

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Face Book: "Friends of Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church"

BULLETIN OF MARCH 8, 2015

SECOND SUNDAY OF FAST/MARCH 8

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

Coffee Hour; Church School

4:00p.m. Vespers at St. Gregory Palamas Church in Glen Gardner with Bishop Michael and faithful of NJ Deanery

MONDAY/MARCH 9

40 Holy Martyrs of Sebaste

7:00p.m. Vespers

TUESDAY/MARCH 10

7:00p.m. Vespers; Confessions

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 11

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

6:30p.m. Presanctified Liturgy

THURSDAY/MARCH 12

3:00p.m. Vespers; Confessions

FRIDAY/MARCH 13

7:00p.m. Vespers; Confessions

MEMORIAL SATURDAY/MARCH 14

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

10:30a.m. General Church Cleaning

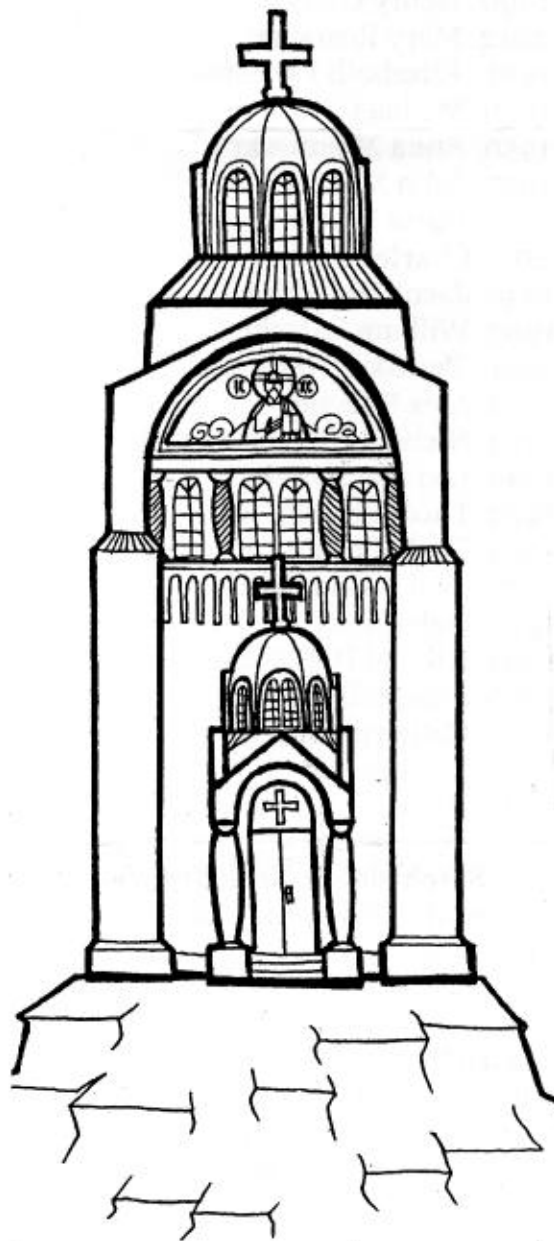
5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

THIRD SUNDAY OF FAST/MARCH 15

Veneration of the Holy Cross

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy and Installation of New Parish Council; Coffee Hour; Church School and Teen Class

4:00p.m. Deanery Vespers in Medford and Wayne



Offerings Week of March 8

Olive Oil: in memory of Michael, Rosalia, Justina Anastasia, Anna; in memory of Vaschen and Emilia; in memory Mary

Wine: for protection in travelling.

Flowers: in memory of Charles Kachek.

Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Mar. 08, 1974 John Wigodinski
Mar. 08, 1976 Sophie Rose
Mar. 08, 1990 Henry Olszyk
Mar. 08, 2012 Mary Rosocha
Mar. 09, 1919 Elizabeth Demstor
Mar. 09, 1956 Michael Hnatuk
Mar. 09, 1956 Anna Makowski
Mar. 09, 1957 John Makowski
Mar. 09, 1976 Daria Karanevich
Mar. 09, 2010 Charles Kachek
Mar. 10, 1936 Jacob Voliakim
Mar. 10, 1963 William Zaleski
Mar. 11, 1961 Paraska Holowach
Mar. 11, 1972 Alex Smagley
Mar. 12, 1924 Nicholas Semashkevich
Mar. 12, 1966 Leo Stachowsky
Mar. 13, 1929 Theodore Malko
Mar. 13, 1969 Tekla Barnosky
Mar. 13, 1973 Paul Swidonovich
Mar. 13, 1974 Helen Lysy
Mar. 13, 1994 Nikolai Dimitriew
Mar. 13, 1996 Joseph Zydiak
Mar. 14, 1971 Catherine Chepon

Coffee Hour Hosts – Fasting Foods

Mar. 08 Mantzafos, Sokol, Arpastean,
Sarchisian & Nasledysheva
Mar. 15 Dunaenko, Wypych, Chirnoaga &
Moldoveanu
Mar. 22 Peterson, Bakaletz, Mattei & Erkman

Usher Schedule

Mar. 08 Timothy G. & Jerome S.
Mar. 15 Dennis F. & Charles D.
Mar. 22 Edward S., Adrian M. & Kakha K.

Boiled Wheat (Kolyva) for Lenten Services

Boiled wheat is sought for Mar. 14 & 21 for the Memorial Saturday Commemorations of the Departed. Speak with Fr. James. Thanks.

2015 Equal Sacrifice Model is in Effect

Each of our 70 parishioners (100%) is asked to make an extra offering over the amount of your usual offering of \$2.87 to \$8.62 per week to cover this year's deficit. This is based on 12 months, with 2 months already over. The Lord bless your sacrifice and generosity! If absent, please mail your offerings in.

Sunday of Orthodoxy – March 1

Appreciation to the choir, for those who prepared the foods and helped out. In spite of the snow, some 78 people participated, a collection of \$250 for IOCC was realized and 152 photos you may view on the website or Face Book.

Parish Council Meeting

March 19th, Thursday at 7:00p.m.

Spring Cleaning of Church Dates

- Saturday, March 14th & Saturday, March 21st at 10:30a.m.

OCMC – Orthodox Christian Mission Center Lenten Boxes

This annual Lenten endeavor is to support Mission work in Orthodoxy. Boxes may be picked up in the vestibule and returned on Palm Sunday, April 5th.

The Mysteries of Confession & Communion

Are essential aspects of Great Lent. All Confessions (aside from College Students) ought to be made before Palm Sunday, April 5th. Check the schedule for the multitude of times offered.

After the Sunday Divine Liturgy

Please start your conversations outside of church, as post-communion prayers are being read.

2015 Saints Peter & Paul Parish Fiscal Summary	Total Income	Total Expense	Year to Date Profit (Loss)	Sunday Envelope Budget	Sunday Envelope Actual
January	\$7,642.75	\$8,278.55	-\$635.80	\$16,450.00	\$6,560.80
February	\$10,409.60	\$15,662.21	-\$5,252.61	\$13,160.00	\$8,069.60

Notes: Poor attendance due to weather, collections down. Costs of snow removal above normal.

If absent, please mail in your offerings. Thank you.

FASTING IN OUR LIFE

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus discusses the most basic spiritual practices of His day: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. He tells us to “*pray to your Father in secret*” (Matthew 6:6), and to act in such a way that “*your almsgiving may be secret*” (Matthew 6:4). And He also tells us how to fast:

“When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you.” (Matthew 6:16-18)

Jesus Himself fasted for forty days before beginning to teach, as Moses fasted for forty days before proclaiming the Ten Commandments to the people. The Church continued the practice from its earliest days. The Apostles fasted before appointing presbyters (Acts 14) and people were directed to fast before baptism: “*Before a baptism, let him who baptizes and him who is baptized fast, and any others who may be able to do so. And command him who is baptized to fast one or two days beforehand*” (Didache 7:4). This second-century instruction also instructs all believers to fast twice each week, on Wednesdays and Fridays.

What Is Fasting?

Fasting simply consists of ***not eating or drinking anything*** for a specific period of time. Christians fast before a special encounter with God, as in the Eucharist.

During ***fasting seasons***, people may fast for a certain part of the day – until noon, for example – and then, when they do eat, eat only the “***Food of Paradise***” (the fruits of the earth given for our use according to Genesis 1:29) and avoid animal products (meat, fish, dairy) and alcohol, which appear only later in Biblical history.



God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; they shall be your food.”

(Genesis 1:29)

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- Fasting becomes a **burden** when people focus on the negative elements: not eating, or avoiding certain foods.
 - Fasting becomes **uplifting** when people concentrate on its positive aspects:
 - It **anticipates encounter with God**, saying that “*One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God*” (Matthew 4:4).
 - It affirms that **our true nature and purpose is communion with God**, given in Paradise along with the fruits of the earth. “*Let us enter a second Paradise, full of the virtues of the holy Ascetics. Let us taste with joy the living and life-giving fruits which grow there, and with faith let us sing their praises.*” (Matins, Saturday of Cheesefare)

When Should We Fast?

From the earliest days of the Church, Christians have fasted before Pascha, as well as on every Wednesday and Friday, remembering the betrayal and crucifixion of Christ. Traditionally our Church observes the following fast periods:

- ✘ **Every Wednesday and Friday** (except during the weeks immediately following Pascha, Christmas, Theophany, the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, and Pentecost);
- ✘ **The Great Fast** (forty days before the Great and Holy Week);
- ✘ **The Great and Holy Week** (commemorating the Lord's Passion);
- ✘ **The Christmas Fast** (November 15 through December 24, although some Churches shorten it, beginning on December 10 or 12);
- ✘ **The Fast of the Theotokos** (August 1 to August 14);
- ✘ **The Fast of Peter and Paul** (the day after All Saints Sunday through June 28).

Some of these Fasts are marked by **special liturgical services** that convey the spirit of the season. Attending them helps us acquire the spirit of the feasts for which they prepare.

How Should We Fast?

To enter into the spirit and practice of the Church's Fasts:

- **Learn the current practice of your own Church** community and strive to practice it. Each self-ruling Church has its own traditions about how fast days and seasons should be observed.
 - **Consult with your spiritual guide** to determine how to make the fast most fruitful for you in your current spiritual condition. Your spiritual guide may set for you a rule of minimum observance, without which you may be missing the whole blessing of the fasting season.
 - Recognize that we are called to **fast spiritually as we fast bodily**, putting aside all resentments and hurtful attitudes towards others so that our fast may be an acceptable offering to God
 - Above all, **give Jesus lordship over your entire being**, so that you may receive His gifts and live to your fullest potential in His grace and in the light of His Face.
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