



NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the USA
Church: Corner of Belmont and Delmore Avenues, South Plainfield, New Jersey
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Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory to God for all things!

August 23, 2009	Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
August 29	Saturday	Great Vespers	5:00 pm
August 30	Celebration of the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of newly baptized Robert Culp, his parents Robert and Martha, his godparents and family, were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Matushka Margaret Kappanadze and Mary Ray, Bill Udics and John Mason were offered today on their birthdays at Liturgy and Moleben requested by Father John Udics.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Rachael Weigand were offered today for her birthday (8/26) at Liturgy and Moleben.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Ray Winnicki and Helen Haines were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Anita Anderson.

Memory Eternal. Anniversary prayers for the repose of the soul of the handmaid of God Ann Fedor were offered today at Liturgy and Parastas (on the 22nd) at the request of sister Helen Riley.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the soul of the newly-departed servant of God Mar Blackwell were offered August 16 at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of the Culp Family.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the souls of the servants of God Archpriest John Platko and Archpriest Eugene Vansuch were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of Archpriest John Udics.

Saints of the Day: Martyr Lupus (306), slave of Saint Demetrius of Thessalonica. New Hieromartyrs Ephraim, Bishop of Selenginsk (1918) and Archpriest John Vostorgov of Moscow (1918) and Martyr Nicholas. New Hieromartyrs Priests Paul and John (1937). Hieromartyr Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons (202). Venerables Eutychius (540) and Florentius (547) of Nursia. Saint Callinicus, Patriarch of Constantinople (705). Holy Martyr Ebba the Younger, Abbess of Coldingham, Northumbria, and her companions (870). 38 Martyrs of Thrace. Venerable Nicholas the Sicilian, who struggled on Mount Neotaka in Euboea. Hieromartyr Pothinus, Bishop of Lyons (177). Martyr Victor of Marseilles (3rd c.). Martyr Tydfil of Merthyr Tydfil. Saint Eugene, Bishop of Tyrone.

+ **Please remember in your prayers:** Archpriest Eugene Vansuch, Archpriest John Platko, Georges Barrois.
Please remember in your prayers: Archpriest Sergei, Helen, Peggy, Raymond, Dan, Peter, Metropolitan CONSTANTINE, Bishop NIKOLAI, Archimandrite Athanasy, Maximos, Sebastian, Archpriest Vincent, Priest Sergius, Mother Raphaela, Nadine, Thomas, Chresoula, Isaiah, *Also:* Dan and Eleanor, Misha, Joe, newly-baptized Robert and his family.

HOLY MARTYR TYDFIL OF GLAMORGAN died c. 480. Saint Tydfil, one of the daughters of the prolific Saint Brychan of Brecknock (f.d. April 6). She is venerated at Merthyr-Tydfil, Glamorgan, Wales, where she was killed by pagans (possibly either the marauding Picts or Saxons) and buried.

SAINT EUGENE, BISHOP OF TYRONE. (Also known as: Eogain, Eoghan, Euny, Owen) Born in Leinster, Ireland; died 618. Saint Eugene is another of the many Irishmen who laboured in the mission fields of England and the Continent. Thereafter he returned to Ireland, where he became the first bishop of Ardfrath (Ardstraw), on the river Derg in Tyrone, which is now the see of Derry. The rest of what we know derives from unreliable sources. These say that Eugene was an excellent and assiduous preacher, born of the royal blood of Leinster and related to Saint Kevin (f.d. June 3). They report that, like Saint Patrick (f.d. March 17) in reverse, he was kidnapped as a child and taken into slavery in Britain and then removed to Brittany with Saint Tigernach (f.d. April 4) and Coirpre (who later became bishop of Coleraine). Eventually they were manumitted by their master and all returned to Ireland. He then spent 15 years with Saint Kevin at Kilnamanacg, helped Tigernach found Clones Monastery about 576, and then was consecrated bishop c. 581. He was buried in his own churchyard, over whose sepulchre a chapel was afterward built. He is the patron of the diocese of Derry.

THE HOLY MARTYR LUPUS was a servant of Saint Demetrius the commander of Thessalonica. When Emperor Maximian beheaded Saint Demetrius, Lupus dipped the hem of his garment and his ring in the blood of the martyr. With this garment and ring, Lupus worked many miracles in Thessalonica, healing people of every pain and infirmity. Emperor Maximian, who was then still residing in Thessalonica, discovered this and ordered that Lupus be tortured and killed. However, the soldiers who took up weapons against Lupus turned against one another and severely wounded themselves. As he was not yet baptized, even though he was a Christian, Lupus prayed to God that He would somehow plan his baptism before his death. At that moment, rain unexpectedly fell from the clouds upon this holy martyr and thus he received baptism from on high. After great sufferings, Lupus was beheaded and took up habitation in the Kingdom of Heaven.

THE HIEROMARTYR POTHINUS, THE BISHOP OF LYON was sent by Saint Polycarp from Asia Minor to preach in Gaul [France]. He became the first bishop of Lyon and converted many pagans to Christianity. During the time of the persecution of the Christians in the year 177A.D., Pothinus was brought to trial: more correctly, he was carried [in the arms of others] for he was ninety years old. The Pro-consul asked him: "Who is the Christian God?" The aged Pothinus replied: "You will know if you become worthy of that." The pagans attacked him with canes and stones and beat him without mercy. Thrown into prison, Saint Pothinus died from the beatings two days later and took up habitation in the Kingdom of Heaven.

THE HIEROMARTYR IRENAEUS, THE BISHOP OF LYON. In his youth, Irenaeus was a disciple of Polycarp, who was a disciple of the apostles, who sent him to preach in Gaul. Following the martyrdom of Saint Pothinus, Irenaeus was installed as bishop. In his countless writings, Irenaeus at times defined the Orthodox Faith and, again at times, he defended it from heretics. Irenaeus was martyred and died for Christ at the time of Emperor Severus in the year 202 A.D. along with 19,000 Christians.

REFLECTION – by Saint Nikolai of Zhicha in “The Prologs from Ochrid”

“Mysterious is the power of the Cross no matter how unexplainable, it is true and indisputable. Yet, Saint John Chrysostom speaks of the custom of his time that the sign of the cross is attached "on the emperor's diadem, on the accouterments of the soldiers and tracing it on parts of the body: the head, the breast [chest] and the heart and also on the table of oblations and over beds." "If it is necessary to expel demons", says he, "we use the cross and it also helps to heal the sick." 'Saint Benedict made the sign of the cross over a glass which contained poison and the glass burst as though it were struck by a stone. Saint Julian made the sign of the cross over a glass of poison brought to him and drank the poison, but he did not feel any pain in his body. The Holy Martyr Basilissa of Nicomedia enveloped herself with the sign of the cross, stood amidst the flames and remained unharmed. The Holy Martyrs Audon and Senis crossed themselves when the wild beasts were released on them and the beasts became docile and meek as lambs. Among the ascetics of old, as it is today, the sign of the cross was the most powerful weapon against the temptations of the demons. The most horrible fears of the devil vanish into nothing, as smoke, when man traces the sign of the cross over himself. Thus, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself willed to the one time sign of crime and shame, the Cross, following His crucifixion on the wood of the cross, all victorious power and might.”

We say, in the hymns of the Church, that the Cross is an invincible weapon, that it is a shield for us. If it was such a powerful weapon for the saints in ages past, it is no less powerful for us today. The power of the cross is recognized even by those who do not possess the fullness of the faith – we see the cross tattooed on many people, we see it worn as jewelry, we see it in many places and forms. We ourselves use the sign of the cross almost instinctively – we cross ourselves before making a journey, when we are in trouble or danger, when we begin anything the outcome of which is questionable, when we are ill, when we pray for others. The power of the cross is not diminished because we're sinners, instead, it seems to shine even more brightly as a beacon, guiding us home, into the arms of our forgiving Father. The cross doesn't require high theology, it doesn't ask us questions, but directly and without hindrance helps us through whatever threat or danger. Remember this powerful weapon and make sure that it is always ready 'on the tips of your fingers.'

THANK YOU to Father David Garretson and Saints Peter and Paul Church, Orthodox Church in America, of South River, New Jersey, who have kindly loaned our parish a pyx – the Communion for the sick 'kit' of a tiny chalice, container for Holy Communion, spoon, space for a tiny bottle of wine and room for cotton-tipped wands for anointing the sick with oil. Our parish doesn't have a pyx - a necessary and important implement. God Bless the Pastor and Parishioners of Saints Peter and Paul Church!

FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

- **TODAY!** Ukrainian Folk Festival at the Trezub Center, Horsham, PA, from 12 pm. Adults \$15.
- **September 13, Sunday:** Nativity of the Virgin Church: our Parish's Name's Day dinner Pig Roast Picnic. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for children 8 – 15, and children under 8 are free. Tickets are available from: Andy Olear, 732-951-9134; Nadine Tirplak: 732-248-1119; and Chris Vakulchik: 732-424-8746. We must sell at least 40 tickets so please post flyers at your place of work, your social hangouts, bulletin boards and anyplace else you can think of, and pester all your friends and relatives until they agree to come. **PLEASE DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO BUY YOUR TICKETS!**

We understand that the price of this dinner may seem elevated to some. We would like to point out that this is a fundraiser for our parish, and we receive only a portion of this ticket price. We don't roast a pig very often! Also, please realize that the cost of living has gone up since 1950. Any good meal in a decent restaurant will cost at least \$25 per person (including tip) – our dinner is of greater value, as the food is as fresh as can be!

In order to keep costs down, we have to ask you to bring side dishes or make other little donations. BY NEXT SUNDAY please inform Anita Anderson of your plans to make side dishes for the Picnic – potato salad, green salad, bean salad, vegetables, soda (for 60 people), lemonade or juice, iced tea, coffee, desserts, a watermelon or fresh fruit tray or cantaloupe, and the condiments: mustard, ketchup, pickles, mustard, relish, paper plates, paper cups, large buckets to hold ice for cold drinks would also be welcome.

- **Saturday evenings:** Nativity of the Virgin Church: Great Vespers are now being held weekly on Saturday evening at 5:00 pm. It's a beautiful, peaceful service of prayer which prepares us for Sunday Liturgy. It's the appropriate time for Confessions and part of your prayerful preparation if you plan to receive Holy Communion. It's only about 40 minutes long. We are making booklets for the service.
- **For sale:** French fryer, dough sheeter and potato peeler. Contact Anita A.