without seeing me. I was waiting on you, witnessing your impatience. *Put your finger in the mark of the nails, put your hand in my side and do not be incredulous but believe.* When Thomas touched Him, all his defiance ceased and filled with a sincere faith and divine love due to His God he exclaimed: *My Lord and my God.* And the Lord said to him: *Because you have seen me you have believed, Happy are they who have not seen and have believed.*

Thomas, preach my resurrection to those who have not witnessed it. Draw the whole world to belief not by seeing but by hearing. Go around foreign countries and cities. Teach them to take up the cross instead of armor. Only preach and they will adore and believe. They will not ask you to show me to them. Tell them of the call and witness their faith. Truly, *"blessed are they who have not seen and have believed."*

Such is the newly chosen army of the Lord, such are those born of the spiritual bath, the products of grace, the Spirit's harvesting. They obey without seeing. They have desired and believed. They have known Christ not with the eyes of the body but with the eyes of faith. They did not put their fingers into the place of the nails, but they became attached to his cross and embrace His sufferings. They did not see the open side of the Lord but by grace they became united to His members, confirming in themselves the words of the Lord: *Blessed are they who have not seen and have believed.* Those who have not seen have become incorporated in Christ.

Would you like to make a donation to the Church? May we suggest:

- Incense for the church services (\$20-\$40 / per pound).
- Unbleached Flour and granulated Yeast for Prosfora and wine (see Subdeacon Demetrios) for the Divine Liturgy.
- Donations for the repairs to the choir loft ceiling
- Floor mats to protect hardwood floors and at the entrances to the church in bad weather
- Printer cartridges (ink) and paper (11 x 14”) for the Bulletin (see John Elnicky).
- Postage and labels for the newsletter.
- Fabric, thread, galloon for altar boys robes.
- Elbow grease for the perogi project, for bread sales, for bake sales.
- Make cookies and freeze them for the Bake Sale.
- Make other baked goods for the Bazaar / Bake Sale
- Help with the springtime church cleanup and grounds keeping.
- A kiot (wooden box with glass) for the icon of Saints Peter and Paul – gift from the Holy Myrrhbearers.
- Donations for the costs of the All-American Council in Seattle.
- Donations of canned goods or cash for the Soup Kitchen in Herkimer.
- Donations of canned goods or cash for the Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery.
- I’m sure other things will come to mind – and your suggestions are always welcome!

Parish Officer Contact Information

- Rector: Archpriest John Udics: (315) 866-3272 - john.udics@gmail.com
- Committee President: John Ciko: (315) 866-5825 - SCiko@twcnny.rr.com
- Committee Secretary: Subdeacon Demetrios Richards (315) 865-5382 – dwr00nhr@twcnny.rr.com
- Sisterhood President: Rebecca Hawranick: (315) 822-6517 – rebeccahawranick@yahoo.com
- Choir Director: Reader John Hawranick: (315) 822-6517 – jhawranick@windstream.net
- Cemetery: John Ciko (see above)

Birthdays in May – God Grant You Many Years!

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 3 – Olga Hubiak | 15 – Helen Gachowski |
| 5 – Eva Ignafol | 16 – Natalie Ptasznik |
| 5 – Samantha Kinzey | 26 – Samuel Kinzey |
| 6 – Sandra Brelinsky | 27 – John Kowansky |
| 12 – Melissa Leigh | 30 – Nancy Richards |
| 13 – Susan Moore | 31 – Anastasia Hawranick |

Memory Eternal.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2 – Paul Nadiak (1975) | 15 – Edmund Mamrosch Sr (1994) |
| 2 – Anna Corman (2001) | 16 – Panos Jarosz (1981) |
| 2 – Helen Nawoski (2004) | 16 – Mary Boguski (1983) |
| 4 – Leon Lepkowski (1985) | 22 – Anne Williams (1988) |
| 7 – Harry Homyk Jr (1988) | 24 – Kazmir Harpowich (1978) |
| 7 – William Steckler (2007) | 24 – John Mezick (1988) |
| 9 – Harry Palyga (1976) | 24 – Metro Hrynda (1995) |
| 11 – Catherine Foley (2002) | 24 – Nicholas Tynda (1996) |
| 11 – Susan Moore (2008) | 28 – Walter Alexczuk (1995) |
| 15 – Walter Senyk (1991) | 31 – Mary Pupcheck (1976) |

HOLY MYRRHBEARERS MONASTERY'S 34TH ANNUAL PATRONAL PILGRIMAGE

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2011

DIVINE LITURGY AT 10 AM
BISHOP MICHAEL OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY PRESIDING
AKATHIST AT 1:30 PM
HEALING SERVICE AT 3:30 PM
VESPERS AT 6 PM

Potluck refreshments: All offerings are welcome.

Please write or phone the monastery at (607) 432-3179 with inquiries

REMINDERS FOR YOUR CALENDARS:

All Parish Council Officers and interested parishioners are, according to Bishop MICHAEL, our Diocesan Chancellor and our Dean, duty-bound to attend one of the three Parish Council Conferences. There is no charge. Father John plans to attend the Conference in Watervliet on April 30, (depart 8:00 am) and has room for three/four riders.

- April 30: NYNJ Diocese: Parish Council Conference: Saint Basil's Church, Watervliet 10 am–3 pm
- May 7: NYNJ Diocese: Parish Council Conference: Saint John the Baptist Church, Rochester 10 am
- May 14: Saturday: HOLY MYRRHBEARERS MONASTERY 34th Patronal Pilgrimage: 10:00 am
- May 14: NYNJ Diocese: Parish Council Conference: Saints Peter and Paul Church, Endicott. 10 am
- May 14: Saturday: Set up for Paschal dinner, 9:00 am
- May 15: Sunday: Archpastoral Visitation of Bishop MICHAEL. Paschal Dinner
- June 12: Pentecost: Potluck Lunch before going to the Cemetery
- June 19: Graduate Sunday
- July 4: Monday: Saints Peter and Paul will host the Deanery Clergy Picnic: Bishop MICHAEL, 10 children, 30+ adults: burgers, dogs, sausages, potato salad, macaroni salad, fruit, drinks, chips, dips, etc.
- July 19: Diocese of NYNJ: Diocesan Assembly in Endicott

Orthodox Church in America - Diocese of New York and New Jersey

A “**Vision for Our Future**” as envisioned by His Grace, Bishop Michael and approved by the recent Diocesan Assembly, supports vitally important initiatives through the **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors** program. A growing number of faithful, both laity and clergy, throughout the diocese and beyond are contributing much needed funding for all three initiatives: (1) support to missions parishes, (2) support to seminarians, and (3) support to existing parishes that are struggling. Contributions are received on a daily basis and the fruit of these sacrificial offerings is beginning to show forth as mission parishes are supported, seminarians are assisted through scholarships, and existing parishes are encouraged and hopefully revitalized. To date, \$30,000 (donated by parishes, clergy and faithful) has been offered by Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors!

Contributions to the **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors** program are received by mail and through the diocesan website via a convenient on-line “donate now” feature which utilizes a secure

website for protected credit card donations. Complete information and a printable brochure may be obtained at the website: nynjoca.org in the special “Vision for Future” section.

Financial contributions to these initiatives are carefully managed and accounted through a designated Distinguished Diocesan Benefactor Fund. Oversight is provided by His Grace and the members of the Diocesan Council (all of whom are unpaid volunteers in this effort). While each **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactor** contributor receives a personal letter from Bishop Michael in recognition of their sacrificial gift, program management costs are otherwise nonexistent. There is no overhead. There are no expenditures for gifts or costly forms of special recognition given to **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors**; their sacrificial gifts are received with thanks to God and with prayerful confidence that their earthly gifts might bring forth heavenly gifts. Thus, 100% of contributions to the **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors** program are, and will be, applied as intended by the **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors** donors - to the initiative *they* identify (missions, seminarians, existing parishes) at the time of their contribution.

Updates on how the **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors** program is making a difference in our diocese ~ “bring forth fruits” ~ will be posted and updated on the diocesan webpage in a special section. One example is the revitalization of one of our mission parishes. As reported recently, Father Thomas Langdon - a student in his final year at Saint Tikhon’s Seminary - was assigned by Bishop Michael as “priest-in-charge” of Saint Innocent Mission in Oneonta, NY.

Visitation, Confession, House-Blessing

Are you bed-ridden, house-bound or otherwise **unable to come to Church** to receive Confession and Communion? When you are prepared and ready, please give a phone call to the rectory at 866-3272 and ask Father to come to you. As soon as he can he will come and visit.

In the past, **Confession** was offered before or after Vespers on Saturday evening, or before Liturgy on Sunday. Father needs the time before Liturgy to make ready for the Liturgy. He says Entrance Prayers, Vesting Prayers and has the entire Proskomedia to accomplish before Liturgy begins. That usually takes at least 45 minutes. He takes time to commemorate those names you send up on your lists with the little loaves from the candle desk. Really, Confession before Liturgy is just the wrong time.

Not only is the clock-timing bad, so is the spiritual timing – once Father starts to prepare for the Liturgy his concentration is needed on that. Your confession of sins is something which intrudes on a completely different tangent, and it’s difficult for Father to go back to his state of preparation for Liturgy after hearing Confessions.

If you absolutely cannot come at a better time, then we can arrange for your Confession before Liturgy. However, Father would be pleased to hear your Confession primarily after Liturgy.

House-Blessings resume after Pascha. Let Father know that you want him to come, and we’ll set up a date and time. We will also bless graves after Thomas Sunday Liturgy, by arrangement. The ‘usual’ blessing of individual graves on Pentecost will also take place.

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

A word from the desert: When our soul has no love for Christ, we are like ships that have no fuel, no gas in their engines. We must always remember Christ with love. Then our soul will leap for joy.

From Elder Amphilochios of Patmos, +1970

From the Sermons Thomas Sunday, Myrrhbearers Sunday, Paralytic Sunday, 1998

After Pascha, people complain of 'Post Paschal' depression. After the intensive prayer life during Great Lent, frequent church services, fasting, Confession, doing good deeds for others in a special way, and the great spiritual, emotional and psychological build up to the celebration of Pascha, the Feast of Feasts and celebration of all celebrations, it's logical that people would feel a sort of let-down after all that. Some people feel a real void and find it truly difficult to re-integrate themselves into their post-lenten life.

The Apostles gathered in the upper room later on the day of the Resurrection, and, huddled there in fear, in walked Jesus through the door. And a week later, Jesus came in again to appear once more to Saint Thomas, putting an end to his doubts. The Myrrhbearers, as they neared the tomb early on the morning of the Resurrection, were met by an angel who said to them that they should not be looking for The Living One in the tombs, but gave them the order to go proclaim the good news that Christ is Risen. And the Paralytic, who waited 38 years for someone to put him in the water when the angel stirred it up, was met by Christ who told him to take up his bed and walk - and who met him later in the Temple and told him to go and sin no more lest something worse happen.

In all three of these Gospel lessons, we see people who had been stopped from spreading the Good News of Christ, His Holy Gospel, and who were healed by our Lord or by the Holy Spirit.

At the time of a man's ordination to the priesthood, the Bishop lays his hands on the head of the priest-to-be, praying 'the Grace Divine, which heals that which is infirm, orders all things and fills all that is wanting,' elevates N to be a priest. It's this same Divine Grace which healed the Paralytic, set straight the Myrrhbearers and provided for the weaknesses of the Apostles and gave them courage to face the world and to preach to all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. That same Divine Grace, which we all received at Baptism and shared again at Pascha, heals us and gives us the gift to make up for our shortcomings and even heals our physical and spiritual illnesses, gives us the command to go and preach the Good News of Christ's Resurrection to the entire world.

Perhaps we're not all called to be apostles, preachers, ascetics, confessors, martyrs, or other saints who function in very open and dramatic ways, but we are all called to be the friends, co-workers, children and apostles of Christ, showing the Good News as the motivating force in our lives so strongly that people would look at us and say 'there goes a true Christian'! **Christ is Risen!** and we have work to do! Since we believe in the Risen Lord, we have no more shortcomings, laziness or illness. Let us all live this commandment of our Lord to teach everyone His Good News, which fulfills the Resurrection and shows it through us to the whole world.

The celebration of the Greatest of Feasts, the Resurrection of our Lord, has passed for this year. But we are all called to do as the Apostles and Disciples of the Lord did after the Resurrection. The Lord said that He will send the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth. He said that, "The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you." (John 14:17) The Lord promised that the Spirit will teach us all things. The Lord promised that the Holy Spirit will be with us forever, living in the Church, available and accessible for every Christian. The Holy Spirit was given to us on the Day of Pentecost and of our individual Baptisms.

It only makes sense that the Lord sends us the Spirit so that we can be useful. The Holy Spirit is never sent into a void, but only into hearts burning with the Love of God, desiring to continue the work that Our Lord began. This is our function as Christians. He sends us out into the world, to work and teach and help and be kind and generous, as a Divine command. "Go ye therefore and teach all nations..." He commands us.

Coffee Hour Hosts for May and June

May 1, 2011	Barb Daley and Cindy Sobolowski
May 8, 2011	Martha Shust and Rose Gala
May 15, 2011	PASCHAL DINNER, Bishop Michael Visitation
May 22, 2011	Maria Drobot and Hula Family
May 29, 2011	Norma and John Stehnach
June 5, 2011	Jean and John Rinko
June 12, 2011	Anna Herko and Mark Petrochuck
June 19, 2011	Nancy and Dale Richards
June 26, 2011	Debie and David Chlus

Diocese of New York and New Jersey – Office of the Chancellor

Dear Reverend Father and Parish Council,

With the consecration of His Grace, Bishop MICHAEL, as hierarch of Diocese of New York and New Jersey, new life has filled our parishes, deaneries and the diocese. In less than a year, His Grace has generated a variety of programs and projects, which are beginning to meet the needs of parishes and to grow the Church.

His Grace is calling for a first in the history of our diocese: Parish Council Conferences. These will be an opportunity for our council persons to meet one another, and share concerns, strengths, and ideas. In order to accomplish this in a very practical way and to allow adequate time for all attendees to share, schedules have been established in the three deaneries.

The schedule for the day will be the morning session of discussions, sharing concerns, strengths and ideas. In the afternoon, the Very Reverend Alexander Atty, Dean of Saint Tikhon's Seminary and an experienced pastor, has been invited by His Grace, Bishop MICHAEL to speak and lead the discussion following lunch.

The dates for the Parish Council Conferences in the **New York State Deanery** are as follows:

April 30, Saturday – Saint Basil Church, Watervliet

May 7, Saturday – Saint John the Baptist Church, Rochester

May 14, Saturday – Saints Peter and Paul Church, Endicott

The conferences will begin at 10:00 am and end by 3:00 pm.

Please add this to your Parish Council agenda and plan your transportation, which will allow maximum attendance of all your council members.

Wishing you a continued fruitful journey through the Great Fast, I remain,

Faithfully in Christ,

Archpriest Joseph Lickwar, Chancellor

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