February 21, 2021

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE—Tone 4
[Beginning of the Lenten Triodion]
Ven. Timothy of Symbola in Bithynia; St. Eustathius, Archbishop of Antioch; St. George, Bishop of Amastris on the Black Sea; The Kozelschanskaya Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos; Hieromartyr Severian, Bishop of Scythopolis


Upcoming Worship & Study

TODAY
7:00 p.m.  “Pray Give Go” OCMC Virtual Benefit

Sat, Feb 27
6:00 p.m.  Confession by appointment ONLY
7:00 p.m.  Vespers

Sun, Feb 28
SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON—Tone 5
9:00 a.m.  Ven. Basil the Confessor

Our Parish Life

In consideration of the Coronavirus, we continue to be “open” for limited attendance, following all the guidelines of the diocese and state. We’ve heard from many of you that you are, in fact, ready to return to church, but we also know many of you have your hesitations and are not yet ready to do so. These are personal decisions made by each individual or family; each person is to find his/her own peace of heart and mind to re-enter without judgment. The doors will be open whenever you are ready; until then, all of the services will be streamed “live and in color.”

Note that accommodation in church is strictly on a first-come, first-served basis, with any overflow being directed to the hall. If you are asked to go to the hall upon arrival, please do so; it’s for the safety of yourself and others. Also, there’ll continue to be NO COFFEE HOUR until further notice, as we are requested to avoid large “gatherings” of people, at least for the time being, and the “temptation” to socialize after worship.

Those of you who have been restricted by your age (65 and over) are welcome to return home to your parish; however, you’re asked to do so with precautions and it is suggested that those with underlying or pre-existing conditions consult their physicians before coming. By entering the church, you do so knowing all of the risks involved.

With permission of the family, Fr. David can now visit 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.

You are encouraged to continue your financial support to the parish and its church-related ministries. 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!

Thanks be to God for each and every one of you in our parish community for your faithfulness in stewardship and prayer. These are difficult times and it is easy to concentrate on the negative. Even though general distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine is underway, it is not magic and we must remain vigilant in all safety measures. With hope in and prayer to the Lord, we WILL get through this health crisis as a country, state, town and church and return to normalcy with greater fervor, faith and love in Him.
FOR THE RECORD Attendance at Divine Liturgy last Sunday was 29.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY CONFESSION Anyone wishing to schedule an appointment for confession may do so by contacting Father David via E-mail (dfmg@aol.com) or telephone (732-257-0102). As our Orthodox Church teaches, confession is an opportunity to cleanse our souls in a second baptism. We should all consider regular participation in this sacrament as a priority in our lives as followers of Jesus Christ.

MEMORIAL (SOUL) SATURDAYS On certain Saturdays of the year, the commemoration of the dead is prescribed. In the Church, we all depend on each other, belong to each other and are united by the love of Jesus Christ, even with those who have preceded us in death. Remembering departed relatives and others among the faithful who have fallen asleep in the Lord is an act of love that we should never neglect. This year, there are six Memorial (Soul) Saturdays: Mar 6 & 27, Apr 3 & 10, Jun 19 and Oct 23. The Liturgy on each of these days will be preceded by Matins for the Departed on Friday evening. A form to list the names of those you want mentioned was included in last Sunday’s bulletin; there are also extra copies available at the Candle Desk. Once completed, you can either drop it off in church or send it to the rectory; even better, attend these services yourself to experience the beauty and meaning of these days in the place where our brothers and sisters worshipped before they were laid to rest.

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

AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS! We congratulate all our Serbian Orthodox brothers and sisters in Christ on the election and enthronement of their new primate, Patriarch PORFIRJE. We extend our blessings, prayers and best wishes to His Holiness as he begins his ministry and service to the Church; may his acts of goodness and generosity lead his flock closer to the Lord. Eis Polla Eti, Despota!

THANKS to those who were able to participate in the Saint Nicholas Giving Tree Project this past holiday season. The seminarians were so appreciative of the gift cards. It is always such a joy to see the overwhelmingly positive response to our outreach ministries. With your help, many are helped—God bless!

WAYS TO GIVE Back We are currently offering a couple of ways for you to give back to our local community: (1) Donating non-perishable items to the South River Food Bank and/or (2) Buying grocery gift cards for those who ask Fr. David for help. Thank you for your kind consideration and generosity.

WANT TO BE ADDED TO THE PARISH-WIDE MASS E-MAIL LIST? As part of the list, you’ll receive E-mails from Father David about upcoming events and activities at our parish, as well as last-minute announcements and reminders. To join, just send a blank E-mail to dfmg@aol.com with “E-mail List” as the subject.

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

IF YOU BECOME AWARE of an illness or hardship occurring in a fellow parishioner’s life, encourage them to contact Fr. David so that prayers can be said and visitations arranged (according to COVID-19 guidelines). Make sure you have their permission before passing on this information.

HAVE YOU MOVED? Please let Fr. David know your new contact information.

EMERGENCY CALLS Call Fr. David’s cell phone anytime (day or night) in an emergency; the number is (732) 740-6230.

SHHHHH! Please make sure your cell phone is turned OFF before entering church. Thanks.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS go out this week to Walter Deerson and Anna Siemienczuk. May they continue to enjoy God’s blessings for many years—Mnogaya Lyeta!

CONDOLENCES to Norman & Dorothy Edwards and The Zenkert Family on the recent passings of sister-in-law Cindy Edwards and cousin Frank VanRood, respectively. Although there are not enough words in all the world to ease the pain of losing a loved one, we want these families to know that we are thinking of them at this sad time and lifting them up in prayer.

WITH HEARTFELT THANKS we acknowledge the following contributions to the parish in memory of Helena Christie: Walter & Carol Deerson (Schemick-Tolls Scholarship Fund); Jim & Debra Ann Jones (Church Cleaning Fund); and Judith Znaiden (Pastoral Discretionary Fund). May the Lord bless everyone for being so generous.

THE 2021 ANNUAL PARISH ASSESSMENT is $220 per registered individual.
PRAYER REQUESTS  Pray for the following parishioners, family members and friends this week:

**Departed**
- Sergei Andreyev
- Protopresbyter Daniel Hubiak
- Nicholas Stchur
- Archpriest John Chupeck
- Anastasia (Hazel) Shykko
- Rita Pasqurello
- Cindy Edwards
- Mary Antipin

**Servicemen**
- Priest Sean Levine
- Todd Adams
- Mark Lopez

**Sick**
- Kaitlyn Fox
- Beth Giordano
- John Dragan
- Victor A. Rugala Jr.
- Ruth Curtis
- Josefa Calero
- Walentyna Poslusny
- Veronica Genito
- William Taylor
- Richard Bumgardner
- Marianne Ford
- Andrea Londenksy
- Christine Marie Parker
- David Coleman
- Protopresbyter Leonid Kishkovsky
- Doris Gorman
- Ralph Mead
- Dr. Richard Fitzpatrick
- Dr. Elaine Wolak
- Carol Luongo
- Laurissa Solar
- Paul Matyas
- Margaret DeVito
- Nikolai Schijan
- Helen Jemison
- Paula Hila
- Bronwyn Smith
- Sonja Harris-Neumyer
- Frank Powell
- Nicholas Mancywoda
- Mark Agresti

If you have a prayer request, contact Fr. David or Starosta.

**WE'RE ON FACEBOOK!** Follow us at @SaintPeterandPaulOrthodoxChurch. Invite family/friends to “like” the page; this is also a place to share photos of parish events. **(NOTE: Remember that we can't post photos of those who've not given us permission to do so. Before you download a picture, make sure you have contacted everyone in it, even if they are in the background. We know this seems silly, but it is now part of the reality we all live in.)**

**FOR YOUR INFO** A moving and inspirational video showing the beauty of Orthodoxy can be seen on www.youtube.com. It is called The Orthodox Church – A Visual Journey. Check it out!

**SUBMITTING A BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT** Any announcements for next week's bulletin must be submitted to Fr. David or our Starosta James Kornafel, by Thursday evening. You can reach Father at the rectory or contact Jim by phone (732-462-3388), E-mail (jimmyk@optonline.net) or fax (732-845-3515). Submissions may be edited as needed for space limitations.

There is NO FASTING during this week following the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee; meat and animal products may be eaten on Wednesday and Friday. The Church directs that we not abstain this week so that no one can pray in a spirit of self-righteousness that they follow the fasting rules in the way the Pharisee did in today's Gospel. Fasting is only a means or aid on the path of salvation; it's not a "ticket to heaven" for anyone who "keeps the rules" without expressing humility.

So, enjoy all the bounties of God this week, as we begin to make changes in our lives, both physical and spiritual, on our way to Holy and Great Lent.