



Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church
A parish of the Orthodox Church in America
Rectory: 98 W. 28th Street, Bayonne, N.J. 07002
Telephone: (201) 436-3244

Rector: V. Rev. W. Sophrony Royer

Choir Director: Mr. Yuriy Galkin

DECEMBER 31, 2023 / SUNDAY AFTER NATIVITY (TONE 5)

RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION IN TONE FIVE

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, / co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, / born for our salvation from the Virgin; / for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, / to endure death, / and to raise the dead // by His glorious Resurrection.

FESTAL TROPARION IN TONE FOUR

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, / has shone to the world the light of wisdom! / For by it, those who worshipped the stars, / were taught by a star to adore Thee, / the Sun of Righteousness, / and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. // O Lord, glory to Thee!

TROPARION OF RIGHTEOUS ONES IN TONE TWO

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph, / to David, the ancestor of God; / thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; / and thou didst give glory with the shepherds; / thou didst worship with the Magi, / and didst receive the news from the Angel. // Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

- *Choir sings troparion of Apostles Peter & Paul*
- *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:*

KONTAKION OF RIGHTEOUS ONES IN TONE THREE

Today godly David is filled with joy; / Joseph and James offer praise. / The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy. / They sing praises to the One ineffably born on earth, // and they cry out: “O Compassionate One, save those who honor Thee!”

- *Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

FESTAL KONTAKION IN TONE THREE

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, / and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One! / Angels with shepherds glorify Him! / The Wise Men journey with the star, // since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child!

PROKEIMENON IN TONE EIGHT

Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee; let it praise Thy Name, O Most High!
v. Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His Name, give glory to His praise!
The prokeimenon in the 4th tone. God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel.

THE EPISTLE

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (1:11-19)

Brethren, I make known to you that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

ALLELUIA IN TONE ONE

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

v. The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.

v. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

v. Remember, O Lord, David and all his meekness!

THE GOSPEL

The Reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (2:13-23)

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

FESTAL MEGALYNARION

Verse: Magnify, O my soul, the most pure Virgin Theotokos, more honorable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts.

Hirmos: I behold a strange, most glorious mystery: / heaven—the cave; / the cherubic throne—the Virgin; / the manger—the place where Christ lay: / the uncontainable God, Whom we magnify in song.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! The Lord has sent redemption to His people. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

- *Instead of “We have seen the true light ...,” we sing the festal troparion, followed by “Let our mouths be filled ...*

TODAY’S SAINTS

Saints commemorated on December 31st: Holy Righteous David the King, Joseph the Betrothed, and James the “Brother of the Lord”; St. Melania the Younger, of Rome; St. Theophylactus, Archbishop of Ochrid; Martyrs Savinian and Potentian.

TODAY’S PARASTAS

Parastas in memory of V. Rev. Archpriest Nicholas Fedetz, offered by Tais Fedetz, and Angelo Cusano Jr., offered by Fr. W. Sophrony Royer, after Divine Liturgy.

TODAY’S SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Altar Vigils offered by Tais Fedetz in memory of V. Rev. Archpriest Nicholas Fedetz (anniversary of repose). **Sanctuary Lamp** offered by Fr. W. Sophrony Royer in memory of Angelo Cusano, Jr. (fifth anniversary of repose).

UPCOMING SERVICES

9:30 AM (Monday) – Divine Liturgy [*Circumcision of Jesus Christ & St. Basil the Great*]
 6:00 PM (Friday) – Vigil w. Lity [*Holy Theophany*]
 9:30 AM (Saturday) – Divine Liturgy [*Holy Theophany*]
 5:00 PM (Saturday) – Great Vespers
 9:20 AM (Sunday) – Third Hour & Divine Liturgy

PARISH & LOCAL EVENTS

- (1) Our parish is collecting cans of soup and other non-perishable foods for donation to a local food pantry. A bin for placing donated food items will be in the church hall from January 1, 2024 to February 11, 2024. Please make sure that items donated are not past the expiration date, and thank you for co-operating in this project!
- (2) We are having a “pot luck” Christmas Social in the church hall on “Old Calendar” Christmas, Sunday, January 7, 2024 after Divine Liturgy. In order to properly plan for this event, there will be a sign-up sheet in the church vestibule for indicating what you plan to bring. Cash donations for buying items such as beverages, condiments, etc. will also be welcome.
- (3) Fr. Sophrony will be away on vacation from the evening of January 7th until early morning of January 17th. A substitute priest will celebrate the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, January 14th. In the event of an emergency during Fr. Sophrony’s absence, call Fr. John Fencik at (201) 436-5549 or call the nearest available Orthodox priest.
- (4) Fr. Sophrony will bless homes on January 19-20, 2024. A sign-up sheet for house blessings is in the church vestibule – please sign up, or call the Rectory at 201-436-3244, by January 18, 2024.
- (5) Parish Council is meeting in the church hall on Sunday, January 21, 2024 after Divine Liturgy.

