

Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



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June 24, 2007

4th Sunday after Pentecost

Nativity of St. John the Baptist

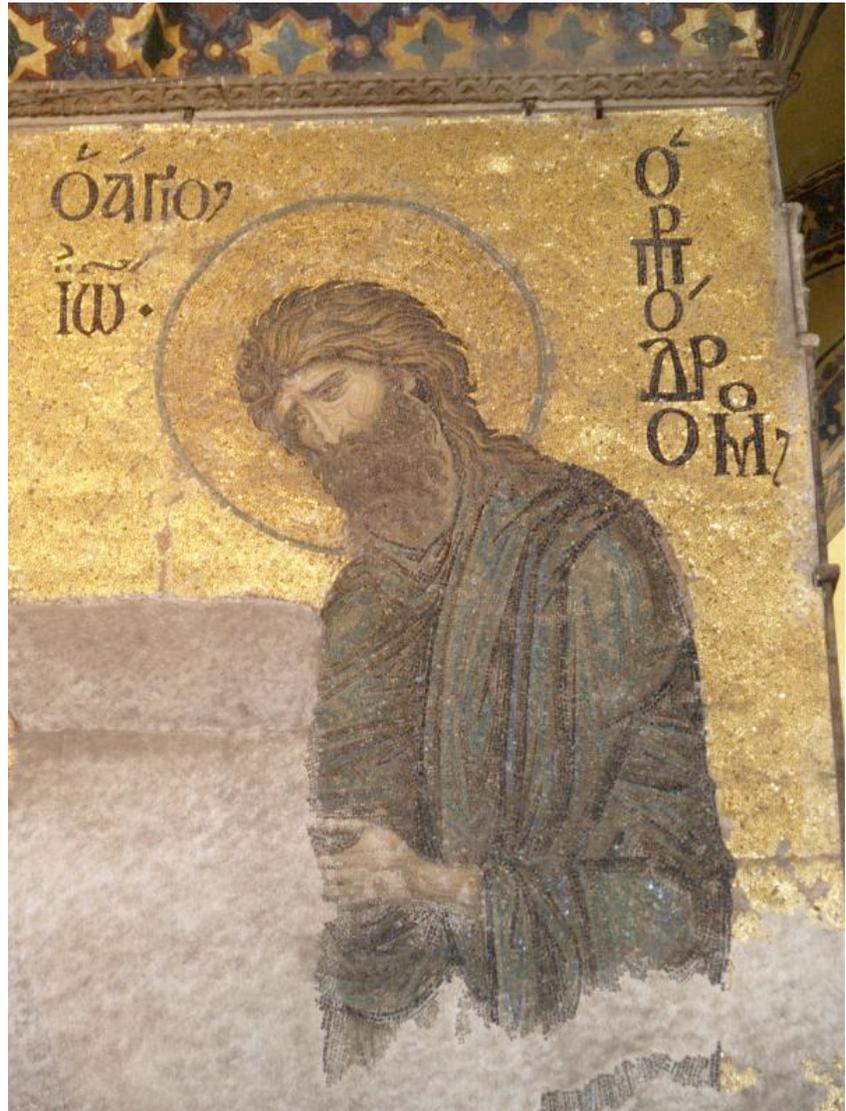
Glory to God for All Things!

- Archpriest John Zdinak
Dean
- Archpriest Pavel Soucek
Retired/Attached
- Subdeacon Theodore Lentz
Sacristan
- Reader Julius Kovach
Ecclesiarch & Choirmaster

Divine Services

Eve Sundays & Feast Days
5:00 PM Confessions
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sundays and Feast Days
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hour
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy



Welcome Visitors

We welcome all visitors to our Divine Liturgy. While Holy Communion may only be received by prepared Orthodox Christians, our non-Orthodox guests are welcome to join us in venerating the Cross and receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. Please join us in the fellowship of our social hour following Liturgy.

Nativity of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist

Commemorated on June 24

The Nativity of the Holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John: The Gospel (Luke. 1: 5) relates that the righteous parents of St John the Baptist, the Priest Zachariah and Elizabeth (September 5), lived in the ancient city of Hebron. They reached old age without having children, since Elizabeth was barren. Once, St Zachariah was serving in the Temple at Jerusalem and saw the Archangel Gabriel, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. He predicted that St Zachariah would father a son, who would announce the Savior, the Messiah, awaited by the Old Testament Church. Zachariah was troubled, and fear fell upon him. He had doubts that in old age it was possible to have a son, and he asked for a sign. It was given to him, and it was also a chastisement for his unbelief. Zachariah was struck speechless until the time of the fulfillment of the archangel's words.

St Elizabeth came to be with child, and fearing derision at being pregnant so late in life, she kept it secret for five months. Then her relative, the Virgin Mary, came to share with her Her own joy. Elizabeth, "filled with the Holy Spirit," was the first to greet the Virgin Mary as the Mother of God. St John leaped in his mother's womb at the visit of the Most Holy Virgin Mary and the Son of God incarnate within Her.

Soon St Elizabeth gave birth to a son, and all the relatives and acquaintances rejoiced together with her. On the eighth day, in accordance with the Law of Moses, he was circumcised and was called John. Everyone was amazed, since no one in the family had this name. When they asked St Zachariah about this, he motioned for a tablet and wrote on it: "His name is John." Immediately his tongue was loosed, and St Zachariah glorified God. He also prophesied about the Coming into the world of the Messiah, and of his own son John, the Forerunner of the Lord (Luke. 1: 68-79).



After the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ and the worship of the shepherds and the Magi, wicked king Herod gave orders to kill all male infants. Hearing about this, St Elizabeth fled into the wilderness and hid in a cave. St Zachariah was at Jerusalem and was doing his priestly service in the Temple.

Herod sent soldiers to him to find out the abode of the infant John and his mother. Zachariah answered that their whereabouts were unknown to him, and he was killed right there in the Temple. Righteous Elizabeth continued to live in the wilderness with her son and she died there. The child John, protected by an angel, dwelt in the wilderness until the time when he came preaching repentance, and was accounted worthy to baptize the Lord. ✠

Icon on page 1: St John the Baptist, The Deisis, mosaic (12th century) Istanbul, Turkey: Hagia Sophia (Aya Sofya)

The Holy Glorious and All-Praised Leader of the Apostles, Peter & Paul

Commemorated on June 29

Sermon of Saint Augustine, Bishop of Hippo

Today the Holy Church piously remembers the sufferings of the Holy Glorious and All-Praised Apostles Peter and Paul.

St. Peter, the fervent follower of Jesus Christ, for the profound confession of His Divinity: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God," was deemed worthy by the Savior to hear in answer, "Blessed art thou, Simon ... I tell thee, that thou art Peter [Petrus], and on this stone [petra] I build My Church" (Mt.16:16-18). On "this stone" [petra], is on that which thou sayest: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God" it is on this thy confession I build My Church. Wherefore the "thou art Peter": it is from the "stone" [petra] that Peter [Petrus] is, and not from Peter [Petrus] that the "stone" [petra] is, just as the Christian is from Christ, and not Christ from the Christian. Do you want to know, from what sort of "rock" [petra] the Apostle Peter [Petrus] was named? Hear the Apostle Paul: "Brethren, I do not want ye to be ignorant," says the Apostle of Christ, "how all our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and all were baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ" (1 Cor.10: 1-4). Here is from whence the "Rock" is Peter.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the final days of His earthly life, in the days of His mission to the race of man, chose from among the disciples His twelve Apostles to preach the Word of God. Among them, the Apostle Peter for his fiery ardor was vouchsafed to occupy the first place (Mt.10:2) and to be as it were the representative person for all the Church. Therefore it is said to him, preferentially, after the confession: "I will give unto thee the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth, shall be bound in the heaven: and whatso-

ever thou shalt loose on earth: shall be loosed in heaven" (Mt.16: 19). Therefore it was not one man, but rather the One Universal Church, that received these "keys" and the right "to bind and loosen." And that it was actually the Church that received this right, and not exclusively a single person, turn your attention to another place of the Scriptures, where the same Lord says to all His Apostles, "Receive ye the Holy Spirit" and further after this, "Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them: and whose soever sins ye retain, are retained" (John 20: 22-23); or: "whatsoever ye bind upon the earth, shall be bound in Heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth, shall be loosened in heaven" (Mt.18:18). Thus, it is the Church that binds, the Church that loosens; the Church, built upon the foundational cornerstone, Jesus Christ Himself (Eph 2:20), doth bind and loosen. Let both the binding and the loosening be feared: the loosening, in order not to fall under this again; the binding, in order not to remain forever in this condition. Therefore "Iniquities ensnare a man, and everyone is bound in the chains of his own sins," says Wisdom (Prov 5:22); and except for Holy Church nowhere is it possible to receive the loosening.

After His Resurrection the Lord entrusted the Apostle Peter to shepherd His spiritual flock not because, that among the disciples only Peter alone was pre-deserved to shepherd the flock of Christ, but Christ addresses Himself chiefly to Peter because, that Peter was first among the Apostles and as such the representative of the Church; besides which, having turned in this instance to Peter alone, as to the top Apostle, Christ by this confirms the unity of the Church. "Simon of John" — says the Lord to Peter — "lovest thou Me?" — and the Apostle answered: "Yea, Lord, Thou knowest that I love Thee"; and a second time it was thus asked, and a second time he thus answered; being asked a third time, seeing that as it were not believed, he was saddened. But how is it possible for him not to believe That One, Who knew his heart?

(Continued on page 5)

Ss. Peter & Paul 90th Anniversary

Saturday 6/30 - 4 pm Vespers
followed by Banquet at 5:30

for Banquet tickets (\$40) call now
George Manzuk at 440.842.0688 or
Carolyn Carson 440.734.6260

cfcarson@wowway.com
<http://www.peter-paul.com/>

SYOSSET, NY [OCA Communications] — The Orthodox Church in America's Department of Christian Education will hold a one-day conference for educators, parents, and the general faithful on understanding and teaching Scripture in an authentically Orthodox manner on Saturday, June 30, 2007. For further info, contact the DCE at

christianeducation@oca.org
or call Mrs. Jewelann Stefanar at 216/741-0985.

St. Vladimir's Camp Fundraiser:

25% of Pampered Chef sales will go directly to camp. Deadline for orders is July 1st. Call Barb Sheean 216-371-1173 for more information.

Prayer Requests

Departed:

Eileen Eschuk + 5/19/07
Ann Scuba + 5/26/07
Victor Jermakov + 6/16/07

Ill-afflicted:

Fr. Stephen Jula
Helen Baldner
John Clements
Henry & Julia Grabowski
John & Ann Shuleva
Jeanne Twitchell
Mary Wazevich
Roy A. Baldner
Michael & Jennifer Turczyk
Helen Kozak
Nick Jarachovic
Mary Ann Silberhorn
Margaret Rusynyk
John Conrad
George Ponomarenko
Joyce Surplus (Tylers' Aunt)
Jeanne Kish
Timothy Winsky
Terrence Winsky
Martha Bondor
Nick Safonovs
Dorothy Laskovich
William J. Spurlock
Mary Mishko
Helen Barski

Project Mexico and
St. Innocent Orphanage
(Tijuana, Mexico)

Newborns:

Nora Grace Oprisko 3/7
Sophie Magdalene Grimes 3/28
Madeline Margaret Fox

Parish Council News

☛ The next Parish Council Meeting will be at 6 PM on **Thursday, July 12th** at Ridge Manor. Any parish member is welcome.

Upcoming Events

- June 24 - Honoring of College & High School Graduates
- June 24 - St. Demetrios Greek Festival
- June 24-30 - St. Vladimir's Summer Camp (ages 7-11)
- June 28-30 - Ss. Peter & Paul 90th Anniversary Weekend
- June 28 - "Garage Sale" @ St. Michael's
- June 29 - Feast of Holy Apostles Peter and Paul
- June 30 - Christian Education Conference @ Holy Trinity
- July 1 - Sophie Grimes Baptism
- July 1-7 - St. Vladimir's Summer Camp (ages 12-15)
- July 12 - Parish Council Meeting @ Ridge Manor
- July 19-22 - St. Paul Grecian Festival
- July 21 - 22 - St. Sava Cathedral Serbian Festival
- July 22 - Parish Picnic @ Ridge Manor
- July 22 - Sacred Music Concert 5 pm @ St. Sava Cathedral
- August 6 - Transfiguration of our Lord
- August 15 - Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos
- August 17-19 - St. George Shish-Ka-Bob Festival
- August 17-19 - St. Mary Romanian Festival
- August 23-26 - Ss. Constantine & Helen Greek Festival
- August 30-September 5 - FOCA Convention in Nashville
- September 1-2 - St. Sava Church Soccer Tournament
- September 9 - St. Theodosius Feast Day and Banquet
- September 14 - Exaltation of the Holy Cross



Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Pascha pictures for 2007 are available online to view or purchase. Please send your email address to debby_pinta@sbcglobal.net so that you can be added to the guest list to view these pictures.

Coffee Hour & Greeters Schedules

Coffee Hour Hosts:

6/24 Maca Tyler & Judy Schwind
7/01 Karen Felon
7/08 Mary Swit & Tammy Ponomarenko
7/15 Joyce Tabeling
7/22 Patti Sankovic, Natalia Pricinovskis
7/29 Maca Tyler & Judy Schwind

Greeters:

Tom Broslawik & Michael Tabeling
Phyllis Gindlesperger & Virginia Medvec
Paul Pangrace & Maca Tyler
Debby Pinta & Tom Broslawik
Steven & Eileen Bondor
Phyllis Gindlesperger & Virginia Medvec

2007 Dues

\$250.00 per Adult member (18 and older)

The June Special Collection is designated for Cathedral Fence repairs

(Continued from page 3)

And wherefore then Peter answered: "Lord, Thou knowest all; Thou knowest that I love Thee." "And sayeth Jesus to him" all three times "Feed My sheep" (John 20:15–17).

Besides this, the triple appealing of the Savior to Peter and the triple confession of Peter before the Lord had a particular beneficial purpose for the Apostle. That one, to whom was given "the keys of the kingdom" and the right "to bind and to loose," bound himself thrice by fear and cowardice (Mt.26:69–75), and the Lord thrice loosens him by His appeal and in turn by his confession of strong love. And to shepherd literally the flock of Christ was acquired by all the Apostles and their successors. "Take heed, therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock," the Apostle Paul urges church presbyters, "over which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to feed the Church of the God, which He hath purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28); and the Apostle Peter to the elders: "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof not by constraint, but willingly: not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind: neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock. And when is appeared the Prince of pastors, ye will receive unfading crowns of glory" (1 Pet. 5:2–4).

It is remarkable that Christ, having said to Peter: "Feed My sheep," did not say: "Feed thy sheep," but rather to feed, good servant, the sheep of the Lord. "Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?" (1 Cor.1:13). "Feed My sheep". Wherefore "wolfish robbers, wolfish oppressors, deceitful teachers and mercenaries, not being concerned about the flock" (Mt.7:15; Acts 20:29; 2 Pet 2:1; John 10:12), having plundered a strange flock and making of the spoils as though it be of their own particular gain, they think that they feed their flock. Such are not good pastors, as pastors of the Lord. "The good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep" (John 10:11), entrusted to Him by the chief Shepherd Himself (1 Pet 5:4). And the Apostle Peter, true to his calling, gave his soul for the very flock of Christ, having sealed his apostleship by a martyr's death, is now glorified throughout all the world.

The Apostle Paul, formerly Saul, was changed from a robbing wolf into a meek lamb. Formerly he was an enemy of the Church, then is manifest as an Apostle. Formerly he stalked it, then preached it. Having received from the high priests the authority at large to throw all Christians in chains for execution, he was already on the way, he breathed out "threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord" (Acts 9:1), he thirsted for blood, but "He that dwells in the Heavens shall laugh him to scorn" (Ps 2:4). When he, "having persecuted and vexed" in such manner "the Church of God" (1 Cor.15:9; Acts 8:5), he came near Damascus, and the Lord from Heaven called to him: "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?" and I am here, and I am there, I am everywhere: here is My head; there is My body. There becomes nothing of a surprise in this; we

ourselves are members of the Body of Christ. "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me; it is hard for thee to kick against the goad" (Acts 9:4–5). Saul, however, "trembling and frightened", cried out: "Who art Thou, Lord?" The Lord answered him, "I am Jesus Whom thou persecutest."

And Saul suddenly undergoes a change: "What wantest Thou me to do?" — he cries out. And suddenly for him there is the Voice: "Arise, and go to the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do" (Acts 9:6). Here the Lord sends Ananias: "Arise and go into the street" to a man, "by the name of Saul," and baptize him, "for this one is a chosen vessel unto Me, to bear My name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel" (Acts 9: 11, 15, 18). This vessel must be filled with My Grace. "Ananias, however, answered: Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he hath done to Thy saints in Jerusalem: and here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Thy Name" (Acts 9:13–14). But the Lord urgently commands Ananias: "Search for and fetch him, for this vessel is chosen by Me: for I shall show him what great things he must suffer for My name's sake" (Acts 9:11, 15–16).

And actually the Lord did show the Apostle Paul what things he had to suffer for His Name. He instructed him the deeds; He did not stop at the chains, the fetters, the prisons and shipwrecks; He Himself felt for him in his sufferings, He Himself guided him towards this day. On a single day the memory of the sufferings of both these Apostles is celebrated, though they suffered on separate days, but by the spirit and the closeness of their suffering they constitute one. Peter went first, and Paul followed soon after him. Formerly called Saul, and then Paul, having transformed his pride into humility. His very name (Paulus), meaning "small, little, less," demonstrates this. What is the Apostle Paul after this? Ask him, and he himself gives answer to this: "I am," says he, "the least of the Apostles... but I have labored more abundantly than all of them: yet not I, but the grace of God, which was with me" (1 Cor.15:9–10).

And so, brethren, celebrating now the memory of the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, remembering their venerable sufferings, we esteem their true faith and holy life, we esteem the innocence of their sufferings and pure confession. Loving in them the sublime quality and imitating them by great exploits, "in which to be likened to them" (2 Thess 3: 5–9), and we shall attain to that eternal bliss which is prepared for all the saints. The path of our life before was more grievous, thornier, harder, but "we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses" (Heb 12: 1), having passed by along it, made now for us easier, and lighter, and more readily passable. First there passed along it "the author and finisher of our faith," our Lord Jesus Christ Himself (Heb 12: 2); His daring Apostles followed after Him; then the martyrs, children, women, virgins and a great multitude of witnesses. Who acted in them and helped them on this path? He Who said, "Without Me ye can do nothing" (John 15: 5). ✠

Weekly Schedule

Sunday June 24

4th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Honoring of Graduates

Monday June 25

Tuesday June 26

Wednesday June 27

Thursday June 28

6:00 PM Vespers at Ss. Peter & Paul (Lorain)

7:00 PM Vespers at Ss. Peter & Paul (Lakewood)

Friday June 29

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy at Ss. Peter & Paul (Lorain)

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy at Ss. Peter & Paul (Lakewood)

Saturday June 30

4:00 PM Vespers at Ss. Peter & Paul (Lakewood)

5:30 PM 90th Anniversary Banquet at Ss. Peter & Paul (Lakewood)

6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday July 1

5th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

"Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof not by constraint, but willingly: not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind: neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock." (1 Pet. 5:2-3).



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