

# SS. PETER & PAUL RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

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CHOIR DIRECTOR

VERY REV. DAVID F. GARRETSON  
RECTOR

JAMES KORNAFEL  
STAROSTA

September 13, 2015

### FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—Tone 6

#### Forefeast of the Elevation of the Cross—Sunday Before the Elevation

Commemoration of the Founding of the Church of the Resurrection at Jerusalem; Hieromartyr Cornelius the Centurion; Martyrs Chronides, Leontius and Serapion of Alexandria; Martyrs Seleucus in Scythia and Strantonicus; Martyrs Macrobius and Gordian at Tomi in Romania; Hieromartyr Julian of Galatia; Martyrs Elias, Zoticus, Lucian and Valerian; St. Peter of Atroe; Greatmartyr Ketevan the Queen of Georgia; Ven. Hierotheus the Younger of Iveron; Martyr Straton of Nicomedia; St. Litorius, Bishop of Tours; St. John of Prislip; St. Cornelius of Padan-Olonets, disciple of St. Alexander of Svir, and with him SS. Dionysius and Misael

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18

Gospel: John 3:13-17

## WORSHIP & STUDY

TODAY 3:00 p.m. Panihida for **Myrna Woznica** at Maliszewski Funeral Home  
6:30 p.m. Panihida for **Vladimir Batenko** (40<sup>th</sup> day) offered by **the family**  
7:00 p.m. Great Vespers with Litiya and Procession of the Cross

Mon, Sept 14 **THE UNIVERSAL EXALTATION (ELEVATION) OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS**  
9:00 a.m. **[Strict Fast Day]**

Divine Liturgy Epistle: 1 Cor 1:18-24 Gospel: John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30-35

12 noon Funeral of **Myrna Woznica**

7:00 p.m. 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fr. John Meyendorff Memorial Lecture at *St. Vladimir's Seminary* in Yonkers, NY

Sat, Sept 19 **Saturday After the Elevation of the Cross—Afterfeast of the Elevation**

9:00 a.m. Liturgy with the Wonderworking Icon of Saint Anna at *Holy Apostles Church* in Saddle Brook

1:00 p.m. Healing Service with the Wonderworking Icon of Saint Anna at *Holy Apostles Church*

5:00 p.m. Confessions (*our church*)

7:00 p.m. Vespers followed by General Confession (*our church*)

Sun, Sept 20 **16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—Tone 7**

9:00 a.m. **Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross—Sunday After the Elevation of the Cross**

Divine Liturgy Greatmartyr Eustathius Placidus, his wife, Martyr Theopistes, and their children, Martyrs Agapius and Theopistus

Epistle: Gal 2:16-20 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1

## WITHIN THE PARISH

The **Men's Club** will meet on **Thursday, September 17**, at 7 p.m., in the church hall.

The **Men's Club** will host its **Annual Picnic** for all members and their families from 12 noon until 5 p.m. on **Saturday, September 19**, on 7 Acres.

Save the date! A **Special Parish Meeting** will be held in the church **next Sunday, Sept 20**, following Divine Liturgy. Two important issues will be discussed: (1) an update on the parish's financial status and (2) the replacement of the roof on the rectory. (*A copy of the 2015 Interim Financial Report is now available for you to take home and review.*) We need a healthy quorum for voting, so make every effort to attend. [*2<sup>nd</sup> Announcement*]

**Church School Registration** for the 2015-16 academic year will take place in the church hall **next Sun, Sept 20**, after the Liturgy; the **Opening Molioben & First Class** will be on **Sun, Sept 27**. If you have any questions, see our Church School Coordinator, **Karen Berezniak**, or contact her at (732) 754-0033.

The **Altar Society** will meet in the church hall on **Monday, September 21**, at 6 p.m.

**Parish Council** will convene in the church hall on **Monday, September 21**, at 7 p.m.

Don't miss the **Men's Club Annual Fish Fry** on **Friday, October 2**, from 5 to 7 p.m., in the hall. This outreach event always brings parishioners and the community together in fellowship. For \$15 per plate, you will get a complete dinner with fish, fries, salads and dessert. (*Can't eat in? Take out orders will be available.*) Tickets can be obtained from Jay Pelleriti, Peter Silowka or any other Club member. Bring your friends and family! Come for the food...leave with a full tummy!

## BITS & PIECES

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**THE RECORD** Attendance at Liturgy last Sunday was **113**.

**SERVING NEXT WEEK** The Epistle will be read by **Subdeacon Paul Machyowsky**. Coffee Hour will be hosted by the **Men's Club**. The church will be cleaned by **Team Rogozenski**.

**WE ARE SO DELIGHTED TO WELCOME Father Aleksey Paranyuk** from *Saint Vladimir's Seminary* in Yonkers, NY. Fr. Aleksey will be interning with us through May of next year. It is, indeed, an honor and a privilege to be a part of his priestly formation. Make sure to introduce yourself and assure Father of your support and prayers. May we all make this a positive, helpful learning experience for him.

**RIDE NEEDED TO CHURCH** There are several Orthodox college students attending *Rutgers* that would like to attend church on Sundays, but can't because they have no transportation. If you are willing to pick up and drop off one or more of them, please contact Fr. David at the rectory. Let's try to be a "home away from home" for these kids!

**NEW DIOCESAN NEWSLETTERS** In response to requests from many parishioners for a concrete means of "follow-through" to the conferences and presentations hosted by parishes on the themes of stewardship and parish growth, our diocese will now be publishing two newsletters. One is *First Fruits*, a newsletter on stewardship, to be released on the second Sunday of every month (a copy of which is included in today's bulletin); the other is *Beyond the Plateau*, a newsletter on parish growth, to be disseminated on the fourth Sunday of each month. It is the hope of His Eminence, Archbishop MICHAEL, that both of these publications will stimulate fruitful conversation throughout our churches and that they will provide helpful support to all in the good work that is already being done towards these ends.

**MEMORY ETERNAL** Our sister in Christ, **Myrna Woznica**, fell asleep in the Lord on Patriot Day, September 11. We extend our deepest sympathy to her family and friends. May they find comfort in knowing that their loved one is now rejoicing with God in heaven—Vechnaya Pamyat!

**BELATED BIRTHDAY GREETINGS** go out to **Natasha Rogozenski** and **Kristen Berezniak**. May their lives continue to reflect God's goodness for many years—Mnogaya Lyeta!

**THANK YOU** to **John & Helen Cameron** for the center tetrapod floral arrangement for the Feast of the Nativity of the Virgin this past Tuesday and for the candles on the Altar today; both offerings were in commemoration of their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. May God bless them for their kind and generous hearts.

**BELATED CONGRATULATIONS** to **Peter & Deborah Silowka** and **David & Amanda Lupkin** who both celebrated wedding anniversaries last week. May the blessings of our Lord continue to be theirs for many years—Mnogaya Lyeta!

**BULLETIN ONLINE** View the Sunday bulletin online at our website, [www.sainpeterandpaul.org](http://www.sainpeterandpaul.org).

**PRAYER FOCUS FOR THE WEEK** Include in your daily prayers the following parishioners, family members and friends:

**Departed**

James Cloughley Alexander Socrates  
Mary Olender Toni Frost  
Thomas Noto Myrna Woznica  
Thomas Verdon

**Servicemen**

Ivan Shidlovsky  
Priest Sean Levine  
Elizabeth Brent

**Sick**

Aunika Browne  
Darlene Posluszny  
Patricia Lowry  
Edward Walton  
Kaitlyn Fox  
Iwan Jakimtschuk  
Natalie Matz  
Dorothy Sopchak  
Simon Kozlov Jr.  
Ginny Wilmer  
William Begley  
Rosemarie Jachym  
Dawn Zirch  
Jane D'Amore  
Martha Drobnak  
Michaela Fox  
Harriet Miele  
Dean Prestino  
Gaynelle Crowley  
Marianne Walsh  
Aspasia Alfaro  
Beth Van Orden  
Rina D'Amico  
Deborah Krusius  
Michael Marsteller  
John Weyland  
Timothy B.

Jessica Hu  
Beth Giordano  
Mary Carol Burchill  
Carol Luongo  
Ruth Curtis  
Mary Louise Viquez  
Sgt. Peter Roselli  
Josefa Calero  
Pauline Pullo  
Walentyna Posluszny  
John Cameron  
Pearl Blower  
Gloria Soto  
Bernadine Trubilla  
Donna Kara  
Sergei Andreyev  
Grace Diriwachter  
Carol Sommers  
Kendall McNamara  
Pamela Inman  
Dorothy Vernak  
Archpriest Joseph Kreshik  
Archpriest Paul Shafran  
Chester Andrzejewski  
Archpriest Paul Lazor  
Matushka Juliana Schmemann  
Archpriest George Hasenecz

Beth Williscroft  
Nancy Filak  
Michael Dargento  
Sandra Webster  
Amelia Rugala  
Ellen Dargento  
Olga Miller  
Allen Mioduszewski  
Sophie Hyland  
Kathleen Keimer  
Tamara Diaczenko  
Elaine Ashton  
Michael Pelleriti  
Gina Krusius  
Wendy Packard  
Gregory Sitze  
Charles Csenica  
Kenneth Crowley  
Robert Ingram  
James D'Amore Jr.  
Jonathan Clayton  
Aidan Brown  
Victor Rugala Sr.  
Robert Fedak  
Elaine Fedak  
Jeremy Posluszny  
Mary D.

Requests for additions/deletions to this list should be given to Father David or Starosta.

**BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS** for next Sunday's edition should be directed to Father David or Starosta James Kornafel by **Thursday evening**. Call Father at the rectory or get in touch with Jim by phone (732-462-3388), E-mail ([jimmyk@optonline.net](mailto:jimmyk@optonline.net)) or fax (732-845-3515).

## THE ANNUAL PARISH FALL FESTIVAL

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There are just five weeks until our **Annual Parish Fall Festival!** Come out and support this event on **Sat, Oct 17**. Co-chairmen Greg Messeka, Sandy Saurman and Pete & Deb Silowka can sure use your help, as we share our Slavic culture with our friends and neighbors. Remember: this fundraiser is not just about food, music, raffles and "chachkies;" it is also about coming together as a parish family, having a good time and saying *Thanks* to the surrounding communities for enabling us, with their financial support, to continue all our blessed ministries and work. So, if you have a few hours to spare, see Pete, Greg, Sandy or Deb and lend a hand...no volunteer will be turned away!

**Pierogie Making** will take place in the hall on **Fri, Sept 25**, at 6:30 p.m., and **Sat, Sept 26**, at 9:30 a.m. Whether you are a "veteran" at making these delicious, half-moon stuffed dumplings or a novice to this task, mark your calendar, loosen up those fingers and get ready to pinch!

**Babka Orders** are now being taken by **Debra Jones** via E-mail ([dshaluha@comcast.net](mailto:dshaluha@comcast.net)) or phone (732-238-0735) through **Sun, Oct 4**; varieties include apricot, cheese, chocolate, cinnamon crumb, poppy, prune, raisin and raspberry for \$10.50 each and raspberry cheese, chocolate cheese and apricot cheese for \$11. All orders can be picked up in the hall on **Thurs, Oct 15**, between 2 and 7 p.m.



## Funding Resolution Passes!

BY ARCHPRIEST GARY BRETON

The 18th All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) was held in Atlanta, Georgia from July 20–24, 2015. One of the major points of business brought before the council was the proposed Funding Resolution of the Central Church Administration. The resolution was crafted by the Financial Committee of the OCA and blessed by the Holy Synod of Bishops. During the third plenary session of the council, the resolution was presented, discussed, and passed by a large margin of delegates' votes.

The adoption of the resolution radically shifts the way in which the Central Church Administration will be funded in the future. The shift is away from the "head tax" based on the aggregate total of parishioners populating a diocese's parishes and institutions, and toward a percentage of a diocese's unrestricted income.

This new method of funding will impact our diocese and her faithful in the following ways:

1. It will initially reduce the amount of money currently being sent from the diocese to the Central Church Administration of the OCA. The current assessment

system has our diocese remitting \$288,720 to the OCA in 2015. This represents 62% of the diocese's projected Unrestricted Income (excluding DDB and other restricted monies). Under the new system, the diocese will remit \$232,000 to the OCA in 2016. This represents 50% of the 2015 Unrestricted Income.

2. It will encourage diocesan parishioners to free themselves of the concept of dues and assessments, and focus on offering a percentage of their annual income to their parish.

3. It will encourage diocesan parishes to consider remitting to the diocese a percentage of their annual income instead of an assessed amount based on their census.

4. Assuming that parish remittances to the diocese based on percentage giving match or exceed those based on the per-capita assessment system, there will be more money that will stay in the diocese to support diocesan ministries and activities.

Certainly more benefits will present themselves as the new system is implemented, and we hope to explore these in coming issues of this newsletter.

### About This Publication

His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, has initiated a goal of presenting bulletin inserts to diocesan parishes for distribution to the faithful. Each month will feature two inserts that will be in the form of newsletters; one will be on the topic of Stewardship, the other on the subject of Parish Growth and Evangelism. These printable and downloadable documents will be electronically distributed to each parish, and will be available at our diocesan website.

This publication is the first of the bulletin inserts on the subject of Stewardship. Please feel free to send comments and suggestions for future articles to Archpriest Gary Breton at [gjbretton@gmail.com](mailto:gjbretton@gmail.com).

### Mission Statement

First Fruits is written to encourage everyone in our Diocese to be good stewards of all that God has given them.

### Watershed Moment

**Above:** Delegates at the 18th All-American Council in Atlanta, GA approve a historic resolution to fund the central administration via proportional giving. (Photo by Archpriest Gregory Safchuk)



## Defining Stewardship

*Can we formulate a definition for stewardship? How might we describe "stewardship in action?" The following list, adapted from Ron Nicola's article in The Word, suggests that we understand stewardship as:*



**OUR ACTIVE COMMITMENT** to use all our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ's redeeming love.

**CARING** for the needs of others.

**OFFERING ONE'S SELF TO GOD** as He offered Himself to us.

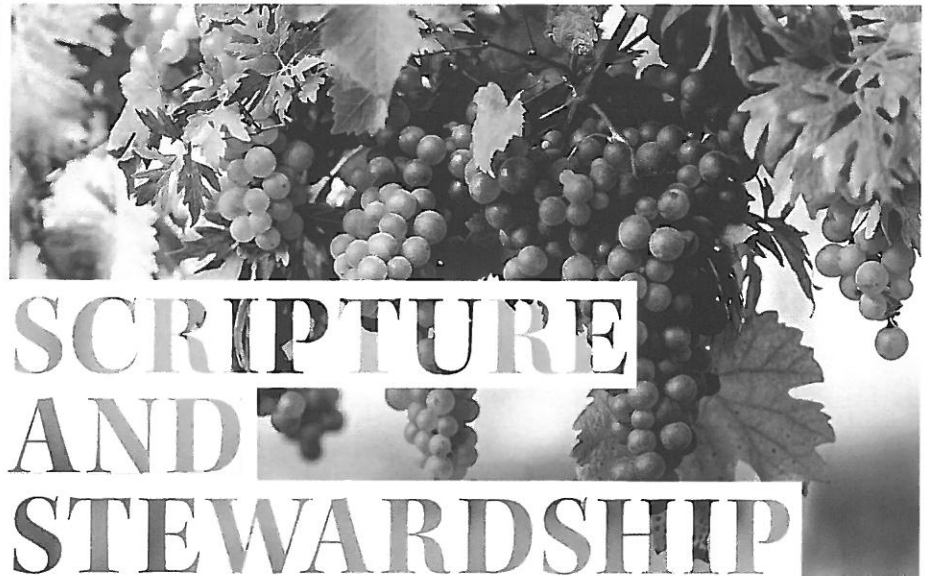
**WHAT A PERSON DOES** after saying "I Believe...", as proof of that belief.

**LEARNING** how to be a responsible and concerned caretaker of Christ's Church; it is learning how to enjoy Church life and be happy in Church work, for in Her dwells the fullness of the Spirit of God.

**DEVOTION AND SERVICE TO GOD** and His Church as persons, as families, as deaneries, as a diocese, as a national Church, and as the Church universal.



[Ron Nicola, "Stewardship – A Set of Basic Principles," *The Word*, Nov. 1982, p. 4]



# SCRIPTURE AND STEWARDSHIP

## Proverbs

Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. (3:9-10)

## I Corinthians

For who regards you as superior? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it? (4:7)

## II Corinthians

The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. (9:6-8)

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## FREEDOM AND GIVING

**NO GIFT IS TRULY A GIFT** unless it is given freely without reservation or condition. The gifts of God are given to us in just such an unconditional manner and we are called to model our giving after God's.

Stewardship Giving doesn't buy anything. It doesn't buy happiness or love or a tenfold return on our investment. The motive for giving the gift to God is not the expectation of getting something back.

We are able to give what we give because God has already given to us. Stewardship Giving is really a response, then, to the generosity of God. We acknowledge that we are not the starting point for the giving, but we are simply passing on a portion of what we have received.

The way in which we give our gift is as important as the gift itself. A sacrificial gift has no strings. It is given as freely as God has given to us, because the motive for the giving is grateful response rather than expected return.

This does not mean that the parish to which we give is not to be accountable for the gifts given. It does mean that our decision to give is not contingent on the particular use of the gift.