

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF MARCH 31, 2013

2ND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT/MARCH 31

St. Gregory Palamas of Thessalonica

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy; Coffee Hour

4:00p.m. Vespers at Christ the Saviour Church, Paramus
with Bishop Michael and clergy and faithful of deanery

MONDAY/APRIL 1

7:00p.m. Vespers

TUESDAY/APRIL 2

7:00p.m. Vespers; Confessions

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 3

9:30a.m. Akathist to the Passion; Confessions

6:30p.m. Pre-sanctified Liturgy

THURSDAY/APRIL 4

3:00p.m. Vespers; Confessions

7:00p.m. Movie: "Uncle Nino"

FRIDAY/APRIL 5

7:00p.m. Vespers; Confessions

MEMORIAL SATURDAY/APRIL 6

9:30a.m. Akathist for the Departed; Confessions

10:30a.m. General Church Cleaning

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

3RD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT/APRIL 7

Veneration of the Holy Cross

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour

4:00p.m. Deanery Vespers at Holy Resurrection
Church in Wayne and Vespers at Holy Cross
Church in Medford



Many hundreds of years ago a very holy old man lived in a desert. One day people came to him and said: "Father, teach us, how can we come closer to God while we live in this world?" The old man drew a circle in the sand at his feet. "This circle is the world," he said "and here in the center of it is God. Each one of us lives in the world," and he made dots around the edge of the circle. "As we try to come closer to God, we draw closer to each other and this is the only way in which we can come closer to God. Remember it."

Offerings Week of March 31

Olive Oil – in memory of Michael, Justina, and Rosalia; in memory of Vaschen and Emilia; for the health of Mindy (birthday); in memory of Gabriela, Floarea, Gheorghe, Elena, Elena, Petre, Maria, Mihail, Aniceta, Maria, Parasceva, Elena, Ilie, Aurelia and Maria.

Wine - for Zedock family, for the health of Nicholas (birthday); for the health of Joseph (birthday); in memory of Katusha, Vasil and Bukhuti.

Flowers - for the health of Joseph (birthday); in memory of Katusha, Vasil and Bukhuti.

Parish Synodicon – Memory Eternal!

Apr. 01, 1966 John Huzinec
Apr. 01, 1974 Thomas Wytovich
Apr. 02, 1917 Ignatius Shevchuk
Apr. 02, 1928 Elias Zhak
Apr. 02, 1972 Eugenia Kiryluk
Apr. 02, 1987 Michael Mahalick
Apr. 02, 2003 Stephanida Kozura
Apr. 04, 1957 Joseph Yarik
Apr. 04, 1959 Helen Hnatuk
Apr. 05, 2011 Helen Macinko
Apr. 06, 1974 Gregory Tscherwinski
Apr. 06, 1977 Eva Marchuk
Apr. 06, 1992 Stephen Mock
Apr. 06, 1995 Anne Burd

Coffee Hour Hosting

No meats, dairy or fish in Great Lent

Mar. 31 Kita, Nevitt and Keller
Apr. 07 Inga, Eka, Marina and Nona
Apr. 14 Motoviloff, Torrisi, Kachek and Stone

Ushers Schedule

Mar. 31 P. Parsells and T. Smith
Apr. 07 T. Smith and P. Bakaletz

Deanery Lenten Vespers in Manville

Sunday, April 14th at 4:00p.m., followed by supper. Celebrate with our visiting clergy and faithful.

Photos on our Parish Website

On Sunday March 24th, on the occasion of the Sunday of Orthodoxy, Fr. Peter and faithful of the Georgian Church of St. Grigol here in Manville, came to our temple to pray for us. Madloba!

Fasting for the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

It is the discipline to fast the entire day for the evening Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts. The Holy Synod of Bishops has decreed that for those unable to fast for the whole day, a complete fast must be observed from the noon day meal hour

The Holy Gifts of Confession & Communion For those that are Home Bound

Will be brought to the homes of those that are shut-in, the week of April 15th thru 19th. Please make sure you are scheduled with Father James.

Holy Confession in Great Lent:

- All the faithful should receive this Mystery of the Church before Holy Week (April 28).
- There is no Confession during Holy Week except for College students returning home.
- Times for Confession are expanded or you can schedule a particular time with Father.
- A blessing should be secured from the parish priest if you wish to make your Confession to another priest other than the parish rector.

Movie: "Uncle Nino" Thursday, April 4th at 7:00p.m. in the Conference Room

Overworked executive Robert Micelli has little time for his loving wife and rebellious 14 year old son, Bobby and 12 year old daughter Gina, who desperately want a dog. This disconnected family is transformed by long-lost Uncle Nino, an old world Italian who unexpectedly arrives on their doorstep for a visit. Nino's simple, old-fashioned ways make a curiosity to the neighborhood and an embarrassment to Robert. But, Nino is slowly able to connect with each member of the family, and teach Robert how to enjoy life's simple pleasures: good food, good music and most important, "La Famiglia!"

5 Star Rated – 110 Minutes. Winner of the Crystal Heart Award: Heartland Film Festival.

Church Spring Cleaning Days – Apr. 6 & 13 Saturdays at 10:30a.m.

In the busy Lenten season, these two mornings have been set aside an interior church clean-up. Please take this as a "personal invitation" to join us for a few hours in this labor of love.

Prayer of Contrite Repentance

(St. Seraphim of Sarov advised people to say this in moments of despondency and as an antidote to despair.)

Master and Lord of Heaven and Earth and King of the ages. Deign to open the door of repentance to me, for in anguish of my heart I pray to Thee, our true God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. Look upon me in Thy great loving-kindness and accept my prayer. Incline Thine ear to my prayer and forgive me all the evil that I have done by the abuse of my free will.

Behold, I seek rest, yet I do not find it, for I have not received forgiveness from my conscience. I thirst for peace, but there is no peace in me from the dark abyss of my transgressions. Hear, O Lord, a heart which cries to Thee. Regard not my evil deeds, but consider the agony of my soul and make haste to heal me who am badly wounded.

By the grace of Thy love for men, give me time for repentance and deliver me from my shameful deeds, lest I finally perish. Hear me, O Lord, in my despair. Behold, I am bereft of my will and of every thought of amendment. Therefore, I have recourse to Thy compassion. Have mercy on me, cast down and condemned on account of my sins.

O Lord, rescue me who am enslaved and held by my evil deeds, as if I were shackled with chains. Thou Alone knowest how to set prisoners free; and as Thou Alone knowest secret things, Thou healest wounds that are known by no one but seen by Thee. Therefore, being tortured in every way by cruel pains, I cry only to Thee, the Physician of all who are afflicted, the Door of those who knock without, the Way of the lost, the Light of those in darkness, the Redeemer of those in bonds, Who ever restrainest Thy right hand and withholdest Thy anger prepared for sinners, but Who givest time for repentance through Thy great love for men.

O Thou Who art quick to show mercy and slow to punish, shine upon me, who have fallen badly, the light of Thy countenance, O Lord. In Thy loving-kindness stretch Thy hand to me and raise me from the depth of my transgressions. For Thou Alone art our God, Who dost not rejoice at the destruction of sinners, and Who dost not turn away Thy face from those who cry to Thee with tears.

Hear, O Lord, the voice of Thy servant who cries to Thee, and manifest Thy light to me who am deprived of light, and give me Thy grace, for I have no hope whatever, that I may always trust in Thy help and power. Turn my weeping into joy, rend my rags and gird me with gladness. Grant that I may rest from my dark deeds and enjoy the morning calm with Thy chosen, O Lord, whence all pain, sorrow and sighing have fled away. May the door of Thy Kingdom be opened to me, that I may enter with those who rejoice in the light of Thy countenance, O Lord, and that even I may receive eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen



Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark...

One: Don't miss the boat.

Two: Remember that we are all in the same boat.

Three: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

Four: Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

Five: Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

Six: Build your future on high ground.

Seven: For safety sake, travel in pairs.

Eight: Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

Nine: When you're stressed, float a while.

Ten: Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

FROM THE LIFE OF ST. SERAPHIM OF SAROV

THE POWER OF PRAYER FOR THE DEPARTED

St. Seraphim relates this account: "Two nuns passed on. Both had been abbesses (rulers of monasteries). The Lord revealed to me that their souls were having difficulty getting through the aerial toll-houses. Three days and nights, I a lowly sinner, prayed and begged the Mother of God for their salvation.

The goodness of the Lord, through the intercessions of the Most Holy Mother of God, finally had mercy upon them. They passed the toll-houses and received forgiveness of sins."

It is significant here that the Lord revealed to St. Seraphim that these souls were in difficulty at the toll-houses. Why did the Lord disclose this? So that the saint would pray. And why to the saint? Because he was a saint. And his prayer was made with boldness. Which is why it was heard.



CONCERNING THE EFFECTS OF RECEIVING THE BODY AND BLOOD OF OUR LORD

There are at least four major benefits which may be expected after partaking of Christ's Body and Blood, namely:

1. Intimate union with Christ through His love.

Through this union we mingle with God and share with Him. As God is love, when we partake of Him through Holy Communion we become partakers of His love. It should be added that these Gifts from God are truly free. He compels no one to accept, just as in true love there is no compulsion, but absolute free to either accept or reject.

2. Strengthening of the body and soul.

Eating ordinary food only nourishes a person's body; but eating Christ's Flesh and Blood strengthens and nourishes both the body and soul. When the soul is nourished, a person is better able to live, grow and develop spiritually. This means that the ability to resist sin is greatly increased, thus enhancing the desire and capacity to be more virtuous, righteous, compassionate and considerate. We can be sure that this is so since Christ said: "I am the bread of life, he who comes to Me shall not hunger and he who believes in Me shall never thirst" (Jn 6:35), and then: "For My Flesh is true food and My Blood is true drink" (Jn 6:55).

With these statements Christ expounded the eternal nourishment value of His Flesh and Blood. Unlike ordinary food which only temporarily strengthens the body, true Divine food strengthens the soul eternally.

The strengthening effect of these Gifts, is another indicator of Christ's great love for us. Christ gave us certain Commandments to follow if we are able to inherit the Kingdom of Heaven. Scripture teaches that evil is spread through man by various demonic powers (Eph 6:12). Without Divine intervention man does not have the strength to fight these extremely powerful, fleshless creatures – as Christ said: "...for without Me you can do nothing" (Jn 15:5). Man alone does not have the strength to become perfect. Not wishing man to be condemned to hell, Christ nourishes us with His Body

and Blood – giving us a Perfect Food with which to become perfect.

3. Preparation for eternal life with God.

Partaking in Communion prepares us to share with God, an eternally joyful life after the resurrection of the dead. Christ is God and therefore lives forever – by eating His Body and Blood, we are blended with Him and will likewise live forever. This is Christ's promise when He said: "He who eats My Flesh and drinks My Blood has eternal life; and I will raise him up on the last day" (Jn 6:54).

This "life" that Christ refers to is not related to the life here on earth, since it is obvious that all men "live" here, even non-Christians. Nor does He refer to "life" of the general resurrection. Rather,

Christ refers to the glorious life which some Christians will inherit as a reward for righteous living. How necessary it is for us to partake in Christ's Body and Blood; by being with Him, our souls are washed and transformed – made beautiful – then, after death, we would not expect punishment and hell, but the unspeakable rewards of the Heavenly Kingdom.



4. Unity through love with other Christians.

Christ has only one Body, by partaking of It, each and everyone of us also becomes united into one body – the Body of Christ. Christ's love for us is made perfect in unity, since not only is it reciprocated between ourselves and Christ, but amongst ourselves as well. This is what Christ meant when He established the Church.

The Church is not a building where people pray, it is the Body of Christ – a living organism, in which we all unite in love with Him and amongst ourselves, when we partake of Holy Communion (1 Cor 10:17). Christ is the head of His Body, the Church (Col 1:18), and not some bishop, patriarch, theologian or other mortal man. The Orthodox Church is thus infallible, since Christ being God, is infallible; we can then be sure that our Divine nourishment can never be false or corrupted, even if those who perform this Sacrament are themselves imperfect or unworthy.

FROM THE 9TH CONFERENCE OF ST. JOHN CASSIAN
"ON PRAYER." A REPLY TO THE QUESTION AS TO
HOW ONE CAN BE CONFIDENT THAT PRAYER IS HEARD
WHEN ONE IS A SINNER AND NOT A HOLY PERSON.



34:1 The words of the Gospels and those of the prophets testify that prayers are heard for different reasons, which are based on the different and varied conditions of souls. For in the agreement of two persons, you see indicated in the Lord's own words the fruit of a hearing, according to the text: "If two of you agree on earth about anything whatsoever, it shall be done for them by My Father Who is in heaven" (Matthew 18:19). You have another such in the fullness of faith that is compared to a mustard seed: "If," He says, "you have faith like a mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain: Go from here, and it will go, and nothing shall be impossible for you" (Matthew 17:20). 34:2 You have it in the constant repetition of prayer, which the Lord called persistence because of its unwearied perseverance in petitioning: "Amen, I say to you, that he will get up and give him as he needs on account of his persistence, if not on account of friendship," (Luke 11:8). You have it in the fruits of almsgiving: "Shut up an alms," it says, "in the heart of the poor person, and it will pray for you in the time of tribulation (Sir. 29:12). You have it in an emended life and in the works of mercy, according to the words: "Loose the bonds of wickedness, undo the oppressive bundles" (Isaiah 58:6). 34:3 And after a few words in which the sterility of fruitless fasting is castigated, it says: "Then you shall call and the Lord shall hear you. You shall cry out and He shall say: Behold I am here" (Isaiah 59:9). Sometimes, indeed, the very magnitude of one's distress assures an answer, according to the text: "I cried out to the Lord when I was distressed, and he heard me" (Psalm 120:1). And again: "Do not afflict the stranger, because if he cries out to me I will hear him, for I am merciful" (Exodus 22:20,26).

You see, then, in how many ways the grace of being heard in prayer is obtained, so that no one should be discouraged by a sense of his own hopelessness in asking for things that are beneficial and eternal. 34:4 For if, in contemplating our misery, I should admit that we are completely bereft of all the virtues that we mentioned previously and have neither that praiseworthy agreement of two persons nor the faith which is compared to a mustard seed nor those works of kindness which the prophet describes, can we not at least have the persistence which He provides to everyone who wishes it, for the sake of which alone He promises that he will give whatever He, as the Lord, has been asked for? And therefore our prayers should be insistent and without hesitation born of lack of confidence, and there should be no doubt that by continuing in them we shall obtain everything that we have asked of and that is agreeable to God.

34:5 For the Lord Who wants to bestow what is eternal and heavenly, encourages us as if we were to coerce Him by our persistence. He not only neither disdains nor refuses the persistent but He even welcomes and praises them, and He very graciously promises that He will give them whatever they have perseveringly hoped for when He says: "Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who seeks, finds and to everyone who knocks, it shall be opened" (Luke 11:9-10). And again: "Everything whatever that you ask for in prayer you shall receive if you believe, and nothing shall be impossible for you" (Matthew 21:22, 17:20).

