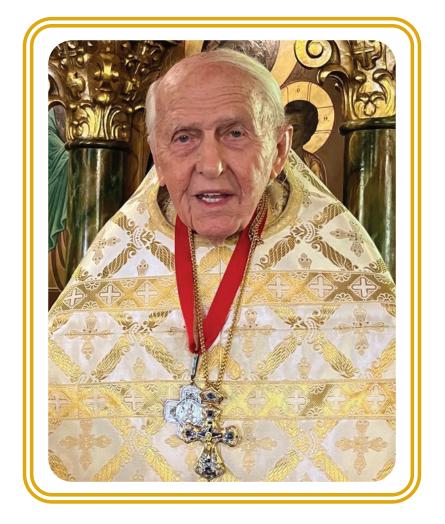
### By God's Grace, Archpriest Paul Shafran is 100 Today!



Celebration on Saturday, July 2, 2022 Honoring Fr. Paul's Centennial Milestone

> St. Vladimir Orthodox Church Trenton, NJ



### Patriotic Hymn, "God Bless America"

### The Lord's Prayer and Blessing

### Greetings and Toast by Master of Ceremonies:

V. Rev. Daniel Skvir, Holy Transfiguration Chapel, Princeton University

### **Buffet Luncheon**

Featured Speakers: His Eminence Michael, Archbishop of New York and the Diocese of New York and New Jersey

V. Rev. Joseph Lickwar, Diocesan Chancellor; Rector, Sts. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church, Jersey City, NJ

V. Rev. Dr. Chad Hatfield, President, St. Vladimir Orthodox Theological Seminary, Crestwood, NY

> Rev. Volodymyr Chaikivskiy, Rector, St. Vladimir Orthodox Church, Trenton, NJ

> > **Remarks by** V. Rev. Paul Shafran

**"Open Microphone":** guests may offer a toast or remembrances

**Closing Prayer** 

Congratulations and "Mnogaya L'yeta," Father Paul!

## *∛ Very Reverend Paul S. Shafran ∛ Important Dates, Events, and Accomplishments*

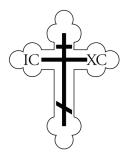
July 2, 1922	Born (with twin sister Pauline) to Stephan and Rozal'ya in Olyphant, PA
1939	Graduated from High School, Olyphant, PA
1944 M.A.) 1945	Completed a five-year joint degree program: Graduated (B.A.) from Columbia University (later, earned
	Graduated (M.Div.) from St. Vladimir Orthodox Theological Seminary
Nov. 27, 1947	Married Mary Obletiloff, Warren, Ohio
Dec. 14, 1947	Ordained to the Holy Deaconate by Bishop Nikon, Cathedral of the Protection of the Holy Virgin, New York City
Dec. 28, 1947	Ordained to the Holy Priesthood by Bishop Nikon, Cathedral of the Protection of the Holy Virgin, New York City
Jan. 6, 1948	Commenced as Pastor, St. Michael Church, Robins, Ohio; concur rently served two other rural parishes in the region
June 1949	Commenced as Pastor, St. Vladimir Church, Trenton, NJ Undertook post-graduate studies at St. Vladimir Seminary for several years
1950's	Faculty Member - Liturgics, St. Vladimir Seminary
1951-52	Church is enlarged to twice its original size, basement is enlarged and remodeled
1953-54	New iconostasis is constructed and installed
Feb. 1955	Appointed together with Frs. Georges Florovsky and John Telep,by Metropolitan Leonty, to a commission for review of a prayer book published by "Svit"
May 1956	Appointed as Assistant Chairman of the Sunday School Committee (later called the Religious Education Committee) of the OCA (at that time, the "Metropolia"), working with V. Rev. J. Kivko and S. Koulomzine

1955-56	Iconography by Pimen Sofronov of entire interior of church and iconostasis; interior renovations/furnishings are completed	
Late 1950's	Treasurer of the Russian Orthodox Theological Fund	
1957	Awarded the honor of wearing the Gold Cross	
January 1956-60	By appointment of Metropolitan Leonty, Treasurer of the Charity Committee	
October 1960	Appointed to a commission by the Great Council of Bishops (with Fr. John Meyendorff as Chairman) for the translation of liturgical books from Russian into English	
1961	Elevated to Archpriest	
1960's-1970's	Orthodox Chaplain, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, and Rider College, Lawrenceville, NJ	
1960's-1970's New Jersey Diocesan Council Member		
1964	Construction of Daria Hall – parish social-educational building – is completed	
1966	Appointed as Trustee of St. Vladimir Seminary; 2012 (approx.), appointed as Trustee Emeritus (ongoing)	
1968	Earned M.A. degree from Columbia University	
1968	Church is enlarged a second time	
1976	Awarded the honor of wearing the Jeweled Cross	
1983	Appointed as Trustee of Sts. Cosmas and Damian Adult Home	
1997	Celebration of Fr. Paul's 50th anniversary of Ordination to the Holy Priesthood and 50th wedding anniversary of Fr. Paul and Matushka Mary	
	• Fr. Paul is awarded the Silver Cross of St. Innocent	
1999-2000	Completion of restoration of iconography and iconostasis	

2002	Celebration on Fr. Paul's Retirement as Pastor; Appointed by Archbishop Peter as Pastor Emeritus, St. Vladimir Church, Trenton, NJ
2008-2010	In "retirement," frequently travelled to Staten Island, NY, to serve Sunday and feast day liturgies at Sts. Cosmas and Damian Adult Home
2012	Celebration of Fr. Paul's 65th anniversary of Ordination to the Holy Priesthood; Presented with special "Palitsa" by Bishop Michael
2017	Celebration of Fr. Paul's 70 Years in the Holy Priesthood and 70th wedding anniversary of Fr. Paul and Matushka Mary
2022	Celebration of Fr. Paul's Centennial Birthday!

### Pilgrimages and Cultural Travel:

- 1989 Russia, for the continuing celebration of the 1000th anniversary of the Baptism of Rus' (in 988), Ukraine, and the Republic of Georgia
- 2000 Alaska, including Sitka, Kodiak Island (relics of St. Herman), and Spruce Island - Hermitage of St. Herman
- 2002 Travel throughout Eastern Europe, including Poland for the consecration of church dedicated to the newly canonized martyr, St. Maxim Sandovich



### ☞ REFLECTIONS ON MY PRIESTLY LIFE By V. REV. PAUL S. SHAFRAN (From 2002)



Baby Picture - 1923

From my early childhood years, I had a desire to become a priest. As a youngster, I played the part of a priest, performing marriages of childhood friends, or having burial services for dead birds or pets. was raised in Olyphant, Pennsylvania, in a religious Orthodox home and spent a good deal of time in church, serving as an altar boy and singing in the choir. We also had church school each day from 4 to 6 p.m. where we received religious instructions, learned to sing and read in the Church Slavonic language, and learned to read and write in Russian. All this schooling would later prove to be a good foundation for my seminary training, where, in those years, all classes were held in the Russian language, and we were expected to master the Russian language.

Upon graduating from high school, my parish priest, the Very Rev. Joseph Pishtey, helped me apply for admission to St. Vladimir Theological Seminary. I was admitted to the seminary and to Columbia University as well. Studies at the seminary in the early years ran concurrently with studies at Columbia University. We attended classes at Columbia in the morning, and seminary classes in the afternoon. The schedule was very heavy with little time for sleep. This was a five-year program. After graduating from the university and from the seminary, I was first ordained a deacon, and on December 28, 1947, I was ordained a priest. At that time New York City was hit with one of its worst winter storms, the "blizzard of 1947" as it was called. The snow was three feet deep, and the city was at a standstill, but miraculously we got through the ordination.

My first assignment was in southern Ohio, where I was to be pastor of St. Michael Parish and two other small rural parishes in the vicinity. I arrived on the eve of Christmas, January 6, 1948, on the old Julian calendar. It was an extremely cold winter. Living conditions lacked the normal comforts that we usually expect, and the monthly salary was \$100.00 dollars. However, the parishioners loved their church and church attendance was very good. Improvements were made in the church and rectory. The warm relationship and pastoral experience of this first assignment was very rewarding, and I have fond recollections to this day.

In the summer of 1949, I was assigned to St. Vladimir Parish in Trenton, NJ. I accepted this assignment partly because I wanted to pursue graduate studies at St. Vladimir Seminary and Columbia University. I became very interested when I learned that a new group of theologians from France would be coming to teach at St. Vladimir Seminary whose names were: Fr. Georges Florovsky, Fr. Alexander Schmemann, Fr. John Meyendorff, Professors George Fedotoff, Nicholas Arsenieff, Spectorsky and others. It was an invaluable privilege to study under such scholars.

St. Vladimir Parish was very small and rather shabby when I arrived. The early years were difficult, but in time the number of parishioners grew and this necessitated the enlargement of the church building. Soon after the construction was completed, a new iconostasis, a new altar table and other church furniture were installed. In 1955 we were fortunate to find a renowned Iconographer, Pimen Sofronov, who had recently arrived from Europe. He spent two years with us to complete the iconography of the iconostasis and entire church.

In the early 1950's following World War II, many immigrants – "Displaced Persons" – were arriving into the United States from Eastern Europe and Russia. Suffering from the



At First Parish, Robins, OH - 1948

ravages of war, they were poor and needed a great deal of help solving their many personal problems. I became very involved with them, helping them find housing, taking them to factories where they could find employment, obtaining medical assistance and charitable help. This took up much of my time, but these people became good parishioners who attended church services regularly and were grateful for the help they received.

In 1964, the Bonderchuk family donated the parcel of land adjacent to the church. Here we built the social-educational building -- Daria Hall -- in memory of Daria Bonderchuk. Some years later, Peter Traskewicz donated a large tract of land in Hamilton Square in memory of his wife Nadezhda. A picnic pavilion was constructed on the site for parish functions. Thanks in part to these generous donations, the parish continued to grow and flourish.

Religious education was a special area of interest and commitment for me. In addition to my parish work, which included development of the parish school program for the children, I was invited to serve as the Orthodox Chaplain at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, and later Rider College in Lawrenceville, NJ. I taught liturgics at St. Vladimir Seminary. I served on the Metropolia's Religious Education Commission with the Very Rev. John Kivko and Sofia Koulomzine, and was appointed to several other commissions of the Metropolia as well. I was also elected to the Diocesan Council when Metropolitan Ireney was Primate of the Orthodox Church in America. These various projects required extensive time and travel. We who participated received no monetary compensation. We all donated our time and God-given talents, and we derived great satisfaction from our working together.

Time in the Church is sacred, and is celebrated on Holy Days and special occasions. In each decade we commemorated and celebrated special events in our parish history. Thus, in 1955, we celebrated our 40th anniversary, in 1965 we celebrated our 50th, in 1975, our 60th, and in 1980, our 65th. In 1988, we also joined in celebrating the 1000th



60th Wedding Anniversary- 2007

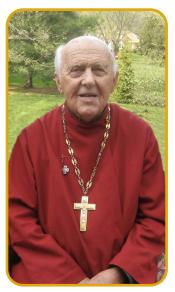
Anniversary of the Baptism of Rus. Later in the 1990's, we celebrated our 75th and 80th anniversaries. It was a joy to be with the parish through all these occasions. The year 1997 was especially significant in my life. I was able to celebrate my 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood, and Matushka Mary and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. At the service of Thanksgiving, attended by many priests and parishioners and other guests, Metropolitan Theodosius bestowed upon me the award of the Silver Cross of St. Innocent. In addition, a beautiful "Grammota," expressing a blessing and appreciation for service in the Church, was presented to me, and one to Matushka Mary as well. Parishioners

prepared a very beautiful and memorable banquet at Daria Hall. At the banquet, the parish presented us with a generous gift – a pilgrimage trip to the Orthodox shrines in Alaska – for which we were deeply grateful. Our journey to Orthodox Alaska was a tremendous religious experience.

The fifty-five years since my ordination as priest -- spanning across seven decades -- have passed quickly. I am most grateful to my Lord for giving me this privilege and many years to serve His Holy Church. I look

forward to serving as a priest in our Orthodox Church as long as I have my health. As I reflect upon my priestly life, I recall that there were some difficult times and challenges that had to be addressed. Nevertheless, being an Orthodox priest has been truly rewarding and spiritually enriching, and I cannot imagine living my life any other way.

The Orthodox Church, as the true Church of Christ, has a vital message to the world. I pray that Our Lord will bless the parishioners of St. Vladimir Parish and the new Pastor, to work together in preserving and promoting the Orthodox faith as taught by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, His Disciples, and their saintly successors.



Easter Day - 2017

See also the following articles from Jacob's Well magazine, and the inspiring and touching NYNJ Diocesan video interviews with Fr. Paul and Matushka Mary:

"Celebrating Father Paul and Matushka Mary Shafran - 70 Years of Faithful Marriage and Church Ministry," https://issuu.com/jacobswell/docs/fall 2018 jacob well/s/22331

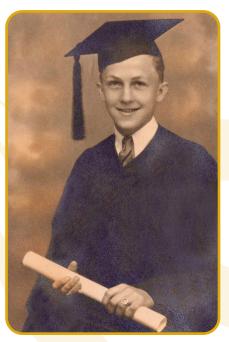
"Archpriest Paul Shafran Celebrates His 90th Birthday,"

https://nynjoca.org/files/publications/Jacobs\_Well/2012/Jacobs\_Well\_ Summer Fall 2012.pdf (pp. 17 and 20)

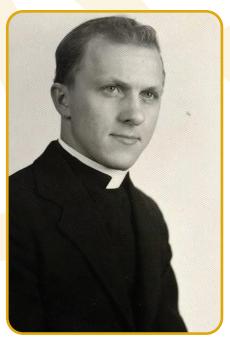
### Video interviews with Father Paul and Matushka Mary -

available as part of the New York New Jersey Diocesan oral history series — "Gift and Grace: The Spiritual Legacy of Orthodox Christians in America,"

https://nynjoca.org/interviews.html, created by V. Rev. John Shimchick



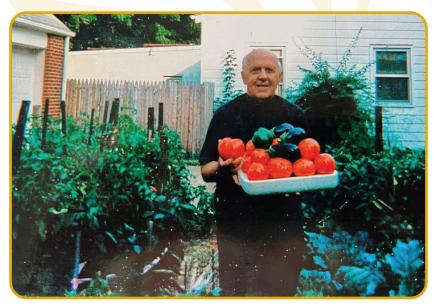
High School Graduation - 1939



Ordination Portrait - 1947



Wedding Portrait - 1947



Fr. Paul in his Garden - 2000



50th Anniversary with daughters Paula, Kyra, and Nina - 1997



Fr. Paul and Mat. Mary - 2020

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I first met Fr Paul Shafran in 1956 when I entered St Vladimir's Seminary, then located in New York City. He was the seminary's teacher of Liturgics and I remember how faithful he was in traveling from Trenton to New York City weekly to give his lectures. And I also remember how enthusiastic he was about liturgics and its importance in Orthodox worship when I took his course a few years later.

An avid supporter of the seminary, Fr Paul arranged yearly visits of the seminary choir to his parish. It is with great fondness that I remember our annual visits to St Vladimir's Church in Trenton. Thanks to Fr Paul and to the iconographer Pimen Sofronov, the church with its beautiful Russo-Byzantine-style icons gave the worshipper a glimpse into heaven. The seminary students always appreciated our trips to St Vladimir's in Trenton and singing the Divine Liturgy in this beautiful church.

Fr Paul, after a short program of music presented by the seminarians at the banquet in Daria Hall following the Divine Liturgy, would introduce the leaders of the various organizations of the parish. Each person said a few words and then presented a check from the organization to the Seminary. And then Fr Paul would present the large parish check, representing the collection taken at the Divine Liturgy. As he announced the leaders of the parish organizations, he would say a few words about the person and the organization. In these few short words, one could easily recognize the pastoral care and genuine love that Fr Paul always had for his parishioners. Fr Paul, "your compassion and generosity are a manifestation of your ability to see in each individual who crosses your path the face of Christ. You shared in your parishioners' joys and sorrows -- you confessed them, you served at their weddings, you baptized their children, and you visited them when they were ill."

"God indeed has blessed you with so many gifts and talents and you have always used these gifts as a glorification of God Himself through your service to the Church. You are truly a man of God and an inspiration to all of us who have been personally touched by your life, your teaching, your love, and your friendship."

All of this could not have been done without the support and help of his wife, Matushka Mary, who also truly loves the Orthodox Church. "Both Barbara and I greet you, Fr Paul Shafran and Matushka Mary, on the occasion of Fr Paul Shafran's Centennial Birthday."

David and Barbara Drillock July 2, 2022

Very Dear Father Paul,

Slava Isusu Christu !

Congratulations on your 100<sup>th</sup>B1rthday. By Divine Grace you have been a good priest, a devoted husband and father. You have been a very good friend & inspiration to our family for sixty-plus years.

Our prayer is that the Divine Physician of our souls and bodies be always at your side. We send our love, admiration, prayers and best for everything needful.

Faithfully in Christ our Savior,

Father Thomas & Matushka Evelyn Ruzila-Edwards Northampton, Pa.