

**SS. PETER & PAUL RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
**ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA • DIOCESE OF NEW YORK & NEW JERSEY**

76 WHITEHEAD AVENUE, SOUTH RIVER, NJ 08882  
PHONE: (732) 257-0102 • FAX: (732) 258-2959 • E-MAIL: DFMG@AOL.COM  
WEBSITE: WWW.SAINTPETERANDPAUL.ORG  
PARISH MAILING ADDRESS: 153 KAMM AVE, SOUTH RIVER, NJ 08882

BASIL KOZAK  
CHOIR DIRECTOR

VERY REV. DAVID F. GARRETSON  
RECTOR

JAMES KORNAFEL  
STAROSTA

March 22, 2015

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT—Tone 8—ST. JOHN CLIMACUS OF THE LADDER**

Hieromartyr Basil of Ancyra; Martyr Drosida the daughter of Emperor Trajan; Ven. Isaac the Founder of the Dalmatian Monastery at Constantinople; Monk-martyr Euthymius of Prodromou

Epistles: Hebrews 6:13-20  
Ephesians 5:9-19 (Saint)

Gospels: Mark 9:17-31  
Matthew 4:25-5:12 (Saint)

**WORSHIP & STUDY—FIFTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT**

- TODAY** 4:00 p.m. *Lenten Mission Vespers* at Church of the Mother of God in Mays Landing
- Tues, Mar 24** 7:00 p.m. Matins at *SS. Peter & Paul Church* in Manville or Festal Vigil at *Holy Annunciation Church* in Brick
- Wed, Mar 25** **THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR MOST-HOLY LADY THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY**  
7:00 p.m. Epistle: Heb 2:11-18 Gospel: Luke 1:24-38  
Vespers Liturgy (*Confessions before Liturgy will begin at 6 p.m. Please do not arrive later than 6:30 p.m.*)
- Fri, Mar 27** 6:00 p.m. Confessions  
7:00 p.m. Matins with the Akathist to the Most-holy Theotokos followed by Faith Enrichment Series in the church
- Sat, Mar 28** **FIFTH SATURDAY OF GREAT LENT—SATURDAY OF THE AKATHIST TO THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS**; Venerable Hilarion the New; Venerable Stephen the Wonderworker  
9:00 a.m. Epistles: Heb 9:24-28 Gospels: Mark 8:27-31  
Divine Liturgy Heb 9:1-7 (Theotokos) Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 (Theotokos)  
(*Confessions before Liturgy will begin at 8 a.m. Please do not arrive later than 8:30 a.m.*)  
5:00 p.m. Confessions  
7:00 p.m. Vespers followed by Confessions
- Sun, Mar 29** **FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT—Tone 1—ST. MARY OF EGYPT**  
9:00 a.m. Hieromartyr Mark, Bishop of Arethusa  
Divine Liturgy Epistles: Heb 9:11-14 Gospels: Mark 10:32-45  
Gal 3:23-29 (Saint) Luke 7:36-50 (Saint)  
4:00 p.m. *Lenten Mission Vespers* at our parish



Following Divine Liturgy today, Fr. David will be leaving for Ellwood City, PA to attend the funeral of Protospesbyter Thomas Hopko; he will be returning home late Tuesday evening. Accordingly, Great Compline and Litiya for the Feast of the Holy Annunciation **WILL NOT** be served on Tuesday; you are encouraged to attend either *SS. Peter & Paul Church* in Manville or *Annunciation Church* in Brick. In the event you need a priest during Father's absence, please contact him on his cell phone (732-740-6230). If you cannot reach him, call Starosta (732-462-3388).

# WITHIN THE PARISH

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Because of the *Communion Breakfast*, there will be **NO Church School** today; all classes will resume **next Sunday, March 29**.

**TODAY** is **Lenten Youth Sunday**, where our young people, under the caring eyes of helpful adults, took over many responsibilities of the Divine Liturgy. How very wonderful it was for our boys and girls to show the rest of the parish what the Lord is doing in their lives; we are truly blessed to have them as part of our church family.

Farther David will be concluding his **Faith Enrichment Series** on the basics of the Christian Faith **this Friday, March 27**, following Matins and the Akathist to the Theotokos. Anyone interested is invited to remain in the church, where Father will offer a reflection on the Creed and its application in our lives. Please give serious thought and prayer to taking advantage of this great “refresher” course.

There will be a **Senior R Club Meeting** at the Deerson home **next Sunday, March 29**, immediately after Coffee Hour.

**Our parish** will serve as host for **Deanery Lenten Mission Vespers next Sunday, March 29**, at 4 p.m. This beautiful service will be led by our area clergy. A Lenten meal in the church hall will follow. We pray that you will join us as we come together in faith, worship and fellowship.

As Orthodox, we believe that the **Sacrament of Holy Unction** is an opportunity for us to encounter the Lord and experience His grace at a time when we may be suffering, either physically, mentally or spiritually. When we are anointed, it is in the name of Christ and the Church. On **Thursday, April 2**, at 7 p.m., we will celebrate this sacrament. We invite anyone whose health is seriously impaired, in any way, to come and receive healing, asking God to be transformed by it and to bring its reality into your actions and faith. (**NOTE:** *In order to properly approach the Mystery of Holy Unction and benefit most from it, you should be absolved from your sins beforehand through Confession, especially if you are not a regular communicant. Any questions? Ask Fr. David.*)

The **Installation of the 2015 Parish Council** will take place on **Saint Thomas Sunday, April 19**, with a brief prayer service following Liturgy. The first meeting of the new Council will be held in the church hall on **Monday, April 20**, at 7 p.m.

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 Avenue. The tickets cost \$30, with \$25 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. 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).

## BITS & PIECES

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**ATTENDANCE & STEWARDSHIP** Attendance at Liturgy last Sunday was **132**; envelope offerings two weeks ago were **\$2,543**. May our Lord bless your generous giving as we return to Him His blessings to us.

**SUNDAY SERVICE TEAMS** The Epistle will be read next week by **Seminarian Andrew Cannon**. The Coffee Hour will be hosted by the **Saint Anne’s Guild**. The church will be cleaned by **Team Machyowsky**. (*The Men’s Club and Team Adams will be responsible for Coffee Hour and cleaning the church, respectively, during the month of April.*)

**CEMETERY ORDER** Parishioners are asked to remove all winter grave blankets from their plots by **Tuesday, March 31**, so that the landscaper can begin his spring clean up.

**CHURCH ORDER** Let us endeavor to maintain a meditative atmosphere in church by speaking quietly to our fellow parishioners before Liturgy. Thank you!

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH** Throughout the remainder of this Lenten season, we’ll be partnering with the *South River Food Bank* by collecting items for its pantry. There is a table in the entryway of the church hall where you can place your donation(s). This is a great and easy way for us to reach out to our community and help those in need. Items requested include: **cereal, jelly, ketchup, tuna, cans of Chef Boyardee Beef Ravioli or Meatballs & Pasta, boxes of spaghetti, canned fruit, chili and/or chicken, spaghetti sauce and scalloped and/or mashed potatoes**. (*Gift cards are also welcomed.*) We thank all parishioners who’ve already participated; for those who have not, remember the words of St. John Chrysostom: “*To feed the poor is a greater miracle than raising the dead.*”

**FIRST HOLY CONFESSION** Yesterday afternoon, **Nia Lomjaria** and **Sophia Mekbeb** participated in the Sacrament of Holy Confession for the first time. We offer them our sincerest congratulations as they mark this stage of their spiritual growth and we thank their Church School teacher, **Allison Steffaro**, and **their parents** for both guiding and supporting them along their journeys. May these young ladies be blessed by God’s love and forgiveness for many years—Mnogaya Lyeta!

**MEMORY ETERNAL** It's with regret that we announce the falling asleep of **Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko**, former Dean and Professor of *Saint Vladimir Seminary* in Yonkers, NY, on Wednesday, March 18, the Feast of the Repose of Saint Nikolai of Zhicha. It is impossible to speak of Fr. Tom other than in superlatives: loving, compassionate, articulate, prolific, caring, faithful, devout—he was a priest and a teacher in the very best senses of those meaningful terms. Those who knew him loved him; the better they knew him, the more they loved him. His influence and impact on the lives of seminarians, future priests, including our own Father David, as well as laymen, were nothing short of gigantic. His passing leaves a void in the *Orthodox Church in America (OCA)* that will be difficult to fill. Let us pray for this servant of God, whose spirituality was so profound and whose closeness to the Lord was so evident, that he now enjoys the eternal life with Him that he so richly deserves—*Vechnaya Pamyat!*

**SCHEMICK-TOLLS SCHOLARSHIP** High school seniors and full-time, undergraduate students may obtain 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 was to assist the youth of this parish as they pursue their academic studies at an accredited college, university or trade school.

**LAST CALL FOR LENTEN RECIPES** Matushka Shari is looking for Lenten **breakfast** and **lunch** ideas for her final bulletin board. Here are the criteria: (1) no meat or dairy; (2) easy and relatively quick to fix [few ingredients, few steps]; and (3) preferably E-mailed to her. Your assistance in helping everyone to have a *delicious* Lenten season and to expand his/her culinary horizons is most appreciated.

**PRAYER CORNER** Please remember the following brothers and sisters in your prayers this week, as well as the 21 Christians murdered in Libya, the Coptic Church and the Egyptian nation:

	<u>Departed</u>	<u>Servicemen</u>
Zinna Kusnirik	Priest Matthew Baker	Ivan Shidlovsky
Katherine Tarczewski	John (Jack) Rhoades	Priest Sean Levine
Stephanie Simons	Helena Bujdzicz	Elizabeth Brent
Mariami Naruslishvili	Karen Tarallo	
James Koy	Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko	

	<u>Sick</u>	
Aunika Browne	Darren Flynn	Beth Williscroft
Thomas Verdon	Beth Giordano	Nancy Filak
Patricia Lowry	Mary Carol Burchill	Michael Dargento
Edward Walton	Matushka Dorothy Sulich	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.	Eileen Swenticky	Gina Krusius
Martha Drobnak	Donna Kara	Wendy Packard
Sergio Dubowski	Sergei Andreyev	Gregory Sitze
Bruce Longo	Vladimir Batenko	Charles Csenica
Dean Prestino	Pauline Dziemian	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.	Mari Favire
Deborah Krusius	Jane D'Amore	John Kotkovich
Joseph Posluszny	Elaine O'Neill	Robert Ingram
Carol Wagg	Lisa Woodward	

If you would like a prayer request included in the bulletin, see/contact Father David or Starosta. Also, if someone can be removed, let us know so that we can keep this list a manageable length.

**BIRTHDAY WISHES** go out this week to **Dylan George Arango** and **Dorothy Messeka**. May God bless them with peace and health for many years—*Mnogaya Lyeta!*

EXTRA COPIES of the *2014 Annual Report* are still available at the Candle Desk.

**FR. MATTHEW BAKER FUND** Many thanks to everyone who took part in the special collection last Sunday to aid the family of **+Priest Matthew Baker** who was tragically killed in a car accident on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 1, during an evening snowstorm. To date, **\$2,380** has been donated. If you were absent or unprepared to give, forward your contribution to *Metropolis of Boston, c/o Father Matthew Baker Fund, 162 Goddard Avenue, Brookline, MA 02445*. May Almighty God give rest to the soul of His newly departed servant in the mansions of the righteous and may his memory be eternal—*Vechnaya Pamyat!*

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS** Notices from parishioners or parish organizations must be submitted to Father David or our Bulletin Editor, James Kornafel, by **Thursday evening**, for inclusion in next Sunday's bulletin. You can contact Father at the rectory or get in touch with Jim by telephone (732-462-3388), fax (732-845-3515) or E-mail ([jimmyk@optonline.net](mailto:jimmyk@optonline.net)).



*As we begin the fifth week of Great Lent, let us all redouble our efforts to reach even greater spiritual heights, helping one another, praying for one another and, above all, fighting the temptation to judge our brothers and sisters who have not been very successful in their Lenten struggles, so far, and have fallen again and again. Anyone who thinks that he/she can make this journey to Holy Pascha without the support of God and others is both naive and self-centered. Inspired by His love and guided by His example, let us change our selfishness into self-giving, so that "we all may reach the Resurrection, on the third day, of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of our souls."* (Apostikha from Forgiveness Sunday Vespers)

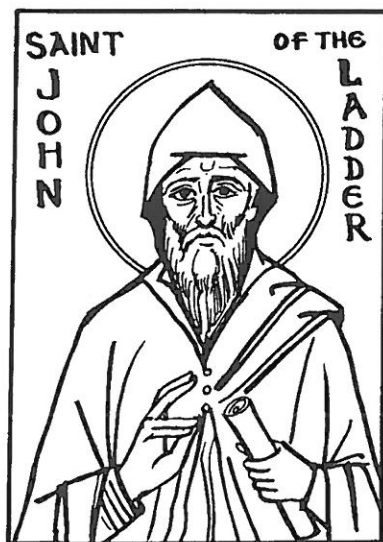
## ANNUAL EASTER BAZAAR—MARCH 28, 2015

Our **Annual Easter Bazaar** is scheduled for **Saturday, March 28**; from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., its purpose is two-fold: to bring the parish together to raise funds to sustain its fiscal needs and to open our arms, hearts and doors as we share our Lenten and Paschal traditions with the communities around us. Delicious specialty foods and pastries will be offered, as well as ethnic sales, church tours and gift baskets.

Need a sweet treat for Pascha, other than chocolate eggs and jellybeans? How about a delicious babka? **TODAY** is the last day to order; varieties include apricot, cheese, chocolate, cinnamon crumb, poppy, prune and raspberry for \$10.25 each and apricot cheese, chocolate cheese and raspberry cheese for \$10.75. See or contact Carol Deerson (732-254-4979). Pickup will be in the church hall **this Thursday, March 26**, after 3 p.m.

A call for "all hands on deck!" Volunteer sign-up sheets are now posted on the bulletin board near the entrance to the church hall kitchen. Please consider working one or more of the shifts. No matter what age you are, skill set you possess, physical activity limitation you may have or time constraint, your efforts to pitch in will be greatly appreciated.

With mutual participation and cooperation, this major fundraiser can be a terrific success. In advance, many thanks are extended to all for their support and hard work.



Let us believe that an external fast from visible food alone can possibly be sufficient for perfection of heart and purity of body, unless with it there has also been united a fast of the soul.

### **For the soul also has its foods that are harmful.**

Slander is its food and, indeed, one that is very dear to it. A burst of anger also supplies it with miserable food for an hour and destroys it, as well, with its deadly savor. Envy is a food of mind, corrupting it with its poisonous juices and never ceasing to make it wretched and miserable at the prosperity and success of an other.

Vanity is its food, which gratifies the mind with a delicious meal for a time but, afterwards, strips it clear and bare of all virtue. Then, vanity dismisses it barren and void of all spiritual fruit. All lust and shifty wanderings of the heart are sort of food for the soul, nourishing it on harmful meats, but leaving it, afterwards, without a share of the heavenly bread and of really solid food.

*St. John of The Ladder*

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

GLORY FOREVER!