

**THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**  
*St. Peter & St. Paul Orthodox Church*  
**Orthodox Church in America**  
 6980 S. County Line Road—Burr Ridge, IL 60527  
 Fr. Herman Kincaid, Rector



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Produced by the adjunct committee on Evangelization, Outreach and Parish Stewardship (EOPS). Our hope is to concentrate on information, people and events. Information should be given to Shirley Bryar, Dorothy Koncel, or Fr. Herman. Back copies of all Newsletters can be viewed in our library. *This issue can be viewed on our website in color.*

**SUMMER 2014**

**Transfiguration (August 6)**



*On the Mountain You were Transfigured, O Christ God, and Your disciples beheld Your glory as far as they could see it; so that when they would behold You crucified, they would understand that Your suffering was voluntary, and would proclaim to the world, that You are truly the Radiance of the Father! (Kontakion for Feast of Transfiguration)*

The beautiful feast of our Lord's Transfiguration on Mount Tabor (August 6) is one of the Church's 12 great feasts and teaches us a great deal about our relationship with God. The biblical account of the Transfiguration, where He revealed His divine glory to Peter, James and John, is presented in three of the four gospels: Matthew, Mark and Luke. This feast marks the climax of our Lord's public ministry in all three gospels. Following His Transfiguration, our Lord enters into His Passion and Resurrection. Our Lord desired to show to Peter, James and John (and us) that He is fully God and the promised Messiah Who has come to save us. Since Jesus is the Son of God, as the kontakion above teaches us, His crucifixion is voluntary. Our loving Lord lays down His life for us and our salvation.

The Old Testament gives us the pattern of man meeting God upon a mountain. We are reminded of Moses ascending Mount Sinai, the Prophet Elijah waiting in the cleft of a mountain and our Lord Himself ascending a mountain to pray. In order to be in God's presence, man needed to physically ascend to God. This pattern of ascent is now changed by our Lord's coming in the flesh. We no longer need to physically ascend a geographic place to see God – Christ is with us fully where we exist. (As we proclaim at the compline service: "God is with us, understand this all nations and submit yourselves, for God is with us!") Our task as Christians is to ascend the Cross with Christ, to ascend to Him with true humility. We need to ascend to God in our hearts and within our relationship with Him so that we may see Him in glory, as Peter, James and John (and countless saints after them) has seen Him.

As I stated in my sermon the Sunday after this feast, I would rather ascend a physical mountain than dive into the sinful abyss of my heart. Give me the time and place to meet God and I'll try my best to reach Him. That is, however, not what God desires. To truly know God within a loving relationship, we need to strive toward His perfect humility. This requires a constant reflection on our part of how often we "miss the mark", that is, sin in our lives, to constantly guard our hearts and root out of them evil thoughts. "Lord, this is where I have failed today, have mercy on me. Give me the strength to transform (transfigure) my life into the holy life You desire, a life that is one with You." May our Lord, Who has laid down His life for us, grant us the power to examine our hearts, ascend His Cross daily and draw into a fuller experience of His divine love!

*Fr. Herman Kincaid*



One of the 12 Great Feasts of Eastern Orthodoxy. Jesus and 3 of his apostles go up a mountain (Mount Tabor, also known as Mount Transfiguration). Jesus begins to shine with bright rays of light. Then Moses and Elijah appear and he speaks to them. Jesus is called "Son" by a voice in the sky. What is unique here is that this miracle happens to Jesus himself.

This icon was painted, or as some say written by Theophanes the Greek, A Byzantine genius and one of the greatest painters of Moscovite Russia and he was noted as an influence on the great Russian iconographer Andrei Rublev. Theophanes had the ability to convey conflicts of the inner soul.

CHAPLAIN KINCAID BLESSES WATERCRAFT



Blessing of watercraft was held on May 25. Navy Chaplain Kincaid shown blessing a United States Coast Guard vessel in our church parking lot. In attendance was parishioner Duke Jovanovich, a Coast Guard Division Commander, his squad, and their mascot, " Officer Snook".



We had perfect weather for our Easter celebration this year and were able to walk around our church grounds. Thank you Fr. Herman for all the wonderful lenten services too.



On may 18, 2014, Paul Gurnic was awarded the Alpha-Omega award by Fr. Herman Kincaid. This was the final of three awards that could be earned at the Boy Scout level in the Eastern Orthodox religious growth program.

Paul began working with Fr. Herman during the summer of 2013 to fulfill the requirements, which were divided into three sections. Each section had subsections concentrating on personal life, parish life and community life. To fulfill the personal life requirements, Paul was required to read scripture daily throughout the program, discussing the differences of the Gospels of Sts. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John with Fr. Herman. He also developed a regular program for morning and evening prayers. Additional requirements included learning the Trisagion Prayers, the Nicene Creed and to explain the importance and meaning of the Holy Eucharist, as well as thirteen different feast days of the Orthodox Church.

To fulfill the parish life requirements, Paul discussed the differences between the three most commonly celebrated Liturgies, as well as the three main parts of the Divine Liturgy. He explained the Seven Sacraments and learned about the vestments of the bishop, priest and deacon, as well as the church articles used in preparing and administering some Sacraments.

The community life sections required Paul to participate in service projects for both his church community as well as his secular community. He was busy distributing food for St. Scholastica at Thanksgiving, helping with coffee hour, trimming the shrubbery around the parish mailbox, learning how to bake Prosfora with Matushka Jessica and continuing to read the beginning Hours and participating in services as an altar server.

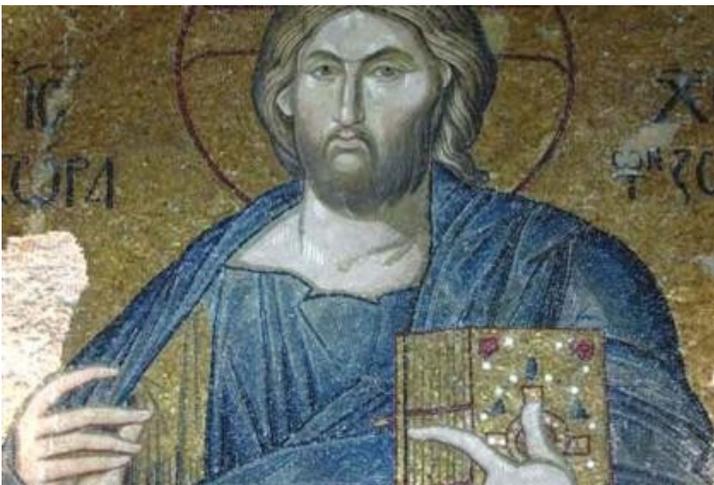
Paul earned the first award, St. George, in 2009. He earned the second award, Chi-Rho, in 2011. These awards allow Paul to wear the religious knot on his scout uniform. He may wear this knot through adulthood. Congratulations, Paul, job well done.

Thanks to Leah Gurnic

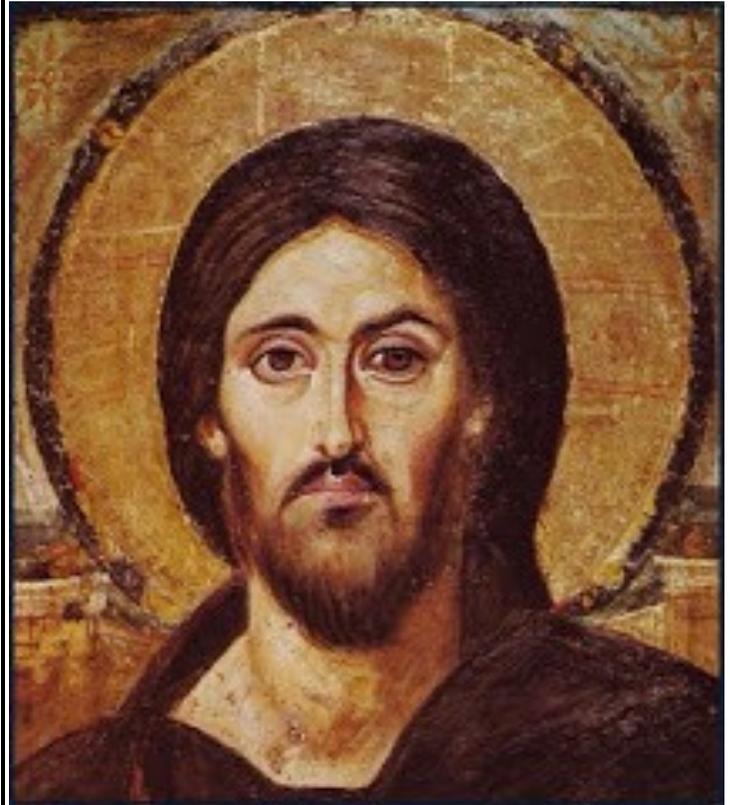
## ANCIENT ORTHODOX TREASURES



The above photo shows a detail from a mosaic at Hagia Sophia, our former Cathedral, now a museum in Istanbul, Turkey. Note the emotional realism of the eyes.



Another fragment of a mosaic, also in Istanbul, but this is at the Church of Chora, or Kariye Camii, now also a museum. The eyes in both of these mosaic depictions of Christ seem to look at you, through you, and beyond.



Here we have an encaustic (a technique of painting where powdered color is mixed into hot wax.). This icon was saved from destruction during the Iconoclast period (726-843) probably because it existed in the Sinai at St. Catherine's Monastery. A cleaning of the icon in 1962 revealed its age to be earlier than the 6th or 7th C. When you see this icon in person, it looks brand new and not like one of the oldest icons in the world.

The striking asymmetry of the eyes, the arching of the brows, the treatment of the mustache, and the combing of the hair command your attention.

Some say that having a different focus of each eye represents both the humanity and divinity of Jesus, also a dual perspective, finite and infinity. The eyes focus on two different worlds seen and unseen.

These ancient Eastern Orthodox treasures were created by master artists who had a unique story to tell. Of course, all our icons are special, each with its own story to tell.

## OCA NEWS

Archpriest Paul Gassios has been appointed Diocesan Administrator and has relocated to Chicago on August 1, 2014.

Archimandrite David Mahaffey was consecrated Bishop of the Diocese of Sitka and Alaska on Feb. 21, 2014. He is a graduate of St. Tikhon's Seminary and served in western Pennsylvania.

The Holy Synod elected Bishop Mark (Maymon) to the Eastern Pa. Diocese on March 18, 2014. He was consecrated to the Episcopacy in Damascus, Syria in 2004 and received into the OCA in 2011. Fr. Myron Manzuk of St. Panteleimon Church retired. His farewell party was given at the church's Annual Patronal Lamb dinner on 7-27-14. Fr. Andrew Bartek will take his place.

## MEET THE MULCHERS

Over a dozen volunteers braved cool and damp weather to help spread the donated mulch on our church grounds. This group, including Fr. Herman, volunteered for the strenuous job of distributing the free mulch we received thanks to Duke Jovanovich, and the use of the big tractor thanks to Mark Sauskojus. The others brought their own tools and muscles and worked on May 16 & 17. Thanks to all. It really looks great.



## EASTER, PASCHA, 2014



Fr. Herman blessed the red eggs, donated by our parishioners and then the "O" Club wrapped the eggs in net.



This was the "O" Club's first service project and they did a beautiful job. No more stained hands from the red dyed eggs and they looked like beautiful gifts.

This year's Agape meal was very special. We had everything considered "traditional" and so much more. One item not seen in our baskets before, but is traditionally served in homes at Easter is called "Pascha", a sweet cheese. Several parishioners brought theirs in flower pots. We will print the recipe in our Winter, 2015 issue.

Again we accidentally set off the fire alarm, but it was nice that police and fireman get to observe our rituals. The firemen also commented on the fact that we cleared all of the parishioners from the building. Also, as we were wrapping things up at 4 A.M., a recent newcomer to the neighborhood, saw the church lite-up and dashed in to find out if she could get her basket blessed at the next service, she could and she did. Also a miracle occurred between 4 A.M. and Agape Vespers at 12:00 P.M. on Easter Sunday. Our usually red carpet was almost white with wax pellets from all the candles used during our Midnight service, but red again when we arrived at noon. Who cleaned between 4 A.M. and noon? The Cleaning Crew didn't know. We asked Fr. Herman who did it, and he replied, "Angels."



Annual Kermesh Picnic St. Peter & St. Paul Name's Day, June 29, 2014  
This year the kids had a high water slip & slide.



Archbishop JOB Memorial Picnic  
Formally the Annual Quad Picnic  
The picnic was held on June 1, 2014. This year the kids had a piñata. Last year it rained. This year was perfect.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL  
The High School Graduates are:**

- Thomas Andrango,
- Nikki Diamantos,
- Catie Burke,
- Branden Schuster,
- Alex Smirnov,
- John Sutko.

At St. Tikhon's Seminary:  
Fr. Moses Hibbard, and  
Reader Alex Koranda.  
Alex also was wed to  
Carly Roscoe on July 13, 2014 at our church.

The College Graduate is:  
Marissa Koranda who graduated Cum Laude from  
Bradley University with a B.A. In Psychology. She is  
also a member of the International Honor Society  
in psychology and received the Excellence in  
Leadership Award.

Congratulations to Mike Palandech's  
granddaughters:  
Kelly Sesemann who graduated from Ohio State  
Veterinarian School with a DVM degree and she  
married Dr. Patrick Wensing on June 6, 2014.  
Emma Dashut who graduated from Notre Dame  
University on May 18 with a degree in Accounting.

David Belair, the son of Amy Belair, married Karen  
Hummel on July 12, 2014 in Indianapolis, IN.



May 18. Fr. Dn. John and 9 of the Youth Group  
went to Tivoli Bowl after church school.



May 25th. End of church school year, attendance  
awards, hot dog lunch and an outing to Sky Zone in  
Elmhurst for some trampoline fun!



Congratulations First Holy Confession Class  
Leah Demetzsky, Polina Seidel, Misha  
Evodokimov and Casey Treanor shown with their  
teacher Mona Bilas and Fr. Herman.



Memorial Day prayer service held at our Veteran's Memorial at Evergreen Cemetery. Fr. Herman also blessed individual graves for those who requested it.



The EOPS Committee is looking for photos that best depict your idea of summer. Please submit them to Shirley Bryar or Fr. Herman (e-mail) ASAP.

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CALENDAR

- AUG 6—TRANSFIGURATION (FRUIT BLESSED)
- 15—DORMITION OF THEOTOKOS (FLOWERS BLESSED)
- 16—ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
- SEPT 7 - CHURCH SCHOOL STARTS
- OCT 7—ANNUAL DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY  
 ARCHANGEL MICHAEL CHURCH,  
 BROADVIEW HTS., OH, W/SPECIAL MTG.
- 18—SYNERGY SYMPOSIUM HOLY  
 RESURRECTION SERBIAN CATHEDRAL,  
 CHICAGO, IL.
- NOV 2—DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS
- 11—VETERANS DAY
- 27—THANKSGIVING

MEMORY ETERNAL



Don & Irene McNeil

Irene M. McNeil, née Polacek, fell asleep in the Lord in May, 2014 after a short illness. Don and Marie were married for 59 years and were the parents of the late Karen, and the late Michael. Irene was a very quiet person, but always ready to help if we needed something for coffee hour. Her Tuna Pasta Salad was absolute perfection, no one made it better. The McNeil's lived in Elk Grove Village for 27 years and were members of the Sheila Ray Senior Center, where Irene enjoyed playing Bingo. They will miss her there just as we will miss her at St. Peter and St. Paul Church. Our condolences to her husband Don McNeil.