



SS. PETER & PAUL RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Diocese of New York & New Jersey ✠ Orthodox Church in America

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Parish
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December 11, 2011

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—Tone 1 SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS

Ven. Daniel the Stylite of Constantinople; Ven. Nikon the Dry of the Kiev Caves; Martyrs Mirax, Acepsius and Aithalas of Egypt;
Ven. Luke the New Stylite of Chalcedon; New Hieromartyrs Seraphim, Metropolitan of Petrograd, and Archpriests Peter, Aleksy and Nikolai

Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11

Gospel: Luke 14:16-24

❖ Parish Liturgical & Study Week ❖

TODAY	11:30 a.m.	<i>Annual St. Nicholas Day Pageant/Yolka</i> in the church hall
Mon, Dec 12	7:00 p.m.	Great Vespers with Litiya followed by Confessions
Tues, Dec 13		REPOSE OF HERMAN OF ALASKA, WONDERWORKER OF ALL AMERICA
7:00 a.m.		Matins
9:00 a.m.		Divine Liturgy
Wed, Dec 14	7:00 p.m.	Iconography Discussion in the church on <i>The Saints of the 20th Century</i>
Sat, Dec 17	5:00 p.m.	Confessions
	6:30 p.m.	<u>Panihida</u> : Stephen Schijan (Annual) offered by Tina Meyers Katherine Rudenia (Annual) offered by Ed & Evelyn Lisoski
	7:00 p.m.	Vespers followed by Confessions
Sun, Dec 18		27TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—Tone 2
9:00 a.m.		SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY ; Martyr Sebastian and those with him
Divine Liturgy		Epistle: Heb 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40 Gospel: Matt 1:1-25
3:00 p.m.		<i>10th Annual Christmas Concert</i> presented by the Church Choir

❖ Parish Life & Happenings ❖

Because of the *St. Nicholas Day Pageant*, there will be **NO Church School** today; classes will resume **next Sunday, December 18**.

Share the Christmas experience with all our Church School children as they present their **Saint Nicholas Day Pageant (Yolka)** in the

hall **TODAY** after Liturgy. It promises to be another inspiring event. Come to show your support and congratulate their endeavors. (**NOTE:** *There will be an expanded Coffee Hour hosted by the **St. Anne's Guild** and it is rumored that even Saint Nicholas himself will make an appearance!*)

A **Christmas Babka Sale** begins **TODAY** and runs through **next Sunday, December 18**. Seven flavors are being offered: **raisin** for \$8.50; **cheese, apricot, prune, poppyseed** and **cinnamon crumb** for \$9.50; and **raspberry cheese** for \$10. Orders can be placed by calling Carol Deerson at (732) 254-4979. Delivery will be on **Thursday, December 22**, at 3 p.m. Buy one or more—they make thoughtful and affordable holiday gifts!

Choir Rehearsal will be held in the church on **Tuesday, December 13**, at 7 p.m.

An **Iconography Discussion** with emphasis on the Saints of the 20th Century will take place in the church on **Wednesday, December 14**, at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend this special gathering. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the hall.

The **Men's Club** will meet in the church hall on **Thursday, December 15**, at 7 p.m.

The **Annual Christmas Cookie Sale** of the **St. Anne's Guild** will be held in the church hall after the Liturgy **next Sunday, December 18**. The proceeds will benefit our Church School program and related youth/family events. The success of this fundraiser is dependent on the involvement of not just the Guild members, but the entire parish family. If you are interested in baking for the sale or making a monetary donation to help defray the cost of supplies and packaging items, please see Karen Berezniak or get in touch with her by E-mail (kberez@comcast.net) or telephone (732-754-0033). All homemade sweets can be dropped off in the hall on **Saturday, December 17**, starting at 9:30 a.m. Remember: nothing says Christmas like cookies!

The **10th Annual Choir Christmas Concert** will take place **next Sunday, December 18**, at 3 p.m., in the church. Don't miss out on this very special performance of liturgical and secular holiday music from around the world. Although there is no charge to attend, a **FREEWILL DONATION** of a canned good would be appreciated to support the *South River Food Bank*. As one will, undoubtedly, need some time to bask in the glow of this magnificence experience, there will be refreshments served in the hall afterwards—come and enjoy!

Parish Council will meet on **Monday, December 19**, at 7 p.m., in the church hall.

❖ Parish Potpourri ❖

STEWARDSHIP: TIME & TREASURE Attendance at Liturgy last Sunday was **153**.

MINISTRY DUTIES The Epistle will be read by **Gregory Sprogis**. Coffee Hour will be hosted by the **St. Anne's Guild**.

WITH GREAT DELIGHT, we warmly welcome our beloved archpastor, **The Right Reverend MICHAEL, Bishop of New York & New Jersey**. He is joined by **The Right Reverend MATTHIAS, Bishop of Chicago and the Midwest**, **Protodeacon Michael Sochka** from *Holy Transfiguration Chapel* in Princeton and **Subdeacon Alexander Koranda** from *SS. Peter & Paul Church* in Burr Ridge, IL. We also “welcome home” our *Pastor Emeritus*, **Very Reverend Sergius Kuharsky**, and **Subdeacon Joseph Shaluha** from *Saint Gregory of Nyssa Church* in Columbus, OH. What a joy it is to have them all with us and to be able to celebrate this morning's Divine Liturgy together. We thank them for their presence and pray that God will grant them good health and long life for many years—Mnogaya Lyeta!

ADVENT CONFESSIONS There'll be **NO GENERAL CONFESSION** throughout Advent. During this period, there will be many days and times when Fr. David will be available to hear private confessions; check the bulletin under the *Parish Liturgical and Study Week*. As part of your spiritual preparation for Christmas, take advantage of this penitential sacrament so that you can ready your heart and soul to receive the newborn Lord.

BRING A FRIEND along with you to church. Encourage your relatives to attend services faithfully. It our Christian duty to help others find Jesus. Apostle Andrew brought his brother Peter to God...let's follow his example!

CONGRATULATIONS to **Nicholas & Pearl Berezniak, Edward Boshko, Walter Deerson** and **John & Helen Pelak** on receiving *Hierarchical Gramotas* today from His Grace, BISHOP MICHAEL. All of these individuals have made countless contributions to this parish with their long hours of dedicated service—a beautiful example of unselfish love for God and His Holy Church. We share their joy in receiving this well-deserved recognition and pray that they will continue to offer their assistance to us for many more years—Mnogaya Lyeta!

A JOYFUL THANK YOU to **Janet, Joseph & Ruth Hartman** for the beautiful floral arrangement on the center tetrapod today; it was given in loving memory of the **departed members** of the **Hartman & Iwanow Families**. We also gratefully acknowledge **Natasha Rogozenski** for the centerpiece she offered in honor of the namesday of her godson, **Nicholas Romanofsky**, on the Feast of St. Nicholas last week. The kindness and generosity of these donors are beyond words—God bless!

HOLIDAY BAKE SALE *Annunciation Church* in Brick is still selling its homemade dessert rolls through **next Sunday, December 18**. Four varieties are being offered for \$12 apiece: **walnut, apricot, apricot nut and poppy**. (*Prune and chocolate chip nut are SOLD OUT!*) For guaranteed availability for your Christmas celebration, place your order **as soon as possible** with James Kornafel (732-462-3388). Delivery is usually within a week. Our sister parish thanks you for your continued support.

JUST A REMINDER If you haven't yet paid your *2011 Annual Assessment* of **\$200** (\$144 to the Diocese and National Church and \$56 to the parish), do so as soon as possible; the end of the year is just three weeks away!

ADOPT-A-FAMILY is an outreach program that provides a Christmas to many low-income families in South River. Right now, food donations for holiday dinners are needed. If you have an extra turkey from the supermarket giveaways this past Thanksgiving, see Allison Steffaro ASAP to arrange a pickup or delivery. Through your generosity, holiday blessings can be enjoyed by countless families in the community, making Christmas 2011 a celebration they will never forget. Help us share the magic of the season!

2012 CHURCH WALL CALENDARS are now available at the Candle Desk—get yours today!

WITH GRATITUDE we recognize the following parishioners who fulfilled the ministry of making Holy Bread (prosphora) last Saturday: **Michael Burak, Margaret Butch, Diane Dreyer, Ann Krynicky, Craig & Elaine Mazzei, Peter O'Neill, Jay Pelleriti, Joan Pisuk and Linda Wood**. The sharing of both their time and talent is evidence of God's love and for that, we are truly blessed—thank you!

MANY, MANY THANKS to the **Church School Parents** who helped put up the Christmas decorations in church yesterday. Everything looks beautiful for the upcoming feast—God bless!

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS go out this week to **Louis Silva and Daniel Rogozenski**. May God continue to surround them with His care, blessings and joy for many years—Mnogaya Lyeta!

AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS! We congratulate **Theodore Gregory** who was tonsured a reader and ordained a subdeacon by His Grace, Bishop MICHAEL, during the Liturgy today. May he serve to the glory of God for many years—Mnogaya Lyeta!

2012 CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE Starting **January 1**, the general maintenance of the church (vacuuming, removing candles/wax, dusting, etc.) will no longer be handled by the Council or a few willing parishioners and Altar Boys; it will be the responsibility of **everyone** on a **monthly basis**. So far, three "teams," comprised of families and/or individuals, have stepped up to clean the church in January, February and July, respectively. We are hoping that nine more groups will voluntarily assemble to cover the remaining months of the year, before parishioners are assigned. All supplies will be provided and a list of duties will be posted at the Candle Desk. The team members can decide among themselves when and how to handle all the required tasks. We recommend, however, that everything be completed after Liturgy on Sunday to ensure that the church is clean prior to the next service; this will also make it easier for those without access to the building to perform their duties while someone is around to unlock/lock the doors. If you have any questions or need assistance forming a team, see/contact Carol Deerson (732-254-4979) or Jay Pelleriti (732-257-4478). Please be open-minded about this new procedure; it is done successfully in other parishes and it can be done so here, as well.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS the following parishioners, family members and friends:

<u>Departed</u>	<u>Sick</u>		<u>Servicemen</u>
Helen Ribarro	Elaine Ashton	Athene Demitry	Ivan Shidlovsky
Benedict Benda	Irene Boule	Anne LaMonica	Lisa Beard
Joseph Bulko	Edward Romanofsky	Timothy Magee	Gregory Nosol
Raisa Shaluha	Walentyna Posluszny	John Centrello	June Buyofsky-Rittman
John Pisuk	Alan Zenkert	Nancy Filak	David T. Floyd
Veronica Burak	Michael Dargento	Charles Csenica	Patrick Lohr
Faith Wolf	Julia Glazer	Barbara Parhizgar	Keith Sudder
	Joseph Casale	Mikola Zakrewsky	Priest Paul Rivers
	Donna Casale	Kim Walker	Patrick Baldwin
	Lasha Giorgi Pozidis	Dennis Silowka	Timothy Stepan
	Dorothy Swenticky	Benedetto Pelleriti	Michael Gregus
	John Cameron	Alexandre Kurtanidze	Peter Shaw
	Sarah Hall	Darren Flynn	Jacqueline Martinez

Katherine Tarzewski
Anna Durovich
Denise Yager
Martha Drobnak
Dorothy Sopchak
Margo Stewart
Barbara Wyluda
Arlene Krell
Beverly Vietti
Adam Huba
Thea Casale

David Hebert
Robert Smith
Thomas Roche
Theresa Rogozenski

Olga Romanofsky
Alyssa Rosatelli
John Bihuniak
Larry Kimpart
Patricia Cottrell
Elaine Schwartz

Beth Williscroft
Malcolm Bradford
Rina D'Amico
Barbara Longo
Charlene Sofer
Brenda Foster
Paul Pavlik
Stavroula Parks
Priest Herman Schick
Subdeacon Basil Quinn
Archpriest Thomas
Edwards

Eva Fedash
Olga Kozlov
Bishop NIKON (Liolin)
Archpriest Alexander
Atty
Ivert (Fred) Kirkirt
Melissa
Anna Janiszewski
Valentina Fornadel
Nancy Balon
Archpriest Paul White

Karen Bonet
David Gambert
Fred Bush
Travis Hartman
Elizabeth Brent
Kyle Abbott
Priest Sean Levine
Gary Amatrudo Jr.
Steven Moore

Notify Father David or Starosta if you have anyone else who should be included on this list. May they all be under the grace and tender watch of our Lord.

BULLETIN DEADLINE All announcements for next Sunday's bulletin must be submitted by **Thursday evening** to either Father David or our Bulletin Editor, James Kornafel. You can reach Father at the rectory or contact Jim by telephone (732-462-3388), fax (732-845-3515) or E-mail (jimmyk@optonline.net).



*The **Nativity Fast (Advent)** is a time of preparation for the Incarnation of our Savior that is to be observed through abstinence, prayer, worship, meditation, contemplation and repentance. Unfortunately, the world sees this Lenten season as a 40-day party—"tis the season to be jolly"—and the Christmas Feast itself as the end of the celebration instead of its beginning! It seems that salvation has come to us not through Christ's birth, but through shopping, gift-giving, dinners, family and friends. Worship now comes in the form of trees, wreaths, mistletoe, holly, stockings and lights. Santa Claus is now "venerated" more than any of our Saints!*

Fortunately for us, the Church is here to keep us on track. Let us use this time to offer a meager and humble fast before the immense humility of God Who was born in poverty so that we could live together. Let the days that remain before Christmas be a time to empty ourselves of the hustle and bustle of the season and restore inner peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Advent is a time of fasting and sober reflection—a time of repentance, not a time of partying, revelry, good times, mass consumption of food and alcohol, gaiety, going to dances and entertaining. As Christians, we are called to a higher life, a higher standard, a higher state of existence, to do what Christ and the Church commands for our salvation, regardless of what the world thinks and does. May God help us to this end.

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

GLORY FOREVER!