

Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Catholic Church

(a parish of the Autocephalous Orthodox Church in America)

98 West 28th Street, Bayonne, New Jersey 07002

Parish Website: www.saintspeterandpaulbayonne.org

Rector: Very Rev. W. Sophrony Royer, Ph.D. (201) 436-3244

Sunday, May 25, 2014 – 6th Sunday of Pascha (Tone 5) Sunday of the Blind Man

Today's Saints

Third Finding of the Honorable Head of St. John the Baptist; Hieromartyr Urban, Pope of Rome; Hieromartyr Therapon, Bishop of Cyprus

Today's Services

6:00 PM (Saturday) – Great Vespers

9:00 AM (Sunday) – Divine Liturgy

Parastas in memory of Andrew & Juliana Bacsik, offered by Russell & Andrea Wyskanycz, and in memory of Benedict Benda, offered by the Bayonne “R” Club.

Today's Liturgy Readings

Epistle: Acts 16:16-34 & 2 Corinthians 4:6-15 (See Bulletin Insert for Readings)

Gospel: John 9:1-38 & Matthew 11:2-15 (See Bulletin Insert for Readings)

Today's Special Donations

Sacramental Wine & Eucharistic Bread offered by Russell & Andrew Wyskanycz in memory of Andrew Bacsik (anniversary of repose).

Announcements & Events

Parish Events: “Coffee Hour” today after Divine Liturgy – all parishioners and visitors are welcome! Parish Council meeting on Monday, June 2, 2014 at 7:00 PM.

Local Events: The Carpatho-Rusyn Society's N.J. Chapter is meeting at the Wayne Public Library at 4:00 PM on Saturday, June 7, 2014. See the flyer on bulletin board for more information. Also on the bulletin board is a flyer on the visitation of St. Anna's icon to Holy Resurrection Church in Wayne, N.J.

“R” Club Events: The “R” Club's N.J. District is having a Beefsteak Dinner fundraiser at Assumption of the Holy Virgin Church, Clifton, N.J. at 6:30 PM on Saturday, June 13, 2014. Ticket request forms for this event are available in the church vestibule.

Upcoming Services

May 28-29, 2014

6:00 PM (Wednesday) – Great Vespers w. Lity

9:00 AM (Thursday) – Divine Liturgy

May 31-June 1, 2014

6:00 PM (Saturday) – Great Vespers

9:00 AM (Sunday) – Divine Liturgy

Divine Liturgy Variables for Sunday, May 25, 2014 (Tone 5)

Sixth Sunday of Pascha: Sunday of the Blind Man

Third Discovery of the Forerunner's Honorable Head

Martyr Celestine of Rome and Hieromartyr Therapon, Bishop of Cyprus

- Priest: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death; and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (*two and a half times*)
- *The Choir then sings “. . . and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!” and the Liturgy continues with the Great Litany.*
- *After the Small Entrance, the Choir sings these Troparia in the following order:*

RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION IN TONE FIVE

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

TROPARION OF THE FORERUNNER'S HEAD DISCOVERY IN TONE FOUR

Christ God hath revealed to us thy truly venerable head as a divine treasure that had been concealed in the earth, O Prophet and Forerunner John. Wherefore, as we gather on the feast of its discovery, with our hymns inspired of God, we praise Christ the Savior, who by thy mighty prayers saveth us from every kind of harm.

- *Now sing the Troparion of Ss. Peter & Paul.*
- *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

KONTAKION OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT

O Immortal One, when Thou didst descend into the tomb, Thou didst destroy the power of Hades; and Thou didst rise victorious, O Christ God. Thou hast said to the ointment-bearing women: Rejoice! And Thou gavest peace to Thy Disciples, O Bestower of Resurrection to those Who had fallen.

PROKEIMENON IN TONE EIGHT

Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our God!
v. In Judah, God is known; His name is great in Israel.

Prokeimenon in Tone Seven: *The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall hope in Him.*

THE EPISTLE

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles (Acts 16:16-34)

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.” And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And he came out that very hour. But when her masters saw that their hopes of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities. And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, “These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe. Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's

chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (4:6-15)

Brethren, it is the God Who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," Who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. While we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So, death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believe, and so we speak, knowing that He Who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

ALLELUIA IN TONE EIGHT

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

v. Look upon me and have mercy on me!

v. Guide my steps according to Thy word!

v. Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright of heart!

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (9:1-38)

At that time, when Jesus was passing, He saw a man blind from his birth. And His Disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. I must work the works of Him Who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As He said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" [which means Sent]. So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for He does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about Him, since He has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of

age, ask him.” So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, “Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become His disciples?” And they reviled him, saying, “You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He comes from.” The man answered, “Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where He comes from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him He said, “Do you believe in the Son of God?” He answered, “And Who is He, Sir, that I may believe in Him?” Jesus said to him, “You have seen Him, and it is He who speaks to you.” He said, “Lord, I believe”; and he worshiped Him.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (11:2-15)

And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples and said to Him, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?” Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me. As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken in the wind? But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. For this is he of whom it is written: ‘Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.’ Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven

is greater than he. And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

MEGALYNARION FOR PASCHA IN TONE ONE

The angel spake to her that is full of grace, saying, O pure Virgin, rejoice; and I say also, Rejoice; for thy Son is risen from the tomb on the third day. Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem; for the glory of the Lord hath risen upon thee. Rejoice and exult now, O Zion, and thou, O pure one, Theotokos, rejoice at the Resurrection of thy Son.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Receive ye the body of Christ; taste ye the Fountain of immortality. 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!

- *Instead of “We have seen the true light,” sing “Christ is Risen” once.*

AT THE DISMISSAL

At the Dismissal, the Priest intones: “Glory to Thee, O Christ . . .,” and the Choir sings “Christ is risen from the dead . . .” (thrice).

At the closing of the Royal Doors, the Choir sings “And unto us He has given eternal life. Let us worship His resurrection on the third day.”