SS. Peter & Paul Russian Orthodox Church

Orthodox Church in America
Diocese of NY & NJ

1905 – 2020

Celebrating 115 Years

76 Whitehead Avenue
South River, NJ 08882

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Parish Mailing Address:
153 Kamm Ave, South River, NJ 08882

Very Rev. David F. Garretson, Rector • Basil Kozak, Choir Director • James Kornafel, Starosta

November 29, 2020

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—Tone 8

Martyr Paramon and 370 Martyrs in Bithynia; Martyr Philumenus of Ancyra and with him Martyrs Valerian and Phaedrus; Ven. Acacius of Sinai who is mentioned in *The Ladder;* Hieromartyr Abibus, Bishop of Nekressi in Georgia; Ven. Nectarius the Obedient of the Kiev Caves

Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-6 Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

The Church at Worship & Study

Sat, Dec 5	6:00 p.m.	Confession by appointment ONLY
	6:30 p.m.	Panihida for **Deacon Donald Rogozinski** (40th day) offered by **the family**
	7:00 p.m.	Great Vespers with Litiya

Sun, Dec 6
9:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy

26TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—Tone 1
St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia

Epistles: Eph 5:9-19; Heb 13:17-21 (St. Nicholas)
Gospels: Luke 17:12-19; Luke 6:17-23 (St. Nicholas)

Our Parish Life

In consideration of the Coronavirus, we are now "open" for limited attendance, following the guidelines of the diocese and state. If you cannot join us, all services will be streamed "live and in color;" we hope that this will unite us as we pray, calm our souls and bring us closer to Jesus Christ. Note that accommodation in church is strictly on a **first-come, first-served basis**, with any overflow being directed to the parish hall. If we see that our attendance exceeds our legal capacity, we will then consider instituting an online sign-up sheet and/or a rotation by alphabetical order. Also, there will continue to be **NO COFFEE HOUR** until further notice, as we are asked to avoid large "gatherings" of people, at least for the time being, and the "temptation" to socialize after worship.

We strongly urge those with pre-existing conditions to refrain from coming to church and putting themselves and others at risk. You should not use church attendance as an excuse before one's conscience and neighbors for disrespecting the measures of self-isolation.

With permission of the family, Father David can now visit not-at-risk parishioners in hospitals and nursing homes. He also continues to be available to address any spiritual needs during these trying times. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact him.

It is now more important than ever that we continue to contribute towards our parish ministries and expenses. If you cannot be with us physically, send your offering envelopes to the parish office, either through the mail or by dropping them in the mailbox at the rectory. **YOU CAN NOW ALSO DONATE THROUGH THE PARISH WEBSITE!**

Stay well; our thoughts and prayers are with you.

For 20 years, the **Saint Nicholas Seminarian Giving Tree Project** has made the Christmas season a little brighter for the families of our future spiritual leaders who are struggling to pay education costs and day-to-day living expenses. In 2020, our goal remains the same: to share gifts with those that may otherwise go without. However, due to the current Coronavirus situation, our effort will be **GIFT CARDS ONLY**. Cards from *Amazon, Target, Walmart* or *Kohl's* are requested, in any amount of $10 or more. Donations can be left at the Candle Desk or sent to Allison Steffaro (38 Beryl Street, South River, NJ 08882) by no later than **Tues, Dec 1**; she will then distribute them to our seminarian families based on need and number of children. This is a ministry that **EVERYONE** can take part in—a wonderful "feel good" endeavor of making wishes come true and passing on the spirit of giving.

NEWS BITES

FOR THE RECORD Attendance at Liturgy last Sunday was **50**.

CONFESSION DURING ADVENT You are strongly encouraged to take the time during this Christmas Lent to review your life and participate in the Sacrament of Confession. To schedule an appointment, contact Fr. David via phone (732-257-0102) or E-mail (dfmg@aol.com). Being cleansed of our sins and having the responsibility for them being removed, we can certainly draw closer to our Lord and Savior as we prepare to celebrate His birth.

OUR PRAYER LIST We pray for the following parishioners, family members and friends:

Departed

Deacon Donald Rogozinski
Nadya Silva
Metropolitan AMFILOHIJE (Radovic)
Metropolitan MAXIMOS (Aghiorgoussis)
Peter Wright
Lori Spaulding
Manuel Cardoso
Linda Mignone
Patriarch IRINEJ (Gavrilovic)
Christopher Aiello Sr.
Thomas Zirch
Linda Perretti
Archbishop DAVID (Mahaffey)

Servicemen

Priest Sean Levine
Todd Adams
Mark Lopez

Sick

Kaitlyn Fox
Janet Hartman
Miriam Eby
Jay Pelleriti
Barbara Trojan
Colleen Mindzak
Laura Borak
John Bihuniak
Bonnie Halaycio
Judy Barlow
Debbie Williams
Beth Van Orden
Jamie Arango
Robert Ferro
Virginia Staples
Riley Dolan
Ellen Soucheck
Michelle Telesca
Karen Berezniak
Raymond Curtis
Adalyn Aleman
Daria Bishara
David Sommers
Lucia Bennett
Margaret Nerush
Carson Prisco
Robert DiPaolo
Beth Giordano
John Dragan
Victor A. Rugala Jr.
Ruth Curtis
Josefa Calero
Walentyna Posluszny
Veronica Genito
William Taylor
Richard Bumgardner
Lauren Horvath
Andrea Londensky
Christine Marie Parker
David Coleman
Protopresbyter Leonid Kishkovsky
Doris Gorman
Ralph Mead
Dr. Richard Fitzpatrick
Elaine Wolak
Carol Luongo
Diego Savino
Paul Matyas
Margaret DeVito
Nikolai Schijan
Helen Jemison
Chester Modzelewski
Rita Pasquarello
Kathleen Monahan
Jeff Bush
Svetlana Nerush
Michael Dargento
Anastasia Essl
Ellen Dargento
Charles Howard
William Domanow
Mario Troyani
Cynthia Longo
Allen Zdroik
Jonathan Dzoba
Sandra Saurman
Aidan Brown
Gregory Staples
Stephen Sueling
Joyce Major
Brit Davis
Stefania Lazor
Suellen Shimski
Robin Sueling
Dylan Lascoli
Nicholas Stchur
Miriam Gaum
Leonid Kulnich
Jay Sommers
Natalie Demidenko
Janice Sadlon

Please update Fr. David or Starosta of any additions and/or deletions to this list.

IN MEMORIAM This past Friday, **Archbishop DAVID**, the ruling hierarch of the *Diocese of Alaska* of the *Orthodox Church in America (OCA),* fell asleep in the Lord after a grave illness. Throughout his diaconate and priesthood, His Eminence served as an education coordinator at various levels, developing computer software, lecturing and conducting youth retreats in both the Eastern and Western Pennsylvania dioceses. During his priestly service in the *Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania,* he held several administrative positions, including district dean and Metropolitan Council member. Until his departure to Alaska, he taught at *Saint Tikhon's Seminary* in South Canaan, PA and *Alvernia University* in Philadelphia. As a bishop, Vladika traveled tirelessly and worked energetically to inspire and educate the flock consisting largely of the native peoples of the oldest diocese of the OCA. Throughout his 39 years as a servant of God, Archbishop DAVID was humble, unchanging and loved, faithfully preaching what the Lord told him to preach and always giving credit to Him for everything good. Our thoughts and condolences are with his children and grandchildren, as well as to all those he shepherded and ministered. May his soul forever rest *"where the choirs of the Saints and of the Just shine like the stars of heaven."* Memory Eternal—Vechnaya Pamyat!

RECONCILIATION AND AN END TO CIVIL STRIFE The clergy and faithful of the Diocese continue to mourn the tragic losses of life; the needless acts of violence; the divisions among races; and the civil strife which plagues many of our cities and towns. The work of establishing justice, equality, peace and love among all peoples in our country can't be achieved by one-time efforts; it must be an ongoing process of change and repentance. Because some kinds of evil, according to Christ, are only driven out *"by prayer and fasting,"* (Matt 17:21) Archbishop MICHAEL has declared a ***Year Dedicated to Reconciliation and an End to Civil Strife*** by praying and fasting on the first day of every month. He is respectfully requesting that every member of the Diocese **this Tuesday** pray the *Akathist to the African Saints* and the *Prayer for Racial Reconciliation* (both available at **nynjoca.org**) at noon and abstain from eating lunch. If you can't pray and fast at noon, then choose another meal from which to abstain and another time to pray the Akathist or the Prayer. Let us ask the Lord to help us become instruments of peace and reconciliation, for those who pray and abstain for this cause can't be, at the same time, instruments of hatred and violence. May God bring an end to the strife that divides the people of this country from one another; may He make us instruments of that process; and may He bestow mercy and blessed repose to all those who've been taken from us in acts of hatred and fear. Memory Eternal!

FOOD CARD PROGRAM Make every effort to buy a food card and use it instead of cash when grocery shopping. Each card brings money into our church at **no additional expense** to you. It is that easy! **Food Cards – Because It Doesn't Make *Cents* Not To!**

READER CORNER If you'd like to learn to read the Hours and/or Epistle, see or contact Basil Kozak (917-697-8058).

CELL PHONE REMINDER Please silence your cell phone while in church.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH Do you want to help our local community? We are always collecting non-perishable items for the **South River Food Bank** for families who ask for assistance. With requests due to COVID-19, donations are needed now more than ever, especially the following: canned pork & beans, canned vegetables, shelf-stable milk, canned meats & tuna, canned fruit, pasta & rice side mixes, canned soups & stews and peanut butter. Contributions can be placed on the table in the hall foyer. Be generous, remembering the words of Christ Himself: *"For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in…"* (Matt 25:35)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS this week to **Gregory Messeka**. May the special joys and blessings of God continue to be with him for many years—Mnogaya Lyeta!

EMERGENCY CALLS Please call Father David's cell phone anytime (day or night) in an emergency; the number is (732) 740-6230.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS info should be given to Fr. David so that church records can be updated.

THANKS to the following for their donations to the designated funds of the parish:

Church General Fund: **Greg & Christine Marple** (in memory of **Nadya Silva**), **Ronald & Paula Mindzak** (in memory of **Linda Mignone**) and **The Estate of Natalie Eichler**

Church Cleaning Fund: **Thomas & Audrey Pituk**

Church Iconography Fund: **Tom & Debra MacDonald** (in memory of **Natalie Eichler**) and **The Estate of Natalie Eichler**

May God bless everyone for his/her financial support.

OUR PARISH WEBSITE Thanks to our Webmaster, **Philip Rogozenski**, you can surf on over to **www.saintpeterandpaul.org** and view updated photo montages of liturgical services and social events and read a condensed version of the weekly bulletin. Even during this unsettling time, so much is happening and changing each week and we want you to be informed. Phil welcomes submissions, as well as suggestions for improvement; you can contact him via E-mail at progozinsk@aol.com. May God bless his work.

BULLETIN DEADLINE Any announcements for next week's bulletin must be submitted to either Father David or Starosta James Kornafel by **Thursday evening**. You can reach Father at the rectory or get in touch with Jim by phone (732-462-3388), E-mail (jimmyk@optonline.net) or fax (732-845-3515).

***Advent**, the period of prayer, fasting, repentance and acts of charity in preparation for the great feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, began two weeks ago. As we get closer and closer to the upcoming holiday, please try to keep all the secular arrangements—shopping, baking, decorating, etc.—in perspective. Focus your minds and energies on getting ready to receive God Incarnate into your lives; only then, does the true celebration of Christmas begin.*

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! **GLORY FOREVER!**