



SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America
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GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS!

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|-------------------------|---|----------------|---------|
| December 1, 2013 | 25th Sunday after Pentecost | Divine Liturgy | 9:30 am |
| December 6 | Friday Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker | Divine Liturgy | 9:30 am |
| December 7 | Saturday | Great Vespers | 4:00 pm |
| December 8 | 26 th Sunday after Pentecost | Divine Liturgy | 9:30 am |

Saints of the Day: Prophet Nahum (7 c. B.C.). Righteous Philaret the Merciful of Amnia in Asia Minor (792). Martyr Ananias of Persia. Saint Eligius, Bishop of Noyon (660). Saint Onesimus, Archbishop of Ephesus. Saints Ananias and Solochonus, Archbishops of Ephesus. Venerable Monk Anthony the New, of Kios in Bithynia (865). Venerable Ioannicus of Devich, Serbia. Saint Austremoine, first Bishop of Clermont and Apostle of the Auvergne (3 c.). Saint Theoclitus, Bishop of Sparta (870). Saint Botolph, of Boston, England, Abbot and Confessor (680). Saint Tudwal, Bishop of Lan Pabu (+564). Saint Grewst of Denbighshire (7 c.). Saints Martin and Declan (8 c.)

Please remember in your prayers: Suffering Christians of Egypt, Syria and the Middle East. Bishop Boulos Yazigi, Bishop Yohanna Ibrahim, of Aleppo. Archimandrites Alexander, Athanasy, Isidore, Nectarios, Pachomy. Archpriests Jason, John, Vincent. Priests Bohdan, Sergius, Jacobus, Andrij, Vasil, Vasil. Deacons Mark, Demetrios, Philip. Mother Raphaela, Dimitri, Nina, Daniel, Catherine, Helen, Anna, Peter, Helen, Michael, Stephanie, Zara, Nolan, Emelie, Connie, Michael, Ed, Nettie, Maria, Michael, John, James, Nancy, Susan, Daniel, Aaron, Mark, Jennifer, Nina, Nadine, Michael, Anna, Gregory, Marianna, Mykola, Helen, Isaiah, Albert, Kevin, Robert, Robert, Andrew, David, Warren, Vincent, Archpriest Leonid, Diane, Abigail.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Matushka Irene Estocin, Sophia Philips, Archimandrite Nectarios (Kottros) were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of Father John Udics.

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

Memory Eternal. Anniversary Prayers for the repose of the victims of the ‘Holodomor’ Genocide of Stalin in 1932-33 were offered at Liturgy and Litiya November 24 at the request of Father John Udics.

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

Bishops’ kidnapping should be handled calmly: Patriarch JOHN Yazigi

BEIRUT: Greek Orthodox Patriarch John X Yazigi called Friday for dealing “calmly” with the issue of the two kidnapped bishops in Aleppo.

"What we are asking for and we hope for is to deal with this issue calmly away from media [spotlight] so that our efforts will achieve the results desired by everyone," Patriarch JOHN Yazigi told reporters at Beirut airport.

He admitted no progress has been made in solving the issue of the two bishops – Aleppo’s Greek Orthodox Archbishop BOULOS Yazigi and Syriac Orthodox Archbishop YOHANNA Ibrahim – who were kidnapped by armed men in April while they were on their way to Aleppo from the Turkish border.

Patriarch JOHN Yazigi made his remarks before heading to Paris as part of a European trip that would include a visit to France and Germany to attend ordination ceremonies of new bishops.

General Security chief Major General Abbas Ibrahim has vowed to help secure the release of the abducted bishops after the successful completion of a swap deal that saw the release of two Turkish Airlines pilots for nine Shiite Lebanese pilgrims.

FOR YOUR BULLETIN BOARDS:

- **NATIVITY PAGEANT – Next Sunday, December 8.** Contact Ann Gale to help.
- If you need the Altar society to help with gifts, candy, or food - please advise.
- If anyone would like to **JOIN THE CHOIR**, please do so - we would appreciate your voice.
- **“Lessons in Our Faith”** A new installment of **“Lessons in Our Faith”** is now available. The topic: **“THE DIACONATE.”** There are now 12 lessons, offered by Bishop Michael, and each is less than 12 minutes in length. Go to: http://nynjoca.org/lessons_in_our_faith.html

Homily On the creation of the world by Saint Nikolai of Zhicha

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth (Genesis 1:1).

Brethren, this is God's answer through the mouth of the prophet, the answer to the question that we all thirst to know: "Whence comes this world?" God hears our question, spoken or unspoken; He hears and gives an answer. Just as He gives rain to the dry earth, just as He gives health to a sick person, just as He gives bread and clothing to the body, so also does He give an answer to our spirit. He gives an answer to the question that has caused it hunger and thirst, pain and nakedness, until it (the spirit) is nourished and quenched, restored to health, and is clothed with the true answer. This is the question: "Whence, therefore, comes this world?" This is the answer: In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. This world is not of itself, just as nothing in this world is of itself, neither is this world of an evil power, neither is this world of many creators, good and evil, but rather it is of the one gracious God. This answer evokes joy in the heart of every man and incites him to good works. And by this we know, among other things, that this is the only correct and true answer. Every other answer, in contradiction to this, evokes sorrow and fear in us and incites us to evil works, and therefore we know, among other things, that such answers are false. Brethren, the world is from God – let us rejoice and be glad! The world is of divine origin, and consequently its end will also be in God. The world is of a good root, and consequently it will bring forth good fruit. It proceeded from the chamber of light, and it will end in light. When we know that the beginning is good, then we know that it tends toward good and that the end will be good. Behold, in these words about the beginning, the prophecy about the end is already hidden. As was the beginning, so also will be the end. He from Whom the beginning came, in Him also is the end. Therefore, let us hold fast to this saving truth, that we may have shining hope and be strengthened in love toward the One Who, out of love, created us.

O Lord God, our Almighty Creator, One God, One Creator, the good Source of goodness, Thee do we worship, to Thee do we pray; direct us to the good end by Thy Holy Spirit, through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Orthodox Church in America Diocese of New York and New Jersey Bronxville, New York, 10708

November 18, 2013

Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers:

Christ is in our midst! – He is and ever shall be!

At the 2013 Diocesan Assembly held last week in Yonkers, New York, I shared the profoundly moving experience of my visit, this past May, to the Bethany School for Girls at the Gethsemane Convent of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission. The Bethany School is located in the very area of Jerusalem where our Savior visited often and where His friend Lazarus and his sisters Martha and Mary lived. It was here that He accomplished one of His greatest miracles, the resurrection of Lazarus, already dead four days.

Today, there amidst an atmosphere of increasing animosity toward Christians, a dedicated and selfless group of Russian Orthodox nuns operates this school which, though recognized as one of the best in the area, still struggles to cover its costs and to maintain its foothold in the face of intensifying anti-Christian encroachment looming at its very gates. An informational brochure about the Bethany School is enclosed for your review.

At the Diocesan Assembly, the motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed that the **Diocesan Assembly support Bishop Michael's effort to provide assistance to the Bethany School for Girls in Jerusalem.** To that end, I ask each of you who are parish rectors or acting rectors to encourage your parishes and your faithful, whether collectively or individually, as part of their almsgiving during this Nativity Fast, to offer financial assistance for the Bethany School. In particular, Church School classes, parish youth groups, and Junior F.O.C.A., Junior "O" Club and Junior "R" Club chapters are invited to gather whatever offering, however humble, to send to their sisters in the Holy Land.

Ms. Marge Kovach, one of the members of our Diocesan Department of Youth Ministry, has volunteered to coordinate these efforts. Once your contributions have been collected, checks can be made payable to the Diocese of New York and New Jersey with "Bethany School" in the Memo section and mailed to

Marge Kovach
8 Ginesi Drive
Clark, New Jersey 07066
(email: mjkovach@aol.com)

Since Christmas is a season when many worthy charitable opportunities compete for our limited funds, I encourage you also to consider making the Bethany School for Girls a focus of your charity endeavors during Great Lent 2014, and to forward any funds collected at that time in the same way.

With sincere gratitude, I ask God's blessings upon your efforts to follow in the footsteps of Saint Paul, who wrote to the Church in Rome, "I am going to Jerusalem, to minister to the saints." (Romans 15.25).

Devotedly yours in His service,

+Michael

Bishop of New York and the

Diocese of New York and New Jersey