



# SS. PETER & PAUL RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

## ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA • DIOCESE OF NEW YORK & NEW JERSEY

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BASIL KOZAK  
 CHOIR DIRECTOR

VERY REV. DAVID F. GARRETSON  
 RECTOR

JAMES KORNAFEL  
 STAROSTA

April 19, 2015

### ANTIPASCHA—Tone 1—ST. THOMAS SUNDAY

Ven. John of the Ancient Caves in Palestine; Martyrs Christopher, Theonas and Anthony at Rome; Hieromartyr Paphnutius of Jerusalem; St. George the Confessor, Bishop of Antioch in Pisidia; St. Tryphon, Patriarch of Constantinople; Ven. Nicephorus the Abbot of Catabad; Monk-martyr Agathangelos of Esphigmenou; Ven. Simeon of Philotheou; Blessed Matrona of Moscow; Hieromartyr Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury; The Uncovering of the Relics of St. Joachim the Abbot of Opochka Monastery; New Hiero-confessor Victor, Bishop of Glaznov; Martyrs Theodore of Perge in Pamphylia, his mother Philippa and Dioscorus, Socrates and Dionysius

Reading: Acts 5:12-20

Gospel: John 20:19-31

## WORSHIP & STUDY

TODAY	1:00 p.m.	<i>Provodnoye</i> (Annual Paschal Cemetery Visitation) at the parish cemetery
Sat, Apr 25	9:30 a.m.	NJ Deanery Parish Council Conference at <i>Assumption of the Holy Virgin Church</i> in Clifton
	5:00 p.m.	Confessions
	7:00 p.m.	Vespers
Sun, Apr 26	<b>3RD SUNDAY OF PASCHA—Tone 2—SUNDAY OF THE HOLY MYRRHBEARING WOMEN</b>	
9:00 a.m.	<b>Righteous Joseph of Arimathea and Venerable Nicodemus; Hieromartyr Basil, Bishop of Amasea</b>	
Divine Liturgy	Reading: Acts 6:1-7	Gospel: Mark 15:43-16:8

## WITHIN THE PARISH

Because of *Provodnoye* (Annual Paschal Cemetery Visitation), there will be **NO Church School Classes** today; they will resume **next Sunday, April 26.**

Our **Annual Blessing of Graves (Provodnoye)** will take place **TODAY**. Rebecca Kozak and Starosta James Kornafel will be at the central Cross, starting at **12 noon**, with forms for writing the first names of those buried at the cemetery. Around 1 p.m., Father David and the Choir will serve a *Paschal Panihida* commemorating all the deceased people listed and reminding them of the Holy Resurrection. After the service, Father will sprinkle their resting places with Holy Water, reminiscent of their baptism into Jesus Christ. This year, he and Choirmaster Basil Kozak will begin at the extreme **upper right end** of the cemetery looking downhill from the Cross. Once all the graves are blessed, Father will then bless any new monuments, upon request. In case of disagreeable weather, the visitation will be rescheduled for **next Sunday, April 26**, at 1 p.m. Christ is risen and not one dead remains in the grave!

The **Senior R Club** will meet at the Deerson home **next Sunday, April 26**, following Coffee Hour.

The first meeting of the **2015 Parish Council** will be held in the church hall on **Monday, April 27**, at 7 p.m. (**PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE!**) All members are asked to attend.

Celebrate the whole year at our **Annual Calendar Party** where attendees sit at decorated tables inspired by holidays and other seasonal themes. Tickets are now on sale for this fundraiser, which will be held on **Saturday, May 2**, in our parish hall. The doors open at 7 p.m. (*Vespers will be served at 6 p.m.*) The cost is \$25 per person and includes an appetizer, salad, buffet dinner (catered by *Ria Mar Restaurant*), beverages, coffee/tea, dessert, door prizes and one sheet of raffle tickets; there will also be chances for special gift baskets. With less than two weeks to go, seating is **very limited** for this event. If you want to attend, please see Karen Berezniak or contact her by E-mail ([kberez@comcast.net](mailto:kberez@comcast.net)) or text/phone (732-754-0033). This promises to be a fun night out for **EVERYONE!**

The **Men's Club** is sponsoring a **Bus Trip** to *Caesar's Atlantic City Casino* on **Thursday, April 30**. The bus will depart at 9 a.m. from the parking lot on Whitehead Ave. Tickets cost \$30, with \$20 returned for slot play. If games of chance aren't "your thing," you can shop the outlet stores or enjoy a walk on the beach without making the long drive. The seats are limited; to reserve one or for more info, call one of the Boshko brothers: Edward (732-254-1200) or Paul (732-254-6991).

There will be an **Altar Society Meeting** in the church hall on **Monday, May 18**, at 6 p.m.

Tickets are now on sale for the **Annual Men's Club Spaghetti Dinner** to be served on **Sat, May 30**, from 4-7 p.m., in the church hall. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$7 for children, 15 and under. Soda and water will be available for purchase at this BYOB event. See any Club member to obtain your ticket; you can also make reservations with Edward Boshko at (732) 254-1200. [**NOTE:** *Tickets can also be purchased at the door.*]

## **BITS & PIECES**

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**ATTENDANCE & STEWARDSHIP** Attendance at the Paschal services last Sunday: Nocturne & Matins, 192; Liturgy, 174.

**SUNDAY SERVICE TEAMS** The Epistle will be read next week by **Robert Pisuk**. Coffee Hour will be hosted by the **Men's Club**. The church will be cleaned by **Team Adams**. (**NOTE:** *The Senior R Club and Team Naumiuk will be responsible for Coffee Hour and cleaning the church, respectively, during the month of May.*)

**CONFESSION AND COMMUNION DURING THE PASCHAL SEASON** As is our parish practice, there'll be **NO General Confession** during these days of the Resurrection. Those of you who confessed and communed during Great Lent may continue to approach the Holy Chalice on Sundays and holidays, provided that you prepare accordingly (prayer and meditation) and abstain from all food and drink after midnight. Remember that if you miss a Sunday, you must go to private Confession or speak with Father David before communing the next time. (**NOTE:** *General Confession will resume on Sat, June 6, following Vespers. For those who desire a private confession before then, Father will be available on Saturday afternoons starting at 5 p.m.*)

**WE WELCOME** the Shaluha Family (Subdeacon Joseph, Joseph Nicholas & Genevieve), who are visiting from Ohio this weekend, and Father Deacon Theodore & Matushka Lorissa Gregory from *St. Tikhon's Seminary* in South Canaan, PA. It's always so nice to see former parishioners. We hope they have a wonderful stay full of many blessings and good times with relatives and friends.

**FOOD CARD PROGRAM** Thank you to all those parishioners who helped raise a profit of **\$1,002** for the first three months of this year; our goal for 2015 is \$4,000. If you're not already a participant in this easy church fundraiser, please consider purchasing food cards to any of these local supermarkets—**Pathmark, Acme, Stop & Shop** and **ShopRite**—before you do your grocery shopping. Each time you buy a food card, you are making a 5% donation to the parish at **NO EXTRA COST** to you. This may not seem like much, but if you do this a few times a month and other parishioners do the same, the profit received would be a tremendous help to *SS. Peter & Paul*. Out of 88 families pictured in the new *Church Directory*, only 38 buy food cards on a regular basis. If the remaining 50 bought just one \$25 card per month, it would bring in an extra \$750 a year. Cards are available in denominations of \$20, \$25, \$50 and \$100. If you're not familiar with the program, stop by our table in the hall during the Coffee Hour on Sundays and we will gladly explain how it works. Give it a try! **Food Cards – Because It Doesn't Make Cents Not To!**

**EASTER FLOWERS AVAILABLE** Flowers that decorated the Tomb of Our Lord on Good Friday and the church on Pascha are available, while supplies last, behind the church. Take one home and plant it in your garden for years to come.

**GIVING BEYOND LIVING** When making your last will and testament, be sure to include *SS. Peter & Paul Church* among your beneficiaries. This parish has helped, guided and nourished you throughout your life; making a final bequest to it would be a fitting tribute. Pray and consider this.

**THE CHURCH CLEANING MINISTRY** consists of volunteers who oversee the weekly upkeep and maintenance of our place of worship. This is an important activity in which **all parishioners** should participate. Listed below are the teams for May, June & July:

**MAY**  
**GREGORY MESSEKA**  
**JANUSZ & TAISA NAUMIUK**  
**YURI NERUSH**  
**ANATOL & ANNA SIEMIENCZUK**

**JUNE**  
**HELENA CHRISTIE**  
**JAMES & DEBRA JONES**  
**BASIL & REBECCA KOZAK**

**JULY**  
**KATHY COOPER**  
**CRAIG & ELAINE MAZZEI**  
**WALTER "BLACKIE" SUDNIKOVICH**  
**LINDA WOOD**

Cleaning instructions are posted on the bulletin board in the Candle Desk. Supplies and equipment are provided. If you have any questions, concerns or conflicts, see/contact Jay Pelleriti (732-216-8121) or Starosta. Serving in this ministry can be humbling, yet surprisingly rewarding when done unto the Lord with the right attitude. Thank you.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH** Thanks to all who donated to the *South River Food Bank* throughout the Great Fast; your generosity was truly uplifting. Continue to remember the needs of this community organization. If everyone would bring just a few non-perishable items each week, we could make a huge difference. There are boxes in the hall vestibule where you can place your donation(s). Any questions? See or contact Joan Pisuk (732-254-1519). God bless!

**THE MEMORIAL TREE PROGRAM** offers parishioners a unique opportunity to remember their loved ones while enhancing the beauty of our cemetery for countless generations to come. Sometimes it's the extra touches that make all the difference in the world when visiting the final resting places of those who have gone on to their heavenly reward. More than just a fitting tribute to a life well lived, a tree is a way to honor someone with a lasting memorial while helping the environment. For a donation of \$400, a lovely *Eastern Redbud* will be planted along the road in the new section; the price includes mulch, a water bag, stakes, watering, a plaque and labor. You can contribute the entire amount or give a partial offering. If you have any interest or questions, please feel free to see or contact James Jones (732-238-0735).

**SCHEMICK-TOLLS SCHOLARSHIP** High school seniors and full-time, undergraduate students can get scholarship information and applications from Carol Deerson (732-254-4979). The deadline date for submission is **Fri, May 1**. This scholarship serves as a living memorial to John Tolls, his deceased wife Leatrice, their daughters Lea and Lynley, and that of honorees Anna, John & John Jr. Schemick of blessed memory, whose intention it was to assist the youth of this parish as they pursue their studies at an accredited college, university or trade school.

**IOCC EXPANDS EFFORT TO ADDRESS FOOD CRISIS IN GREECE** The financial crisis that has rocked Europe and deeply affected Greece has reached proportions where more than 300,000 children now live in families that can't afford to provide a healthy diet, including meat and fish. So many people are experiencing a food deprivation that has not existed in that country since WWII. With the support of donors throughout the world, **International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)** has been concentrating the growing needs of Greece's most vulnerable families by providing millions of dollars in food, medical assistance and heating fuel. Unfortunately, the need for assistance continues to grow, as an increasing number of Greece's people find themselves without income and access to social services. Cognizant of this harsh reality, IOCC is asking for your financial help to assist those most in want. You are asked to generously respond to this appeal by sending a contribution to the *Give for Greece Fund c/o IOCC, PO Box 17398, Baltimore, MD 21297*; you can also donate via the Web ([www.iocc.org](http://www.iocc.org)) or by telephone (1-877-803-4622). May this Paschal season be even more spiritually rewarding to you because of you love and charitableness.

**THANK YOU** to the following individuals for their recent donations to the church:

Cemetery Tree Fund: **Walter & Carol Deerson** (in memory of **Karen Tarallo**)

Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund: **James & Debra Jones, Harry & Janice Meade, William & Patricia Michalski, Sonia Plutnick, John Tarallo and Judith Znaiden** (all in memory of **Karen Tarallo**); **Jeffrey & Tatiana Hoff**

Church Grass Cutting Fund: **Harry & Janice Meade** (in celebration of the April 15 birthday of grandsons **Gavin & Reilly Meade** and in commemoration of the 110<sup>th</sup> birthday of Janice's father, **John Borak**, also on April 15)

For giving so much of themselves to others, may all these contributors be renewed through God's gifts of peace and love.

**AXIOS! HE IS WORTHY!** Belated congratulations to our beloved archpastor, **The Most Reverend MICHAEL**, on his elevation to archbishop last month during the *Holy Synod of Bishops Spring Session*. We wish His Eminence a continued fruitful ministry as a leader, visionary and pastor to all the clergy and faithful throughout the Diocese of New York & New Jersey. May the Risen Lord grant him many years. Eis Polla Eti, Despota!



**OOPS!** The recent *Prosfhora Baking Fund* donation made by **Ronald & Paula Mindzak** was incorrectly acknowledged in the March 29 bulletin. The contribution was given in memory of **Dorothy Swenticky**, not Anna Elagin. We sincerely apologize for the error.

**VISIT OUR NEW AND IMPROVED PARISH WEBSITE** at [www.saintpeterandpaul.org](http://www.saintpeterandpaul.org). You can keep up with news and liturgical services, photos, links to Orthodox sites and more. Check it out!

**FINANCIAL REMINDER** Our annual assessment to this parish, the Diocese of NY & NJ and the National Church (OCA) is **\$200** per registered parishioner. Keep this financial commitment current.

**ONE LORD—ONE FAITH—ONE BAPTISM** The Lord's richest blessings to **Alexis Burkhour, Sebastian Danilo Hermann** and **Christopher Shapiro** who were all baptized and chrismated yesterday. We prayerfully share in this joy with their parents, sponsors, families and friends; may these children of God grow strong in the Holy Orthodox Faith and walk in His righteousness for many years—Mnogaya Lyeta!

**PARISH PRAYER LIST** Please pray for the following brothers and sisters this week:

**Departed**

Helena Bujdzicz	Pauline Dziemian
Karen Tarallo	Robert Mesinar
Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko	Sergio Dubowski
Mari Favire	Marie Horvath
Carol Wagg	Lisa Woodward

**Servicemen**

Ivan Shidlovsky  
Priest Sean Levine  
Elizabeth Brent

**Sick**

Aunika Browne	Darren Flynn	Beth Williscroft
Thomas Verdon	Beth Giordano	Nancy Filak
Patricia Lowry	Mary Carol Burchill	Michael Dargento
Edward Walton	Carol Luongo	Sandra Webster
Kaitlyn Fox	Ruth Curtis	Amelia Rugala
Iwan Jakimtschuk	Mary Louise Viquez	Ellen Dargento
Natalie Matz	Kathleen Kushwara	Olga Miller
Dorothy Sopchak	Josefa Calero	Allen Mioduszewski
Gloria Basara	Theodore Christie	Sophie Hyland
Ginny Wilmer	Walentyna Posluszny	Kathleen Keimer
Sheri Long	John Cameron	Tamara Diaczenko
Edward Romanofsky	Pearl Blower	Elaine Ashton
Dawn Zirch	Gloria Soto	Michael Pelleriti
Joseph Basara Jr.	Bernadine Trubilla	Gina Krusius
Martha Drobnak	Donna Kara	Wendy Packard
Michaela Fox	Sergei Andreyev	Gregory Sitze
Bruce Longo	Vladimir Batenko	Charles Csenica
Dean Prestino	Lauren Pulley & Child	Kenneth Crowley
Gaynelle Crowley	Kendall McNamara	Gabrielle Huba
Myrna Woznica	Pamela Inman	James D'Amore Jr.
Aspasia Alfaro	Dorothy Vernak	Jonathan Clayton
Beth Van Orden	Victor Rugala Jr.	Aidan Brown
Rina D'Amico	Simon Koslov Jr.	William Boyke
Deborah Krusius	Jane D'Amore	John Kotkovich
Joseph Posluszny	Archpriest Paul Lazor	Robert Ingram
Paul Boshko	Matushka Juliana Schmemann	Elaine O'Neill
Lauren Pelleriti	Rosemarie Jachym	Robert Fedak
Thomas Kurdonik		

If you would like a prayer request included in the bulletin, see/contact Fr. David or Starosta.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to **Norman & Dorothy Edwards** who'll be celebrating their 54<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this Wednesday. May their happiness and love continue to grow richer and deeper for many years—Mnogaya Lyeta!

**BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS** Please send info to be included in next Sunday's bulletin to Fr. David or Starosta James Kornafel, by **Thursday evening**. You can contact Father at the rectory or get in touch with Jim by E-mail ([jimmyk@optonline.net](mailto:jimmyk@optonline.net)), telephone (732-462-3388) or fax (732-845-3515).



*We are called to recite or sing the Paschal Troparion ("Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and, upon those in the tombs, bestowing life!") before every meal until the Feast of the Ascension which, this year, falls on May 21. This hymn should also be included in our morning and evening prayers. Both our homes and hearts should be filled with these words and truth continuously; we must let them overflow from our being into all with whom we deal daily.*

*Also, there is **NO KNEELING** in prayer during the fifty days following Pascha, as we should not be focused on our failings and sinfulness but, rather, on the love of the Lord and the glory of His Resurrection.*



Quite often, we feel something of a spiritual "let down" after Pascha. As a church, we spend 12 weeks preparing for the Feast of Feasts through the seasons of Pre-Lent and the Great Fast, during which we consider the suffering and death of Jesus for us, through prayer, abstinence, almsgiving and repentance. Our emotions build throughout our Holy Week celebrations—from the joyfulness of Palm Sunday to the mixed agony and thankfulness of Holy Thursday and Good Friday—then, in one day, it's over.

Statistics show that many churches experience a drop in attendance after Holy Pascha. We hope it is not because people have less of a desire to celebrate the Resurrection after the day the past. Pascha is the most central and joyous celebration of the year, as the Apostle Paul says: "If Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!" (1 Cor 15:17)

Do we really want to relegate the commemoration of such a momentous event to one weekend of the year? Certainly not! For that reason, every Sunday that follows Pascha, in the Holy Orthodox Church, is dedicated to the ongoing celebration of Jesus' resurrection and its meaning and application to our lives.

So, as life returns to "normal," may we realize that we never really leave the message and meaning of Pascha behind us; it is—and always must be—an essential part of our weekly (and daily) proclamation of the Gospel.

**Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!**

## 2015 PARISH COUNCIL

With the blessing of His Eminence, Archbishop MICHAEL, the following individuals were installed as officers and members of the 2015 Parish Council:

James Kornafel, *Starosta*  
Hank Dziemian, *First Assistant Starosta*  
James Jones, *Second Assistant Starosta*  
Helene Titsch, *Secretary*  
Sandra Hoff, *Treasurer*  
Robert Hoff, *Financial Secretary*

Gregory Berezniak	Gregory Messeka
Karen Berezniak	Paula Mindzak
Anastasia Essl	Jay Pelleriti
Sonja Harris	Deborah Silowka
Lena Illenye	Michael Steffaro

We warmly congratulate these parishioners on being chosen for this important ministry. Let us pray for them as they strive to more earnestly than ever live an Orthodox Christian life; to give good example; to take the Faith seriously; and to be devoted to the on-going mission of this God-protected community. May the Risen Lord bless and keep these leaders and may He send the Holy Spirit to guide and counsel them for many years—Mnogaya Lyeta!

*(NOTE: We thank the outgoing members, **Carol Deerson** and **Barbara Kaminsky**, for putting in long hours, attending lots of meetings and using their unique styles and talents to enhance the Parish Council and give diverse, but always wise, counsel. We are most grateful for their years of service.)*

# PASCHAL PRAISES

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Our sincere appreciation to the following for helping to make our Great Lenten Fast and Holy Pascha celebration truly spiritual and memorable experiences:

- **The Church Choir** and its director, **Basil Kozak**, for their singing; we were all moved and inspired by the beauty of their music.
- **Jim Kornafel** and his small group of volunteers—**Karen & Kristen Berezniak**, **Anastasia Essl**, **Paula Mindzak**, **Jeremy Posluszny** and **Isabelle Rittenberry** (Jeremy's friend)—for their very beautiful job with the flowers on Good Friday and Pascha; God was truly glorified in their work! Gratitude is also extended to those who assisted in rearranging the flowers during the procession on Pascha night.
- **Jim Jones**, **Greg Messeka** and **Michael Steffaro** for installing the Paschal sign above the church entrance.
- **Everyone**, especially **the youth**, who carried icons and banners in the processions on Good Friday, Pascha night, Easter Sunday afternoon (Paschal Vespers) and Bright Monday.
- The tireless **"grave watchers,"** under the able direction of **Michael Steffaro**, for keeping vigil at the Tomb of Our Lord by reading the Psalms and the Acts of the Holy Apostles from Good Friday afternoon until Nocturne on Holy Saturday night. They all did an outstanding job in carrying out this blessed task with dedication and remarkable reverence to ensure a prayerful environment for all who came into the church for prayer and meditation.
- **All Church School mothers** for preparing the red eggs for distribution on Pascha night.
- Our Pastor Emeritus, **Father Sergius Kuharsky**, for assisting Father David throughout Holy Week and Pascha.
- **Mirjana Dostanich** for baking the Artos (Paschal Bread).
- **Walter "Blackie" Sudnikovich** for supplying all the pussy willows for Palm Sunday.
- **St. Anne's Guild** for hosting a fun-filled Easter Egg Hunt and Paschal Potluck Luncheon following Liturgy on Bright Monday.
- **Phil Rogozenski**, **Michael Steffaro** and **Mark Trubilla** for setting up tables for the Easter basket blessings on Holy Saturday and Pascha.
- **Philip & Natasha Rogozenski** for organizing a *Festive Agape* after Liturgy on Pascha night, which could only be described as splendid; the mood of the gathering was light and joyful.

May you all be rewarded by the Risen Lord for your dedication, loyalty, labors of love and devotion; your good works did not go unnoticed.



THE DOUBTING THOMAS



O Holy One, Thou hast placed us in Thine house; Thou hast opened Thy dwelling to us and have put the hymn of victory into our mouths. Thou hast gladdened us with Thy pure and holy Body; Thou hast given us to drink from Thine ever-flowing fountain, Thy pure and life-creating side which Thomas saw, touched and worshipped, as he cried in a loud voice: *"My Lord and my God!"*

How, O Master, can we repay Thee for all Thou hast given us? O mighty King of all, clothe Thy priests who live in true faith with righteousness; strengthen our government; keep the people present here in peace; stop war among nations; free our fellow Christians who are in captivity; and give peace to the world, O God our Savior.

For all glory, honor, thanksgiving and worship are due Thee, together with Thine eternal Father and Thine all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

CHRIST IS RISEN!

INDEED HE IS RISEN!