



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

MARCH 30, 2025 / FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (TONE 7)

RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION IN TONE SEVEN

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the Myrrh-bearers Thou didst change weeping into joy, / and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou art risen, // granting the world great mercy.

TROPARION OF ST. JOHN CLIMACUS IN TONE ONE

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body, / thou wast a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John. / Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer, / healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith. / Glory to Him Who gave thee strength! / Glory to Him Who granted thee a crown! // Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

- *Choir sings troparion of Apostles Peter & Paul*
- *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

RESURRECTIONAL KONTAKION IN TONE SEVEN

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, / for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. / Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: / “The Savior has come to those in faith; // enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

PROKEIMENON IN TONE SEVEN

The Lord shall give strength to His people. The Lord shall bless His people with peace.

v. Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord!

Prokeimenon in Tone Seven: Let the saints exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches!

THE EPISTLE

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (6:13-20).

Brethren, when God made his promise to Abraham, he made a vow to do what he had promised. Since there was no one greater than himself, he used his own name when he made his vow. He said, “I promise you that I will bless you and give you many descendants.” Abraham was patient, and so he received what God had promised. When we make a vow, we use the name of someone greater than ourselves, and the vow settles all arguments. To those who were to receive what he promised, God wanted to make it very clear that he would never change his purpose; so he added his vow to the promise. There are these two things, then, that cannot change and about which God cannot lie. So we who have found safety with him are greatly encouraged to hold firmly to the hope placed before us. We have this hope as an anchor for our lives. It is safe and sure, and goes through the curtain of the heavenly temple into the inner sanctuary. On our behalf Jesus has gone in there before us and has become a high priest forever, in the priestly order of Melchizedek.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians (5:9-19).

Brethren, for it is the light that brings a rich harvest of every kind of goodness, righteousness, and truth. Try to learn what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the worthless things that people do, things that belong to the darkness. Instead, bring them out to the light. It is really too shameful even to talk about the things they do in secret. And when all things are brought out to the light, then their true nature is clearly revealed; for anything that is clearly revealed becomes light. That is why it is said, "Wake up, sleeper, and rise from death, and Christ will shine on you." So be careful how you live. Don't live like ignorant people, but like wise people. Make good use of every opportunity you have, because these are evil days. Don't be fools, then, but try to find out what the Lord wants you to do. Do not get drunk with wine, which will only ruin you; instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with the words of psalms, hymns, and sacred songs; sing hymns and psalms to the Lord with praise in your hearts.

ALLELUIA IN TONE SEVEN

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

v. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy Name, O Most High.

v. To declare Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth by night.

v. They that are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (9:17-31).

Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not." He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting." Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day."

The Reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (4:25-5:12).

Great multitudes followed Him – from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

- “All Creation Rejoices in Thee ...” is sung instead of “It is Truly Meet ...”

COMMUNION HYMNS

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil tidings! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

SAINTS COMMEMORATED TODAY

Commemorated on March 30th: *St. John Climacus*; St. Sophronius, Bishop of Irkutsk; Prophet Joad; Apostles Sosthenes, Apollos, Cephas, Caesar, and Epaphroditus of the Seventy; St. Eouboula (mother of St. Panteleimon); St. John the Silent, of St. Sabbas Monastery; St. Zosimus, Bishop of Syracuse; St. John II, Patriarch of Jerusalem; Martyr Quirinus of Rome (jailer of Hieromartyr Alexander I, Pope of Rome); St. Regulus, 1st Bishop of Senlis; St. Mamertinus of Auxerre; St. Osburga of Coventry, Abbess and Virgin.

UPCOMING SERVICES

5:00 PM (Thursday) – Great Canon of Repentance [*in entirety*]
 6:00 PM (Friday) – Akathistos of the All-holy Virgin Mary
 9:30 AM (Saturday) – Divine Liturgy [*Laudation of Virgin Mary*]
 5:00 PM (Saturday) – Great Vespers
 9:20 AM (Sunday) – Third Hour & Divine Liturgy

PARISH & LOCAL NEWS

(1) Today’s Lenten Vespers is at Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church, 76 Whitehead Ave, South River, New Jersey at 5:00 PM. Next Sunday’s Lenten Vespers is at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 120 Dover-Chester Rd, Randolph, New Jersey.

(2) Thank You to Reader Philip Benda for his generous donation, in memory of Benedict & Eva Benda, that paid for the refurbishing of the bilingual English (KJV)-Slavonic Gospel Book.

(3) All parishioners ought to go to confession during Great Lent. Confessions may be heard after any Friday or Saturday evening service. Those who legitimately cannot attend services on Friday or Saturday evenings may call the Rectory to make your arrangements for confession at another time.

Remember to support the parish every time you shop!





ShopRite, Stop & Shop, and Acme gifts cards available for purchase in the church vestibule.