

## Russian Orthodox Church of the Resurrection of Christ

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### Schedule for the Week of July 12 - 18, 2015

<b>Sunday Jul 12</b>	<b>Saints Peter &amp; Paul / Свв. Петра и Павла</b>
Thursday Jul 16	6:30 PM Vigil for Royal Martyrs
Friday Jul 17	Royal Martyrs / Свв. Царственных Мучеников 9:00 AM Service
Saturday Jul 18	5:30 PM Vigil
<b>Sunday Jul 19</b>	<b>St. Sisoes the Great</b> <b>8:15 AM Nocturns, Confessions</b> <b>9:00 AM Divine Liturgy / Литургия</b>

#### Апостол Петр

Настоящее имя св. Петра – Симон. Иисус назвал его новым именем Кифа, или Петр, т.е. камень, на котором Спаситель обещал построить Свою Церковь.

Симон первым исповедал Иисуса Мессией, Сыном Божиим. Вместе с апп. Иаковом и Иоанном Петр присутствовали при Преображении Иисуса, при воскресении дочери Иаира, при молитве Христа в Гефсиманском саду. Вместе с Иоанном он отважно последовал за Иисусом в среду врагов, извлек меч и ударил им одного из слуг, присланных изъять Христа. В час же искушения он не устоял и трижды отрекся от Господа, но, в отличие от Иуды Искарота, покался и вновь приобрел благодать.

После Вознесения Спасителя и сошествия Святого Духа ап. Петр выступил смелым свидетелем Воскресшего. В проповедях апостола, его страданиях и делах проявилась перерождающая, укрепляющая и созидаящая сила общества верующих.

Предание сообщает, что Ап. Петр проповедовал в Малой Азии, затем в Риме, где и

принял мученическую смерть, будучи распят на кресте вниз головой (в 64 или 69 году).

#### Апостол Павел

Св. Павел – избранный Господом апостол – родился в Тарсе Киликийском. С самого рождения он имел два имени – еврейское Савл (испрошенный) и римское Павел (маленький), так как евреи в течение римского владычества, обыкновенно, носили еврейское и римское имя, как, например, Иоанн Марк, Иисус Иуст. Отец Павла был фарисей и имел права римского гражданина. В детстве Павла послали в Иерусалим, где он воспитывался у мудрого Гамалиила.

Первоначально Павел, будучи выразителем внешней веры в Бога Израилева, был гонителем христиан, но близ Дамаска ему явился Сам Иисус Христос и призвал его к Своему служению. Так началась новая жизнь Павла, полная страданий и лишений ради Господа. В качестве апостола язычников Павел проповедовал Слово Божие в Сирии, Малой Азии, Греции, Италии. О миссионерских путешествиях ап. Павла и о церквях, основанных им, подробно изложено в книге Деяний, которая была написана Евангелистом Лукою – спутником Павла.

Согласно преданию св. Павла казнили в Риме (где-то между 64 и 69 гг.) в царствование императора Нерона.



**Holy Apostle Peter**, brother of Apostle Andrew, born a Judean, was distinguished by the ardor and boldness of his character, and was one of the zealous disciples of the Savior. Up to his calling he was called Simon. After his calling, as an omen and reward for his firmness in faith, he received the name Cephas, which in Greek is Peter, which means rock. He remained faithful to this name all his life and proved this by numerous examples of his strong affection for the Lord.

After the resurrection of the Savior, called by Him again for apostolic service, he kept unshakably firm like a rock in the faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior of the world during all his life. In the year 44 when Herod Agrippa threatened him with death in Jerusalem, St. Peter was released from prison by an angel (Acts 12:1-11), and then he left Jerusalem. He preached in Syria, Pontus, Galatia, Bithynia, Asia and Egypt, confirming great wonders by the power of his words: he raised the dead and healed the infirm, and one of the latter was healed even from his shadow only.

In reign of Nero, having arrived in Rome, he endured a martyr's death on a cross. Recognizing himself unworthy to be crucified the way Jesus Christ was crucified, he asked that to be crucified with his head downwards.

Although Apostle Peter was also distinguished with special zeal for Christ, this did not give him superiority of authority over the other apostles, but only superiority of honor according to Apostolic labor. The same as the other apostles, he proposed the council to decide the matters of the church; and these were decided by the common voice of the apostles and presbyters with the entire Church (Acts 15:7, 12, 14; 1:23-26; 6:2-6; 15:22-23). The council sends Peter on the matter of serving the same way as the other disciples of Christ (Acts 8:14).

**The Apostle Paul**, speaking about the apostles and honoring them as pillars, places James in the first place and then Peter and John, counts him as one of them and equal to Peter (Gal. 2:7-9; 2 Cor. 11:5)

The Holy Apostle Paul, named Saul up to his calling to be among the Apostles, was born as a Judean in the city of Tarsus. He was a disciple of the famous Hebrew teacher Gamaliel, belonged to the sect of the Pharisees, and severely persecuted Christians. Wonderfully called to be an apostle by the Lord Himself, Who was revealed to him on the way to Damascus, he accepted Holy Baptism from Apostle Ananias and since this time became the most zealous preacher of the Gospel (Acts 9:3-30). He wrote that he more than all labored in the good news of Christ

(1 Cor. 15:10). He was mainly the apostle of the nations, and preached Christ in Arabia, Palestine, Caesarea, Asia Minor, Greece, Italy and many other countries.

Having undergone much suffering, he became worthy of ultimate revelations by the Lord, being admired in paradise, uplifted to the third heaven where he heard such mysteries that is impossible for anyone of human nature to retell; and performed many great miracles.

In the words of St. John Chrysostom, Apostle Paul sought more of reviling and dishonor rather than of honor, and prayed more for enemies rather than others who prayed against their enemies. Only one thing was terrible and dangerous for him -- that of not offending God. He put love for Christ higher than anything. With this love he wanted more to be accounted among the last and punished, rather than being without it among the highest and receiving honors. He died in Rome about the year 67, beheaded by the sword on command of Emperor Nero. His relics repose in a Roman church beyond the city on road to Ostia. (*excerpted from S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), pp. 0221-0223. Translated by Archpriest Eugene D. Tarris © September 3, 2007. All rights reserved.*)

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Dear Father John,

*Belated but heartfelt greetings with the feast of your patron saint, St John of Shanghai and San Francisco! May God grant you good health, strength, peace and tranquility and a long life of service to Christ's Church.*

*With love in Christ,  
+ Metropolitan Hilarion*

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