

# ICHC NTKRA 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  
Parish Web Page: www.cnyorthodoxchurch.org

## *Christ is Baptized! In the River Jordan!*

**January 8, 2012 Sunday after Epiphany**

January 14 Saturday

January 15 Sunday

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Great Vespers 4:00 pm

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

**Saints of the Day:** Venerable Pachomius of Kensk (16 c.) Venerable Abbot George the Chozebite (7 c.) and Saint Emilian Bishop of Cyzicus (9 c.). Venerable Domnica of Constantinople (395). Venerable Gregory, Wonder-worker of the Kiev Caves (1093). Venerable Gregory, Hermit of the Kiev Caves (14 c.). Hieromartyr Isidore and 72 companions at Yuriev (Dorpat) in Estonia, slain by the Latins in 1472. New Hieromartyr Priest Victor (1937). New Hieromartyr Priest Demetrius (1938). New Hieromartyr Priest Vladimir (1938). Martyr Michael (1938). Saint Michael Confessor, Priest (1941). Venerable Paisius of Uglich (1504). Hieromartyr Carterius of Caesarea in Cappadocia (304). Martyrs Theophilus the Deacon and Helladius in Libya (4 c.). Martyrs Julian and his wife Basilissa, and with them Marcionilla and her son Celsus, Anthony, Anastasius, seven children, and twenty soldiers, at Antinoe in Egypt (313). Venerable Elias the Hermit of Egypt (4 c.). Martyr Abo the Perfumer of Baghdad, who suffered at Tbilisi, Georgia (786). Saints Atticus (425) and Cyrus (714), Patriarchs of Constantinople. Venerable Monk Agatho of Egypt (4 c.). Holy Virgin Gudula of Brussels (659). Saint Gregory of Ochrid, Bishop of Moesia (1012). Saint Severinus, Apostle of Noricum, Austria (482). Saint Theodore of Constantinople (595). Saint Erhard, Bishop of Regensburg (700). Saint Emilian the Confessor, Bishop of Cyzicus (9 c.). Saint Macarius (Macres) of Vatopedi, Mount Athos (1431). Saint Severin, Bishop of Cologne (397). Saint Nathalan of Aberdeenshire (7 c.). Saint Pega, Hermitess, of Peakirk 719). Saint Wulsin, Bishop of Sherborne (1005). Saint Athelm of Canterbury, Bishop (923). Venerable Ergnad of Ulster (5 c.). Saint Albert, Bishop of Cashel, Ireland (8 c.).

**Please remember in your prayers:** Nettie, Maria, Michael, Mother Raphaela, John, Hilda, James, JoAnne, Ada, Priest Sergius, Louellen, Nancy, Rea, Archpriest Jason, Susan, Daniel, Aaron, Mark, Jennifer, Nina, Nadine, Michael, Anna, Gregory, Jim, Marianna, Mykola, Helen, Isaiah, Archpriest Vincent, Albert, Kevin, Robert, Robert, Andrew, David, Warren, Archimandrites Alexander, Athanasy, Isidore, Nectarios, Pachomy.

**God Grant Many Years!** Prayers for the health of aunt Olga Prawlocki were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Sonia Buttino. **The Valley Health Services Facility is holding a 101<sup>st</sup> Birthday Party for Aunt Olga** on Wednesday, January 11 at 2:00 pm on the ground floor of Valley Health – everyone is invited. God grant her many years!

**God Grant Many Years!** Prayers for the health of Archbishop ANTONY (UOC-USA), Archpriest Vincent, Matushka Pat, Tanya and Travis Saverino were offered at Liturgy today at the request of Father John Udics.

**God Grant Many Years!** Prayers for the health of James William, David Johnson, Jerome Tarris, Michelle Anastasia Ray and Archpriest James Parsells were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben by Father John Udics.

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of newly-departed Archpriest Michael Romanchak were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Father John Udics.

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of Helen Pearl were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Father John Udics.

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

### **Feasts of the Circumcision of Our Lord and Saint Basil the Great, and the New Year, 2012**

Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah

To the Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy, Venerable Monastics, and God-fearing Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America:

The new year arrives at the great meeting point of the Old and New Covenants. Throughout December, the Church bade us remember the righteous and prophets of the Old Covenant, beginning with Nahum, Habbakuk, and Zephaniah, continuing with Haggai, Daniel, and the Three Youths, and culminating with the two Sundays before the Nativity, the memory of that long and great ancestry of our Savior according to the flesh.

That for which the prophets kept vigil was experienced and proclaimed by the fathers and monks celebrated throughout January: beginning today with St. Basil, throughout this month we remember a throng of holy theologians and monastics: Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom, Athanasius and Cyril, Gregory of Nyssa, Maximus the Confessor, Mark of Ephesus, and Ephrem the Syrian, as well as Venerable Seraphim of Sarov, Theophan the Recluse, Paul of Thebes, Theodosius and Euthymius, Anthony and Macarius, and Isaac the Syrian.

Thus, December brought us the Prophets as an icon of mankind awaiting redemption, while January

presents to us the holy Fathers and venerable Monastics as an icon of mankind responding to the redemption wrought through the Flesh of the eternal Word of God.

Christ has come in the flesh! This requires of us also a categorical response. The saints show us what this response must look like.

The prophets who awaited His coming are our models of watchfulness: they were ready at any time for the visitation of the grace of God. The fathers who expressed this mystery in carefully chosen words give us an example of intellectual honesty: nothing could induce them to waver from the truth that God revealed to them. The monastics who abandoned everything in pursuit of Christ show us an image of detachment: no one but the Lord could occupy the throne of their heart.

But none of these virtues can grow unless they are planted in the soil of obedience and humility. The prophets obeyed the voice of the Lord in their hearts; the fathers obeyed the Tradition they received from the Apostles; and the monks obeyed their spiritual fathers and abbots. We too must learn obedience in whatever context God has placed us in, and our model for this virtue is none other than the Lord Himself.

Today, on the eighth day after his birth, our Savior showed us the path of obedience by submitting to the Old Covenant through circumcision. And in a few days, we will behold the Lord at Jordan as a full-grown man, modelling the path of humility for us when, though sinless, He submits to a public rite of repentance for guilty sinners.

Christ, so the Scriptures say, learned obedience through what He suffered (Heb. 5:8). What is true of the Master must also be true of us His disciples. There can be no genuine deepening of spiritual life without fulfilling the basic Gospel commandments in our deeds and conforming our weak understanding to the doctrinal and moral tradition of the Church. It is not only bishops who must uphold and defend the Church's teaching; it is not only monks and nuns who must give themselves over to the pursuit of godliness. Through Baptism, we have all entered into the New Covenant in Christ's blood, and we must all live, speak, and think in a manner worthy of the abundant grace of which we have become stewards.

"Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:2).

This is my New Year prayer for you: that you be renewed in repentance, in love of truth and godliness, in zeal for watchfulness and prayer, and in detachment from those things which become idols in place of God. Christ has come in the flesh! In the next twelve months the number 2012 will be a constant reminder of the boundless and universal magnitude of the Incarnation. Let us offer this year to God, making it truly the acceptable year of the Lord.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

**+JONAH**

Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of All America and Canada

### ***CONCERNING THE HOLY WATER***

"Let it be known to all concerning the Holy Water that those who deprive themselves of it are not doing a good thing, for the Grace of God was given for the sanctification of the world and all creation. Therefore it is sprinkled in all places and even over common and profane things. And so, what is the reason not to drink of this? (But know that all uncleanness in us is not from partaking of things that are eaten, but from our filthy deeds. If we are cleansed of these deeds, without doubt we may drink of this Holy Water.)

"About this the rational swallow, the golden-voiced Ecumenical Teacher, John, Patriarch of Constantinople, in his sermon for those Christians who had come to the Holy Church of God for baptism ... witnesses... saying: "Why not on the day in which Christ was born, but on the day in which He was baptized is the appearance spoken of? Because this is the day on which He was baptized and sanctified the nature of water."

"For this reason, on the Eve of the Feast, all draw and carry water to their homes and keep it and preserve it throughout the whole year. The day of sanctifying the waters becomes a clear sign of God's Grace, for the nature of these waters is not spoiled for a long time, but it endures for a whole year, or two or three, or many years. Today the waters that are drawn remain fresh and new and after an extended time is as on the day in which it was drawn."

- from the *Menaion*

### **Information requested about Homiak Family members**

Mr Mike Krawczyk of Florida stopped at the rectory requesting information about his deceased Homiak Family relatives: Andrew Homiak, Olga Keliczawa (d. 1928) and Pelagia Sumple. Anyone with information which would be helpful is requested to contact Father John, who will supply you with contact information.

**Our Diocese needs YOU to be a Distinguished Diocesan Benefactor – our parish supported this last year – but we need your consideration for the NEW YEAR – 2012.** Each benefactor supports Diocesan initiatives through contributions. The members of the Diocesan Council will ensure that all funds received are properly and wisely allocated to support the initiatives.

"A Vision for Our Future" on our web page will provide information, details, and a "donate now" option and a printer-friendly brochure, including a donation form that can be mailed to the diocese is located there.

Please check the website often and be sure to visit the V-FOF page. Your prayerful support of these essential ministries of the Church may lead you to become a Distinguish-ed Diocesan Benefactor.

### **FOR YOUR CALENDARS**

- January 8** TODAY The Saint Anna Sisterhood will hold a meeting for the election of officers
- January 9** House Blessing begins by arrangement – contact Father at your earliest convenience
- January 22** Deadline for reports for the Annual Report
- January 29** General Parish Meeting and Election of Council Officers