

On The Reliquaries at the Altar of St. Peter Orthodox Church

There are four reliquaries gracing our altar and blessing us in our nave which the rector has received over the years. If viewed from left to right, they are:

A piece of the chains which bound St. Peter (Acts 12). The rest of the chains are housed in Rome at the Church of San Pietro Vincoli. St. Peter, pray for us!

A piece of rock which was used by St. Tikhon when he was constructing an altar in North America in the early 20th century. St. Tikhon was the first Orthodox bishop in North America, and it was he who presented the 1898 Book of Common Prayer to the Moscow Synod, which approved most of its contents for use as the English Tradition of Orthodoxy. Our liturgy is named in honor of him, the Liturgy of St. Tikhon. After the revolution of 1917, St. Tikhon was recalled to Russia where he suffered persecution at the hands of the godless communists. St Tikhon, pray for us!

A piece of the “mantia” or veil from St. Herman’s monk’s habit. Our parish was received into the Orthodox Church on the Feast of St. Herman, December 13 (1992). St. Herman, pray for us!

A piece of the chains which bound St. Paul while he was a prisoner in Rome. The rest of the chain is at the tomb of St. Paul in Rome at the Church of San Paolo fuori le Mura. St. Paul, pray for us!

These reliquaries and the materials used to put them together are made possible by gifts given at the repose of Mac McKee, Millie Stepich, Grace Ruehrup, and Clarence Duncan and are offered in loving memory of them and all the faithful departed at St. Peters.