

# ICHC NTKA SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America  
Church: 305 Main Road, Herkimer, New York, 13350  
Archpriest John Udics, Rector • 315-866-3272 • e-mail: john.udics@gmail.com  
Parish Web Page: www.cnyorthodoxchurch.org

## ***Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory to God for all things!***

**February 20, 2011 Sunday of the Prodigal Son**

February 26 Saturday

February 27 Sunday of the Last Judgment – Meat Fare

**Divine Liturgy 9:30 am**

Great Vespers 4:00 pm

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

**Fasting this week:** Wednesday and Friday. Next Sunday, Meat Fare, is the last day to eat meat until Pascha.

**Saints of the Day:** Venerable Leo, Bishop of Catania in Sicily (ca. 780). Abbot Macarius and 34 monks and novices of Valaam Monastery martyred by the Lutherans: Hieromonk Titus, Schemamonk Tikhon, Monks Gelasius, Sergius, Varlaam, Sabbas, Conon, Silvester, Cyprian, Pimen, John, Simonas, Jonah, David, Cornelius, Niphon, Athanasius, and Serapion, and Novices Varlaam, Athanasius, Anthony, Luke, Leontius, Thomas, Dionysius, Philip, Ignatius, Basil, Pachomius, Basil, Theophilus, John, Theodore, and John (1578). New Hieromartyr Priest Nicholas (1938). Saint Yaroslav the Wise (1054). Venerable Agatho, Wonderworker of the Kiev Caves (13-14 c.). Beheading of Venerable Cornelius, Abbot of the Pskov Caves (1570), and his disciple Saint Bassian of Murom. Hieromartyr Sadoc (Sadoth), Bishop of Persia, and 128 Martyrs with him (342). Venerable Agatho, Pope of Rome (682). Venerable Bessarion the Great, Wonderworker of Egypt (466). Saint Cindeus, Bishop of Pisidia. Hieromartyr Eleutherius, Bishop in Byzantium (2 c.). Saint Eleutherius, Bishop of Tournai (531). Saint Eucherius, Bishop of Orleans (740). Saint Bolcan (Olcan), Bishop of Derken, Ireland. Venerable Abbot Colgan of Clonmacnoise. Saint Mildred of Thanet, Abbess of Minster, England.

**God Grant Many Years!** Prayers for the health of Michael Soroka were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

+ **Memory Eternal.** Ninth Day Prayers for the repose of the soul of newly-departed grandmother Jadwiga were offered today at Liturgy and at Litiya at the request of Andrei and Alexander Drozdoff.

+ **Memory Eternal.** Ninth Day Prayers for the repose of the soul of newly departed Michael Makara (91) were offered today at Liturgy and at Litiya at the request of sister Helen Makara Riley.

+ **Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of the soul of newly departed Michael Sterzin were offered today at Liturgy and at Litiya at the request of John Elnicky and family.

+ **Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of the soul of Anthony Ptasznik were offered today at Liturgy and at Litiya at the request of Vera Keblish.

+ **Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of the soul of Cornelius Mamrosch were offered today at Liturgy and at Litiya at the request of Martha Mamrosch and family.

+ **Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of the soul of Mary Mezich were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of family.

+ **Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of the souls of Matushka Mildred Soroka and Theodore Bacha were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of Father John Udics.

+ **Please remember in your prayers:** newly-departed Michael, Jadwiga, Michael and Tamara.

**Please remember in your prayers:** Susan, Ada, Don, Rea, Daniel, Aaron, Archpriest Jason, Mark, Jennifer, Nina, Priest Sergius, Nadine, Helen, Anna, Thomas, Archpriest Vincent, Mother Raphaela, John, Catherine, Ron, Albert, Michael, Gregory, Emma, Cathy, John, Mykola, Dan, Wayne, Nina, Dan, Isaiah, Robert, Robert, Kevin, Andrew, David, Warren, Michael, Archimandrite Isidore, Archimandrite Pachomy.

**A tragedy occurred at Saint Luke Ukrainian Orthodox Church** in Warners, NY. On February 14, the roof of the parish social center caved in. Damage to the building is extensive. According to the Parish Board Vice President Peter Tymchenko, as it was related to CNY Central news agency, he arrived at the church at about 1:00 p.m. in advance of work crews who would have cleared the snow from the roof. He says he was inside the building when he saw chunks of insulation falling from the ceiling. Mr. Tymchenko says he then heard creaking and a loud crash. It is fortunate the collapse did not happen the day before, when the hall would have been full of parishioners. A special fund has been established to assist the parish in covering the expenses not covered by their insurance policy. Please, consider assisting Saint Luke Ukrainian Orthodox parish in Warners, NY in their time of need by sending your generous donations to: Saint Luke's Fund, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, PO Box 495, South Bound Brook, NJ 08880

**The Sunday of the Prodigal Son** (Gospel reading: Luke 15:11-32). The parable of the Prodigal forms an exact ikon of repentance in its different stages. Sin is exile, enslavement to strangers, hunger. Repentance is the return from exile to our true home; it is to receive back our inheritance and freedom in the Father's house. But repentance implies action: 'I will rise up and go...' (verse 18). To repent is not just to feel dissatisfied, but to take a decision and to act upon it.

On this and the next two Sundays, after the solemn and joyful words of the Polyeleos at Mattins, we add the sorrowful verses of Psalm 136, 'By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept...' This Psalm of exile, sung by

the children of Israel in their Babylonian captivity, has a special appropriateness on the Sunday of the Prodigal, when we call to mind our present exile in sin and make the resolve to return home.

### **Lenten Synaxarion: Sunday of the Prodigal Son**

*If anyone be a prodigal as I, take courage and turn back; for the gates of God's mercies are opened to all.*

On this day we celebrate the Sunday of the Prodigal Son, dedicated as the second service of the Triodion by the divine Fathers for the following reason. There are some who recognize much in themselves that is unbecoming, who live a life of great dissipation from their youth, whose lives are full of drunkenness and immorality, who having fallen thus into the depths of evil, become despondent, giving birth to pride, from whence they have no desire to advance to any of the virtues, preferring their bondage to evil and falling ever deeper into evil. Having a fatherly love for even these individuals, and desiring to lead them out of their despair, the Holy Fathers prescribed this parable for the second preparatory Sunday in order to tear up the passion of despair by the roots, to lead them to acceptance of the virtues, and to demonstrate to sinners the abundance of God's compassion upon sinners and prodigals in His great goodness and love for mankind. For there is no sin which cannot be overcome by the knowledge of His love for mankind, and this is what is presented in this parable of Christ.

Now the sons of man, that is of the Word, God and Man, are two: the righteous and the sinful. It is the eldest who abides ever in God's blessings, following His commandments and remaining always by Him. But the younger son, having become attached to sin and renouncing his closeness to God through shameful deeds, has wasted God's love for mankind and for him and has lived as a prodigal. For having completely rejected Him after whose image he was created, and having followed an evil demon, willingly enslaving himself to this demon's pleasure, he was unable to fulfill his desire. For sin is an unsatisfying thing that becomes an habitual source of temporary pleasure. It may be compared to the husks that are fed to swine. At first it seems that they might be something tasty, but they turn out to be very dry and are much like weeds, which is how sin takes possession. For the Prodigal Son had hardly come to his senses when, perishing from hunger for virtue, he comes to his father, saying, "Father, I have sinned before heaven and before thee, and I am not worthy to be called thy son." Yet the father receives him in repentance, not reproaching him, but embracing him and kissing him in a display of divine and fatherly love. And he clothes him, a symbol of baptism, putting a ring on his finger, a symbol of the grace of the all-Holy Spirit. He also puts sandals on his feet, not so much as a protection from some serpent or scorpion that might sting him on his path to God, but rather as a means of crushing the heads of those creatures. And then in a tremendous display of joy he slaughters the fatted calf for him, his only-begotten Son, and the Father grants him communion of his body and blood. Now the elder son expresses his amazement at his father's limitless mercy. But the lover of mankind exhorts him to silence with loving and kind words of humility, saying, "Thou art ever with me, and it was meet that we should make merry and be glad, for my son was formerly dead in his sin and is alive again, having repented of the foolish things he has done. He was lost, since he was far from me in his licentious habits, and he was found by me, suffering in my compassion and calling him back in my mercy." This parable may be applied to us as well, which is why the holy Fathers have prescribed it for today. We who have sinned as the prodigal are encouraged to weed out despair and fear through repentance, confession and good deeds. For this is a great aid and a powerful weapon against the assaults of the adversary.

In Thine ineffable love for mankind, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

Translated from Triodion, siest' Tripesnets: Triod' Postnaya, Moscow, 1904, by Robert Parent.

**Saint Leo, Bishop of Catania, in Sicily** was famed for his benevolence and charity, and his Christian love for the poor and the vagrant. The Lord granted him the gifts of healing of various illnesses, and also working miracles. During the time Saint Leo was Bishop in Catania, there lived a certain magician named Heliodorus, who impressed people with his fake miracles. This fellow was originally a Christian, but then he secretly rejected Christ and became a servant of the devil. Saint Leo often urged Heliodorus to be done with his wicked deeds and return to God, but in vain. One time Heliodorus got so impudent that, having entered into the church where the bishop was celebrating Divine services, he by his sorcery sowed confusion and temptation there, trying to create a disturbance. Seeing the people beset by devils under the sorcerer's spell, Saint Leo realized, that the time of gentle persuasion had passed. He calmly emerged from the altar and, grabbing the magician by the neck with his omophorion, he led him out of the church into the city square. There he forced Heliodorus to own up to all his wicked deeds; he commanded a bonfire be built, and without flinching he jumped together with the sorcerer into the fire, while wearing his omophorion. Thus they stood in the fire, until Heliodorus got burnt, while by the power of God Saint Leo remained unharmed. This miracle while still during his lifetime brought Saint Leo renown. When he died, at his grave a woman with issue of blood received healing. The body of the saint was placed in a church of the holy Martyress Lucy, which he himself had built, and later on his relics were transferred into a church of Sainted Martin the Merciful, Bishop of Tours (commem. October 12).

### **Eggplant Caviar – Baklazhannaya Ikra - Баклажанная Икра**

Bake 1 large eggplant (2 pounds) at 425° for 30 minutes. Cool, scrape the interior from the peel and set aside. Cook 2 minced onions, 1 teaspoon chopped garlic and ½ cup chopped peppers in 6 tablespoons olive oil until tender. Add 4-5 chopped tomatoes, cook, uncovered, until done, or use canned tomatoes. Add eggplant: if the mixture is watery, simmer for a bit. Stir in 2 tablespoons lemon juice or vinegar, 1 teaspoon each finely chopped parsley, salt, pepper and sugar. Purée this mixture in a food processor or serve it chunky style. Spread cold or hot on rye bread. Spread cold over hot stuffed cabbage. Or, cube white-meat fish, coat in flour, fry briefly to seal in juices, then bake, covered with eggplant caviar. Matushka Olga's Version: add yellow squash, zucchini and minced hot peppers to cook with the onions, and a jar of capers at the end.