

Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



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- Reader Julius Kovach,
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- Reader Paul Pangrace,
Ambo Editor

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

* AMBO: Articles for publication should be submitted to: sttheocemetery@yahoo.com by Wednesday of each week before noon.

* CALENDAR: Event dates must be submitted by the 15th of each month.

JUNE 26, 2016
ALL SAINTS
SUNDAY

HOLY APOSTLES PETER & PAUL



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 the 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 whatsoever 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? 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” (1Cor.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).

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 26

June 26 Heb. 11:33-12:2
Matt. 10:32-33,37-18;
19:27-30

June 28 Rom. 4:4-12
Matt. 7:15-21

July 1 Rom. 5:17-6:2
Matt. 9:14-17

June 27 Rom. 2:28-3:18
Matt. 6:31-34; 7:9-11

June 29 Rom. 4:13-25
Matt. 7:21-23

July 2 Rom. 3:19-26
Matt. 7:1-8

June 30 Rom. 5:10-16
Matt. 8:23-27

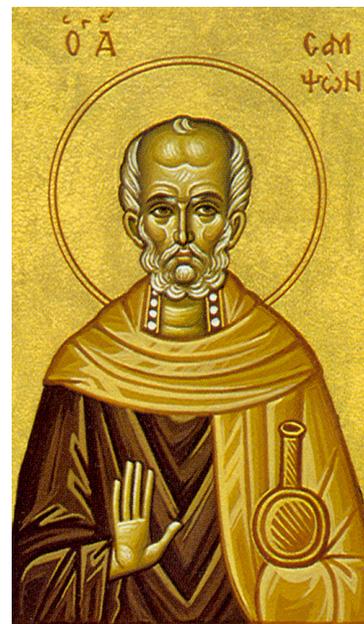


**Congratulations to the 2016
Recipients of the Ernest &
Marie Maty Scholarships**

**Elizabeth Antonik
Michael Byndas
Mara Zolikoff**

Saint Sampson the Hospitable was the son of rich and illustrious Roman parents. In his youth he received an excellent education, he studied the medical arts, and doctored the sick without charge. After the death of his parents St Sampson generously distributed alms and set his slaves free, preparing himself to go into the wilderness.

With this intent in mind he soon journeyed from Rome to the East. But the Lord directed him onto a different path, that of service to neighbor, and so St Sampson came to Constantinople. Settling into a small house, the saint began to take in homeless wanderers, the poor and the sick, and he attended to them. The Lord blessed the efforts of St Sampson and endowed him with the power of wonderworking. He healed the sick not only through being a skilled physician, but also as a bearer of the grace of God. News of St Sampson spread abroad. The patriarch heard of his great virtue and ordained him to the holy priesthood.



It was revealed to the grievously ill Emperor Justinian (527-565), that he could receive healing only through St Sampson. In praying, the saint put his hand on the afflicted area, and Justinian was healed. In gratitude the emperor wanted to reward his healer with silver and gold, but the saint refused and instead asked Justinian to build a home for the poor and the sick. The emperor readily fulfilled his request.

St Sampson devoted the rest of his life to serving his neighbor. He survived into old age and after a short illness he departed peacefully to the Lord. The saint was buried at the church of the holy Martyr Mocius, and many healings were effected at his grave. His hospice remained open, and the saint did not cease to care for the suffering. He appeared twice to a negligent worker of the hospice and upbraided him for his laziness. At the request of an admirer of St Sampson the hospice was transformed into a church, and beside it a new edifice was built for the homeless. During the time of a powerful fire at Constantinople the flames did not touch the hospice of St Sampson. Through his intercession a heavy rain quenched the fire.

*Thank
you*

A close-up image of a fountain pen nib, showing the gold-colored metal and the black ink reservoir.

I wish to thank everyone who committed their time and "elbow grease" to the cleaning of St. Vladimir camp. Additionally we appreciate the generous donations from those unable to be with us last Saturday. Your continuing efforts and thoughtfulness are essential to the growth and development of our Orthodox Christian camping program as we begin our sixth decade of service to the children.

Leon Sheean, Administrator



PRAYER REQUESTS

Departed:

Valerie Rolls (*Fr. John's cousin*)
06-14-16

Donna Pelton
06-16-16

Predrag Mirolovich (*Fr. Svetislav's brother*)
06-16-16

Lawrence Moriak (*Bishop Matthias's father*)
06-17-16

Ill Afflicted & Special Intentions:

Matushka Catherine Jula
Archpriest Theodore Bobosh
Mary Michael
Iris Agin (*friend of Paul Pangrace*)
Judith Allgire (*friend of Sonia Vorell*)
Betty Balasz
David C. Baringer (*friend of Karen Felon*)
Judy Baughman
Christopher Baymiller (*friend of Paul Pangrace*)
Paula Baymiller (*friend of Paul Pangrace*)
Karen Beech (*friend of Jerry Czajkowski & Arlene Neale*)
Tony Boccheccio
Carol Bohurjak
Margaret Brooks (*friend of Steve Rusnak*)
Christopher Byndas
Julie Byndas

Elsie Conrad
John Conrad
Jerry Czajkowski
Metodije Damljanovic (*Child*)
Horia Dascalescu (*Lavinia Morris's brother*)
Cindy Durkalski
Nadine Ellis
Nashwa Fam
Dorothy Fowler
Gayle Franks (*Judy Schwind's cousin*)
Roger Haupt (*Lisa Theodore's cousin*)
Janet Hennig (*friend of Judy Schwind*)
Sandee Holod
Matthew Hunley (*Phyllis Gindlesperger's brother-in-law*)
Donna Jacak
Victor Jacak
Kevin Jackam (*Sonia Vorell's cousin*)
Patrick Jacobson (*friend of Paul Pangrace*)
Joy Jahans (*friend of Paul Pangrace*)
Stephen Jahans (*friend of Paul Pangrace*)
Diane Kearsy (*Janice Tkacz's sister*)
Maher Khalil
Thomas Khalil
Frances Kovalski (*friend of Paul Pangrace*)
John Kovalski (*friend of Paul Pangrace*)
Dorothy Laskovich
Joseph Laskowski (*Dorothy Laskovich's nephew*)

Jethro Miles
Paul Mihal
Anna Mysiw (*friend and neighbor of Helen Antonik*)
Andy Mytrohovich
Lydia Mytrohovich
Maude Palumbo (*Michelle Rajisch's mother*)
Debra Parhamovich (*Karen Felon's sister*)
Grace Parhamovich (*Karen Felon's mother*)
Cindy Powkowski
Cheryl Regrut (*Deb Ellis's sister-in-law*)
Dorothy Romig
Julia Sankovic (*Child*)
Debbie Seguin (*friend of Leon Felon*)
Elaine Sudnick (*Joy Pfeiffer's mother*)
Janice Tkacz
Elisabeth Wright (*friend of Paul Pangrace*)
Erin Zawolowycz
Elizabeth Zimmerman
Peter Zimmerman
Theodore Zolikoff (*Nick Zolikoff's father*)
Alice Zdinak (*Fr. John's Mother*)

Emilee McPhillips (*Wayne & Gayle Vidovich's niece*) &
Unborn Children

Matt & Loren Finnerty (*James & Kathy Spickler's daughter*) &
Unborn Child

Welcome Visitors

Our parish welcomes you and thanks you for joining us at today's Divine Liturgy. While only Orthodox Christians may approach the chalice for Holy Communion, everyone is welcome to partake of the Holy Bread after Liturgy. You are also invited to join us for fellowship in the Parish Hall following Liturgy.

COFFEE HOUR & GREETERS SCHEDULES

Coffee Hour:

6/26/16	Michael Tabeling & Michael Udell
7/3/16	Wayne & Gayle Vidovich
7/10/16	Joy & David Pfeiffer
7/17/16	Joyce Tabeling & Judy Schwind
7/24/16	Nick & Kate Zolikoff
7/31/16	Cathy Weber & Mat. Jenn Boerio
8/7/16	Mat. Cindy Zdinak & The Van Sickles

Greeters:

Igor Gajewsky & Paul Pangrace
Tammy & Eva Ponomarenko
Nina & Elizabeth Antonik
Karen Felon & Virginia Medvec
Linda Smotzer & Sonia Vorell
Michael Tabeling & Paul Pangrace
Nina & Elizabeth Antonik



GOD'S GIFTS TO US - OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Weekly expenses:	\$ 6,538.00
Last week's collection	<u>\$ 3,165.00</u>
Over/Under	< \$ 3,373.00 >

FOOD PANTRY

Our Food Pantry ministry continues through Merrick House. They currently use the bags in their Moms First program. We can always use your help by "sponsoring a bag". Envelopes are in the foyer, \$10 fills a bag. Thank you and God bless you for helping those in need. - Dan Morris



Dome Lighters

Donations to offset the cost of lighting the domes can be made for *The Health Of* or *In Memory Of* your loved ones. Contact the Parish Office if you are interested.

For the entire 2016 year:

In loving memory of Olga Fritskey
from John & Ruth Fritskey

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

2016

Sunday, June 26
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY
VEN. DAVID
OF THESSALONCIA
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Monday, June 27
VEN. SAMPSON,
THE HOSPITABLE
ST. JOANNA
THE MYRRHBEARER

Tuesday, June 28
REL. VEN. CYRUS & JOHN
VEN. SERGIUS & HERMAN
OF VALAAM

Wednesday, June 29
HOLY APOSTLES
PETER AND PAUL



JUNE
Special Collection
ST. HERMAN'S



Thursday, June 30
SYNAXIS OF THE
TWELVE APOSTLES

Friday, July 1
UNMERCENARY
WONDERWORKERS
COSMAS AND DAMIAN

Saturday, July 2
ROBE OF THE THEOTOKOS
ST. JOHN, BP. OF SHANGHAI
AND SAN FRANCISCO
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, July 3
ALL SAINTS OF AMERICA
ALL SAINTS OF RUSSIA
MARTYR HYANCINTH
RELICS Hieromartyr Philip,
Metropolite of Moscow
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy



St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral
733 Starkweather Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

JUNE - JULY