



SS. Peter & Paul Russian Orthodox Church

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

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March 25, 2012

FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT—Tone 8

THE ANNUNCIATION TO OUR MOST-HOLY LADY THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY

The Martyrs of Nicomedia who suffered under Valentinian: Pelagia, Theodosia and Dula; St. Senuphius the Wonderworker of Latomos Monastery in Thessalonica; St. Nicander the Hermit of Pskov; St. Parthenius of the Kiev Caves; St. Justin the Archimandrite of Chelije in Serbia

Epistles: Hebrews 6:13-20

Hebrews 2:11-18 (Feast)

Gospels: Mark 9:17-31

Luke 1:24-38 (Feast)

* The Liturgical & Study Week Ahead *

(Sixth Week of Great Lent)

TODAY	4:00 p.m.	Lenten Mission Vespers with His Grace, Bishop MICHAEL, at Annunciation Church in Brick	
Wed, Mar 28	5:30 p.m.	Confessions	
	7:00 p.m.	Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts	
Fri, Mar 30	6:00 p.m.	Confessions	
	7:00 p.m.	Great Compline & Matins with the Akathist to the Most-holy Theotokos followed by Confessions	
Sat, Mar 31	FIFTH SATURDAY OF GREAT LENT—SATURDAY OF THE AKATHIST TO THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS; The Repose of St. Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow; St. Hypatius the Wonderworker		
8:45 a.m.	Divine Liturgy		
	Epistles: Heb 9:1-7	Gospels: Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28	
	Heb 7:26-8:2 (Saint)	John 10:9-16 (Saint)	
	<i>(Confessions before Liturgy will begin at 8 a.m. Do not arrive later than 8:15 a.m. Following the Liturgy, the Annual Panihida will be served for Joseph Smith and Jacob Vail offered by the family.)</i>		
5:00 p.m.	Confessions		
7:00 p.m.	Vespers followed by Confessions		
Sun, Apr 1	FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT—Tone 1—ST. MARY OF EGYPT		
9:00 a.m.	Epistles: Heb 9:11-14	Gospels: Mark 10:32-45	
Divine Liturgy	Gal 3:23-29 (Saint)	Luke 7:36-50 (Saint)	
4:00 p.m.	Lenten Mission Vespers at SS. Peter & Paul Church in Bayonne		



Father David will be leaving for Florida on Monday on union business; he will be coming home early Wednesday morning. Accordingly, there will be **NO LENTEN MATINS** served on Tuesday. If there be an emergency need for a priest, call Father on his cell phone (732-740-6230). If you can't reach him, please contact Starosta at (732) 462-3388.

** What's Up in Our Parish **

Church School Classes will meet **TODAY** following the Liturgy Dismissal.

TODAY is our **Annual Lenten Youth Sunday**, a day our parish celebrates all its young people. What a joy it was to appreciate all the gifts and blessings they bring to us!

Our intern priest, **Father Gerasim Eliel**, will continue his four-week series entitled **Scripture 101: An Intro to the Bible TODAY** during Coffee Hour. Join him this Lent as we journey together as a community of Scripture readers.

As is customary in our parish during the season of Great Lent, the **Sacrament of Holy Unction** will be celebrated on **Thursday, April 5**, at 7 p.m. In a time when the world presents us with all manner of alternative therapies, self-help books and new-age healing techniques, it is so important for us to remind ourselves that it is Christ Who heals us and redeems fallen creation with its suffering and pain. We must turn to Him for the healing of both our souls and bodies. Therefore, anyone whose physical, emotional or spiritual health is seriously impaired is encouraged to attend. (**NOTE:** Because Unction is intrinsically bound to the physical and spiritual healing that we receive in the life of the Church, we must approach this sacrament as we would Communion and seek to free ourselves of the sins that separate us from the fullness of life in Jesus Christ. Therefore, it is proper for those who are not regular communicants to be absolved of their sins through Holy Confession before being anointed. If you have any questions, contact Fr. David.)

An **Easter Egg Hunt**, hosted by the **Saint Anne's Guild**, will be held on the church lawn (weather permitting) on **Bright Monday, April 16**, following the Paschal Divine Liturgy. Children of **all ages** are encouraged to take part. Afterwards, there will be a **Paschal Potluck Luncheon** to which **EVERYONE** is invited.

** News That Matters **

STEWARDSHIP: TIME & TREASURE Attendance at Liturgy last Sunday was **136**.

MINISTRY DUTIES The Epistle will be read next Sunday by **Gregory Sprogis**. Coffee Hour will be hosted by the **Men's Club**. The church will be cleaned by **Team Silowka**. (**NOTE:** These groups will be responsible for Coffee Hour and cleaning the church, respectively, throughout April.)

HOLY CONFESSION is sacred and necessary for your spiritual life and growth as an Orthodox Christian, especially during this penitential period of Great Lent. If you have not already done so, plan to participate in this sacrament **as soon as possible**. Check the *Liturgical & Study Week Ahead* in the weekly bulletin to find the time that is best for you. Since this act of reconciliation should be done in both a prayerful and non-rushed manner, you may want to consider fulfilling this obligation after the service on Friday evenings or Saturday afternoons before Vespers. If you come at the last minute before a service starts, particularly one at which Holy Communion is given, there may not be time for Father David to hear your confession, which means you would have to do it afterwards. Above all, please **DO NOT** wait until Holy Week!

SINCERE THANKS to the **St. Anne's Guild** for hosting Coffee Hour this month and to **Team Berezniak (Nicholas, Pearl, Gregory, Karen, Kristen, John & Greg's Church School Class)** for cleaning the church throughout March. We appreciate everyone's fine efforts and pray that God will continue to bless them for many years—Mnogaya Lyeta!

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

SPRING CLEAN-UP In preparation for *Provodnoye* (Paschal Cemetery Visitation) on **St. Thomas Sunday, April 22**, parishioners are requested to remove all winter sprays and/or coverings from the graves of their loved ones.

UPDATING OUR RECORDS is an ongoing process. Because we are a large parish with members living in many counties throughout the state, staying on top of this can, at times, be difficult. You can help. We would like to have all parishioner information be correct or corrected; therefore, if you have recently moved and/or changed phone numbers or names (through marriage, separation, divorce, death, etc.), please let Fr. David or Starosta know. Your assistance in this project will be most appreciated.

IN YOUR PRAYERS remember the following parishioners, family members and friends:

<u>Departed</u>		<u>Sick</u>		<u>Servicemen</u>
Carol Ann Jewels	Elaine Ashton	Thomas Roche	Eva Fedash	Ivan Shidlovsky
Isabelle Teszla	Irene Boule	Theresa Rogozenski	Olga Kozlov	Lisa Beard
Patricia Franchino	Edward Romanofsky	Olga Romanofsky	Bishop NIKON (Liolin)	Gregory Nosol
Michael Mann	Walentyna Posluszny	Alyssa Rosatelli	Archpriest Alexander Atty	David T. Floyd
Michael Durovich	Alan Zenkert	Larry Kimpart	Ivert (Fred) Kirkirt	Patrick Lohr
Pope SHENOUDA III	Michael Dargento	Patricia Cottrell	Anna Janiszewski	Keith Sudder
Barbara Minard	Julia Glazer	Elaine Schwartz	Myrna Woznica	Priest Paul Rivers
	Joseph Casale	Athene Demitry	Joseph (Jay) Pelleriti	Patrick Baldwin
	Donna Casale	Timothy Magee	Jean Catherine Brooks	Michael Gregus
	Lasha Giorgi Pozidis	John Centrello	Samuel Garretson	Peter Shaw
	Dorothy Swenticky	Nancy Filak	Joseph Posluszny	Jacqueline Martinez
	John Cameron	Charles Csenica	Gilson Costa	David Gambert
	Katherine Tarzewski	Barbara Parhizgar	Pearl Blower	Fred Bush
	Martha Drobnak	Mikola Zakrewsky	Presbytera Florence Cassar	Travis Hartman
	Dorothy Sopchak	Kim Walker	Ellie Jacobs	Elizabeth Brent
	Margo Stewart	Dennis Silowka	Mary Rock	Kyle Abbott
	Barbara Wyluda	Alexandre Kurtanidze	Louis Silva	Priest Sean Levine
	Arlene Krell	Darren Flynn	Joan Uler	Gary Amatrudo Jr.
	Beverly Vietti	Beth Williscroft	Archpriest Stephen Mack	Steven Moore
	Adam Huba	Malcolm Bradford	Laura Mercolino	James G. Teller
	Thea Casale	Barbara Longo	Julio Andres Veramende	
	David Hebert	Charlene Sofer		
	Robert Smith	Brenda Foster		

If you have a friend or loved one for whom you would like us to pray, contact Fr. David or Starosta.

THE 2012 FOCA CREATIVE ARTS CONTEST is now underway. As in years past, it is open to all Orthodox Christian children and youth. Entrants need not be members of an FOCA chapter. This year's theme, *My Friends in the Faith*, can be expressed in four categories: creative writing, music, visual arts and photography. A detailed list of rules for each category and entry forms may be found on the FOCA website under the "Juniors" tab. Entries must be submitted by **Thursday, April 12**. All submissions will be displayed at this year's *FOCA National Bowling and Basketball Tournaments*, during which awards will be presented.

ALL-NIGHT VIGIL Our church will remain **open** for prayer, reflection and meditation from Holy (Good) Friday afternoon up until the start of Nocturne on Holy Saturday night. Volunteers **of all ages** are needed to be on *grave watch* for two-hour shifts to keep vigil at the Tomb of Our Lord by reading the Psalms and Acts of the Apostles. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this symbolic act representing the guards who

were posted by Pontius Pilate to stand watch over the Holy Sepulchre. A sign-up sheet is available **TODAY** in the church vestibule. For details, see or contact Michael Steffaro (732-698-1952).

CHURCH ETIQUETTE Please **DO NOT** chew gum in church; not only is it disrespectful, distracting and sometimes noisy, it is considered “breaking the fast” for anyone desiring to partake of Holy Communion. Your strict attention to this matter of etiquette is greatly appreciated.

READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY? Turn the last few weeks of your journey to Pascha into a real pilgrimage by deepening your spirituality with a book from our parish library. Why not take a few moments during today's Coffee Hour and go upstairs in the church hall and browse the shelves? We have a good selection for Lenten reading, prayer and meditation—something for everyone, guaranteed!

LENTEN FOOD BANK CHALLENGE Lent is often viewed as a time for giving something up. This year, you are asked to think about giving TO something during this season of preparation for Pascha: the **South River Food Bank**. For the 15th straight year, food bank agencies around the US are invited to participate in the **Alan Shawn Feinstein \$1 Million Giveaway to Fight Hunger**. The members of the South River Board of Health and the staff of the South River Food Bank are enthusiastically taking up this challenge by soliciting donations during March and April. All food and monetary offerings made to the Food Bank during these two months will help it receive a larger donation from the Feinstein giveaway. Detailed information is available on the flyer posted on the bulletin board near the kitchen. Donations of food can be left on the table in the church hall vestibule. Any monetary contributions can be placed in an envelope marked “Lenten Food Bank Challenge” and given to Paul Zelanko. Our thanks for your support!

SCHEMICK-TOLLS SCHOLARSHIP Application packets are now available from Carol Deerson, Scholarship Coordinator. They must be completed and submitted by **Tuesday, May 1**. (*All supplemental materials, such as letters of reference and transcripts, are due by Monday, May 28.*) To qualify, an applicant and his/her family must be church members in good standing for at least two years prior to May 1. In addition, they must also be regular participants in the sacramental life of the church and demonstrate proper stewardship and support of the parish. The applicant must be enrolled as a full-time, undergraduate student in a two-year, four-year or certificate granting institution and have high school and/or college grade point averages of 2.25 or better. Please phone Carol (732-254-4979) with any questions.

DONATE YOUR USED CELL PHONE In an effort to raise some money to offset costs for this year's trip to the *Hogar Rafael Ayau Orphanage* in Guatemala, our mission team is collecting used cell phones, in any condition, for recycling to an environmentally-conscious center. In addition to earning extra cash, the members are also helping to keep the fabulous earth God gave us clean! So, if you have any old phones sitting in a drawer gathering dust, please bring them to church next week and give them to John or Susan Witkowski; the effort required is minimal. Thank you for your support and please pass the word!

MEMORY ETERNAL After a lengthy illness, the primate of the *Coptic Orthodox Church*, **Pope SHENOUDA III**, fell asleep in the Lord on Memorial Saturday, March 17. Since his election in November 1971, His Holiness presided over a worldwide expansion of the Coptic Church, due primarily to emigration. He appointed the first Coptic bishops to serve in North America, Australia and South America. In his native Egypt, he faced turbulent times and, at one point, was placed under house arrest in a monastery. Throughout the many trials and tribulations he endured, he was known as a man of prayer and asceticism. We offer our deepest sympathy to all the bishops, priests, monastics and laity of the Coptic Orthodox Church and pray that God will comfort them in the days ahead—Vechnaya Pamyat!

GOD'S BLESSINGS are wished upon **Dorothy Messeka** who is celebrating her birthday TODAY. Belated greetings are also extended to **Dylan George Arango** who turned 1 on Thursday. May they both continue to enjoy happy and healthy lives for many years—Mnogaya Lyeta!

GUATEMALAN ORPHANAGE WISH LIST The nuns and children at the **Hogar Rafael Ayau Orphanage** in Guatemala are in dire need of church, office and school supplies, as well as clothing, toiletries, kitchen items and medicines, especially the following:

Saint John of Commandaria wine for Liturgy
HP 56 Black & HP 22 Color printer cartridges
Jeans for teenagers (Sizes 1, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16)
Church Shoes for boys & girls (All sizes)

Canon 210 Black & Canon 211 Color printer cartridges
Long skirts for teenagers (Sizes S, M & L)
Blouses for teenagers
Trash bags (Medium, Large & 13 gallon)

A complete wish list is posted in the church hall. With its limited resources and monthly budget, the orphanage is doing the very best it can. It is, however, counting on your generosity to help them continue the work of caring for God's little ones. If you would like to support the blessed effort of this year's mission team, please donate one or more of the items from the list and give it to John or Susan Witkowski by **Sunday, May 6**. Monetary offerings (cash or checks payable to *Friends of Hogar Rafael Ayau*) are also welcome. Whatever you can contribute will be lovingly appreciated.

HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA PROCESSIONS Volunteers are needed to carry icons and banners during the processions on Good Friday evening, Pascha night, Easter Sunday afternoon (Paschal Vespers) and Bright Monday. Anyone and everyone can take part! If you're interested, please see Hank Dziemian during Coffee Hour or call him at (732) 690-7461.

THE 2012 ANNUAL PARISH MEMBERSHIP ASSESSMENT is \$200 per individual. **All registered parishioners** are morally obligated to support the church and its institutions by payment of all past and present assessments, as well as participation in the envelope system. You are strongly encouraged to be generous, as it is only through your loyal giving by which we can continue the work and divine mission of this God-protected parish.

BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINE Please note that any news, updates or events that you would like to published in next Sunday's bulletin must be submitted by **Thursday evening**. Get in touch with Fr. David at the rectory or contact our Bulletin Editor, James Kornafel, by phone (732-462-3388), fax (732-845-3515) or E-mail (jimmyk@optonline.net).



*Having been strengthened to persevere in our Lenten struggles through the power of the Precious and Life-giving Cross, we now enter the fifth week of the Fast. The glorious day of our Lord's Resurrection is now closer than when we first started, but it is still far off. Now is **not** the time to start getting sloppy or lazy in our prayer, fasting and good works. It is, however, the time to use these "tools" to draw ever closer to the Lord and let Him help us rediscover what we already possess—the life of God in us.*

** Annual Easter Bazaar – March 31, 2012 **

Can you believe that our **Annual Easter Bazaar** is now just six days away? There's much to do and so little time! That's why we need to work **together** as a parish to make this fundraiser a financial success. Time, talent, a donation of baked goods/homemade crafts or a monetary contribution—whatever you can give will be most appreciated. The more helping hands, the smoother this event will run. See the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the church hall or contact Co-Chairman Patricia Larkin (632-605-1351) or Jay Pelleriti (732-257-4478) to find out where you can best be utilized.

TODAY is the deadline for babka orders; E-mail (dshaluha@comcast.net) or phone (732-238-0735) Debra Ann Jones. This year's variety includes cheese, cinnamon crumb, prune, poppy, raspberry (NEW), apricot and raisin for \$9.50 and raspberry cheese, apricot cheese (NEW) and chocolate cheese (NEW) for \$10. Orders can be picked up in the hall on **Thursday, March 29**, between 2 and 7 p.m.

All donations for the gift basket raffles are due **TODAY**. If you didn't have time to shop, monetary donations are welcomed. See/contact Karen Berezniak (732-754-0033) or Deborah Silowka (732-735-1359) if you have any questions.

Keep talking this event up with all your Orthodox and non-Orthodox family members, friends and neighbors. It runs from **10 a.m. – 4 p.m.** Tell everyone to avoid all the crowds at the supermarkets and get their delicious Easter basket gifts and goodies easily and conveniently.

See you Saturday—we're counting on your support!

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Glory Forever!