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The Enlightener

SS. PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH



The Union of Heart, Mind, and Will

How to cultivate the peace of God within the soul

The cause of our inner chaos is the fragmentation of our inner natural powers. Our heart naturally yearns for God, our mind naturally desires to pray, and our will naturally desires to strive to do the gospel commandments. When our natural powers are used unnaturally, when they seek fulfillment in material or corruptible objects alone, then we experience inner strife and we lack peace. As St. Nicholai of Zicha beautifully says, "There is also another trinity in the inner heaven of man which should be, not only a unity, but a oneness so that man could be blessed in this world and in the other world. That is the union of the mind, heart and will. As long as these three are only in togetherness, man will be at war with himself and with the Heavenly Trinity. However, when these three become one, so that neither one rules and that neither one is enslaved, then man becomes filled with 'the peace of God that surpasses all understanding' (Philippians 4:7)."

Man naturally is to be one within himself as the Holy Trinity is one. This is the way to the peace of soul that we all naturally desire. How can we begin to work towards this aim? By directing our hearts to yearn for God, by guiding our minds, by the synergy of the Holy Spirit, to desire to pray, and by directing our will to love to do God's will. When all three powers are directed towards their natural desire in God, then we find peace. May this be for all of us, through the prayers of St. Nicholai of Zicha, Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on us and save us. Amen. Happy New Year to all! Fr. Ambrose

Upcoming Events & News

The Feast of Holy Theophany

January 5th and 6th. Come and celebrate the wonderful feast of the Theophany of our Lord! Royal Hours, Vespers Liturgy and the Greater Blessing of Waters. VIGIL on the eve of the 5th, and the Great Feast on the 6th.



The Blessing of Lake Oneida at St. Andrew's Camp

Join us on a pilgrimage to St. Andrew's Camp on the afternoon of January 6th at 2pm for a blessing of Lake Oneida, followed by a meal at Daria's house.



The Assembly of the Ice Skating Rink Has Begun!

Thanks to Reader John Dotterer, the assembly of the ice skating rink has begun. As compared to last year's, this one is larger. Now, all we need is the ice.



Foundation of Our Orthodox Faith Classes Will Begin On January 14th!

Starting Saturday, January 14th at 3:30pm, there will be a series of 9 classes for inquirers, catechumens, and the faithful who want to go deeper into the Orthodox Faith. All classes will be down in the parlor and on Zoom.



Exploration Meeting About a Hall Will Be on January 12th at 4:30pm

All who are interested in continuing to explore the possibilities of a hall, please come to this meeting, which will take place down in the parlor at 4:30pm on January 12th.



Woman's Evening In

Friday, January 13th at 6:30pm. Matushka Meghan will host this evening in the rectory. All women of all ages are invited! Both married and single.



Hospitality Team Meeting on January the 18th at 6:30pm

For those who went on the Pittsburgh trip and those who are on the Hospitality Team, we will have a meeting on January 18th, located to be determined, to discuss future ministry ideas and ways to improve our 2022 projects.



Family Outing: Horse Drawn Sleigh Ride at Highland Forest; Saturday, January 21st at Noon.

At Noon and 12:20pm we have sleigh rides scheduled for those who would like to come. \$10 per person; \$5 for ages 5 & under. Following the sleigh ride, we will all meet at the Truglia's house for a potluck lunch and hot chocolate.



Community Family Dinner: Monday, January 23rd - 4:30pm to 6pm

If you would like to help pick up recovered food from Panera or Syracuse University, please let Fr. Ambrose know. If you can help cook, or help interact with our guests, we would be most appreciated!





ST. NIKOLAI VELIMIROVICH

ON THE HOLY THEOPHANY

By St. Nikolai Velimirovich



When our Lord reached thirty years from His physical birth, He began His teaching and salvific work. He Himself signified this "beginning of the beginning" by His baptism in the Jordan river.

St. Cyril of Jerusalem says, "The beginning of the world - water; the beginning of the Good News - Jordan." At the time of the baptism of the Lord in water, that mystery was declared to the world: that mystery which was prophesied in the Old Testament; the mystery about which in ancient Egypt and India was only fabled; i.e., the mystery of the Divine Holy Trinity.

The Father was revealed to the sense of hearing; the Spirit was revealed to the sense of sight, and in addition to these, the Son was revealed to the sense of touch. The Father uttered His witness about the Son, the Son was baptized in the water, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove hovered above the water. When John the Baptist witnessed and said about Christ, "Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world" (John 1:29), and when John immersed and baptized the Lord in the Jordan, the mission of Christ in the world and the path of our salvation was shown. That is to say: The Lord took upon Himself the sins of mankind and died under them [immersion] and became alive again [the coming out of the water]; and we must die as the old sinful man and become alive again as cleansed, renewed and regenerated. This is the Savior and this is the path of salvation.

The Feast of the Epiphany [Theophany in Greek] is also called the Feast of Illumination. For us, the event in the Jordan river illuminates, by manifesting to us God as Trinity, consubstantial and undivided. That is one way. And, the second: everyone of us through baptism in water is illumined by this, that we become adopted by the Father of Lights through the merits of the Son and the power of the Holy Spirit.



HYMN OF PRAISE: THE HOLY TRINITY

O, Holy Lord, holy in creating,
All that You create by Your Word, by Your Spirit You consecrate.
O, Mighty Lord, mighty in suffering,
For the world You walk to Your death; for the world, You
resurrect.
Immortal Lord, in voice, we praise You;
Father, Son, Holy Spirit - God, have mercy on us!
The Father, Who appeared over Jordan as a Voice,
The Spirit, Who as a White Dove hovered,
The Son, Who by the Prophet John was baptized,
Three rays of light, one light shown,
The Trinity manifested, we praise You in voice:
Father, Son, Holy Spirit - God, have mercy on us!

On the Mystery of the Divine Trinity:

"For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on earth, the spirit and the water and the blood: and these three are together" (1 John 5: 7-8).

When we read Holy Scripture, we should be alert to keep an eye on every word. To the rapid reader, for example, this distinction which the Evangelist draws between the Heavenly Trinity and the earthly trinity will not become apparent. Concerning the Heavenly Trinity, he says, "And these three are one;" and concerning the earthly trinity, he says, "And these three are together." There is an enormous difference between "being one" and "being together." The Father, Son and the Holy Spirit are One, whereas the spirit, water and blood are only together and are not one. Even enemies could be together as one, but are not one. All the people on earth are together, but they are not one. Water and blood constitute the body and the spirit is the spirit. "For the flesh has desires against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh" (Galatians 5:17). However, they are not one, but they are still together. When man dies the union is broken apart and ceases to exist. Blood and water go to one side and the spirit goes to another side. Whereas the [Heavenly] Divine Trinity in the heavens not only are they together but they are also one.

There is also another trinity in the inner heaven of man which should be, not only a unity, but a oneness so that man could be blessed in this world and in the other world. That is the union of the mind, heart and will. As long as these three are only in togetherness, man will be at war with himself and with the Heavenly Trinity. However, when these three become one, so that neither one rules and that neither one is enslaved, then man becomes filled with "the peace of God that surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7), man's every word, every

explanation, every fear and every sorrow. Then the small heaven in man begins to resemble that great heaven of God, and the "image and likeness of God" becomes apparent in man.

O Triune God, help us to resemble, at least, those who resemble You. To You be glory and thanks always. Amen.

Quotes to Ponder:

The Church is ecumenical, catholic, God-human, ageless, and it is therefore a blasphemy—an unpardonable blasphemy against Christ and against the Holy Ghost—to turn the Church into a national institution, to narrow her down to petty, transient, time-bound aspirations and ways of doing things. Her purpose is beyond nationality, ecumenical, all-embracing: to unite all men in Christ, all without exception to nation or race or social strata. - St Justin Popovitch

Refuse to listen to the devil when he whispers to you: give me now, and you will give tomorrow to God. No, no! Spend all the hours of your life in a way pleasing to God; keep in your mind the thought that after the present hour you will not be given another and that you will have to render a strict account for every minute of this present hour.

+ From Unseen Warfare, St. Theophan the Recluse and St. Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain

In order that you may move your will more easily to this one desire, in everything—to please (God and to work for His glory alone—remind yourself often, that He has granted you many favours in the past and has shown you His love. He has created you out of nothing in His own likeness and image, and has made all other creatures your servants; He has delivered you from your slavery to the devil, sending down not one of the angels but His Only-begotten Son to redeem you, not at the price of corruptible gold and silver, but by His priceless blood and His most painful and degrading death. Having done all this He protects you, every hour and every moment, from your enemies; He fights your battles by His divine grace; in His immaculate Mysteries He prepares the Body and Blood of His beloved Son for your food and protection. All this is a sign of God's great favour and love for you; a favour so great that it is inconceivable how the great Lord of hosts could grant such favours to our nothingness and worthlessness.

+ From Unseen Warfare, St. Theophan the Recluse and St. Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain

January 2023

Note: If this calendar and The Weekly are different, assume The Weekly is the most accurate.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 8:15am Ridesharing ● 8:45am Holy Confessions ● 9am Choir Rehearsal ● 9:10am 3rd & 6th Hour ● 9:30am Divine Liturgy ● 11:15am Agape Meal 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food Pantry Delivery 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6pm Royal Hours 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9:30am Vespers Liturgy ● 10:30am Greater Blessing ● 5:30pm Theophany VIGIL ● 9pm Panera Pick Up 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Feast of Holy Theophany ● 9am Divine Liturgy ● 2pm Blessing of the Lake 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5pm Great Vespers ● 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal 	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 8:15am Ridesharing ● 8:45am Holy Confessions ● 9am Choir Rehearsal ● 9:10am 3rd & 6th Hour ● 9:30am Divine Liturgy ● 11:15am Agape Meal 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food Pantry Delivery 	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 12pm Ladies Lunch ● 6pm Vespers 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Divine Liturgy ● 4:30pm 2023 Budget Mtg 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 4:30pm Hall Mtg ● 9pm Panera Pick Up 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Panera Processing ● 6:30pm Women's Evening 	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3:30pm Foundations 3 ● 5pm Great Vespers ● 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal
<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 8:15am Ridesharing ● 8:45am Holy Confessions ● 9am Choir Rehearsal ● 9:10am 3rd & 6th Hour ● 9:30am Divine Liturgy ● 11:15am Agape Meal ● 12:30pm Parish Council 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food Pantry Delivery ● 9pm Food Recovery (SU) 	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Proshora Baking ● 6pm Vespers 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Divine Liturgy ● 6:30pm Book Club ● 7pm Hospitality Mtg 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9pm Panera Pick Up ● 9pm Food Recovery (SU) 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Panera Processing 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 12pm Family Outing ● 5pm Great Vespers ● 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal
<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 8:15am Ridesharing ● 8:45am Holy Confessions ● 9am Choir Rehearsal ● 9:10am 3rd & 6th Hour ● 9:30am Divine Liturgy ● 11:15am Agape Meal 	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food Pantry Delivery ● 4:30pm Family Dinner (Cf) ● 9pm Food Recovery (SU) 	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6pm Vespers 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gregory the Theologian ● 9am Divine Liturgy 	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9pm Panera Pick Up ● 9pm Food Recovery (SU) 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Panera Processing 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3:30pm Foundations 3 ● 5pm Great Vespers ● 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal
<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 8:15am Ridesharing ● 8:45am Holy Confessions ● 9am Choir Rehearsal ● 9:10am 3rd & 6th Hour ● 9:30am Divine Liturgy ● 11:15am Agape Meal 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Divine Liturgy ● 9pm Food Recovery (SU) 	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5:30pm VIGIL 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Feast of the Meeting ● 9am Divine Liturgy ● 9pm Panera Pick Up ● 9pm Food Recovery (SU) 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Panera Processing 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 50th Anniv. Event ● 3:30pm Foundations 3 ● 5pm Great Vespers ● 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal 	<p>4</p>