



SS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

A PARISH OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA, DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

98 West 28th Street, Bayonne, NJ 07002

[WWW.SSPETERANDPAULBAYONNE.ORG](http://www.SSPETERANDPAULBAYONNE.ORG)

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October 9, 2011

17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Holy Apostle James. Glorification of St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow

- 9:10am – Hours
- 9:30am – Divine Liturgy
 - Epistles: *2 Cor. 6:16-7:1*
Heb. 7:26-8:2 (St. Tikhon)
 - Gospels: *Luke 7:11-16*
John 10:9-16 (St. Tikhon)
- Church School
- Fellowship – Please come downstairs following the Liturgy for Appreciation Coffee Hour to honor all our choir members, provided by Matushka Anna.

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

6:00pm – Great Vespers and Confessions

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

9:10am – Hours

9:30am – Divine Liturgy

www.SsPeterAndPaulBayonne.org

The Bible and the Liturgy (Part I)

One of the readings for October 5th offered us a chance to see how closely the prayers of the Divine Liturgy are based on the words of Scripture.

The reading is Ephesians 3:8-21. Like the rest of the letter to the Ephesians, these verses emphasize God's eternal plan to offer salvation and eternal life to every person. The Lord wants not only His chosen people, Israel, to find their way to the Kingdom, but the Gentiles as well. In fact, Paul begins the third chapter of the letter by referring to himself as "Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles."

In 3:8, the first verse of this day's reading, Paul describes himself as "the very least of all the saints." The same recognition of personal unworthiness is reflected in the words of the Divine Liturgy. As the priest partakes of the bread and then the cup of Holy Communion, he says that the Most Holy Body and the Most Holy Blood of Jesus Christ are "given to me, the unworthy priest" and then inserts his own name.

The Communion Prayer said by the congregation expresses a similar idea. Each person who is to receive the Eucharist confesses belief in Christ as the Son of the living God, who came into the world to save sinners, "of whom I am first" or "of whom I am chief."

Some people wonder a little about these words. Do we really have to say that we are worse than everybody else? Surely there are people who have sinned more seriously than we have.

But Paul's next words show us the true significance of these self-accusations. He writes that though he is the least of all the saints, "to me this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all men see

Intercessory Prayer

THE LIVING:

Benedict and Eva Benda, Valentina Benda, Cathryn Christensen, Olga DeMay, Marianne Guagenti, George Hook, Walter Milk, Helen Pirniak, Stephen & Lillian Sokol, Elizabeth Zuber.

May God grant you Many Years!

THE DEPARTED:

Matilda Skripak, Andrew Bacsik, Helen Pawlush, Mary Milk, Antonina Rotko, Helen Cotrone, June Bianchini, Maryanne Benda, Anne Verona.

Memory Eternal! Вечная Память!

what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things." In other words, not only does God have a wonderful plan for us, but Paul has been given the grace to know the plan and to reveal it to others. The privilege of being given this grace is so overwhelming that Paul can only feel awe at its immensity and his unworthiness.

In the prayers of the priest and the congregation receiving the Eucharist, the sense of privilege is the same. The priest and people are about to enter into the Mysteries of God Himself. They are about to be given the precious Body and precious Blood that are foretastes of life everlasting, of heaven itself. For them, as for St Paul, the only possible response is awe at the immensity of such a gift. That is why each person saying the Communion Prayer asks God to "make me worthy" to receive such a gift--no human being is capable of earning it.

Each one of us is the first among sinners, but God offers Himself to us anyway. Saint Paul shares our wonder at such generosity and grace.



Announcements

❖ The Parish Council meeting will be tomorrow, Monday, **October 10** at 7:00pm. All Parish Council members are urged to attend.

❖ On Mon. **October 17** the Hawaiian Myrrh-Streaming Iveron Icon of the Mother of God will be visiting Bayonne. At 7:00pm there will be Molieben and Akathist at St. Nicholas Church, 606 Kennedy Blvd.

❖ The Bayonne "R" Club will hold their **annual flea market on Sat. October 22 and 29**. Any donations are gladly accepted. If necessary, please contact any member to arrange for pick up of donated items.

❖ On Sunday, **November 6, 2011** there will be a **Spaghetti Dinner & Card Party** at St. Mary's Orthodox Church, 89 W 29th St, Bayonne, NJ. Tickets are \$10. Please make reservations by calling 201-823-0305 or 201-436-5221. Reservations close October 31, 2011.

Heartfelt Greetings

and warmest wishes to John & Helen Wanko who celebrate their Wedding Anniversary this week. May God grant you and your loved ones good health and happiness for Many, Many, Many Years!

Welcome Visitors

We welcome all visitors to our Divine Liturgy. It is our joy to have you with us today. If this is your first visit to our parish, we welcome you and invite you to return as often as you are able.

While Holy Communion may only be received by prepared Orthodox Christians, our non-Orthodox guests are welcome to join us in venerating the Cross, receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy and for fellowship in our Church Hall after the service.