

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

March 22, 2015 – 4th Sunday of Lent / Sunday of St. John Climacus, Author of “The Ladder ” (Tone 8)

Today's Saints

Hieromartyr Basil of Ancyra; Martyr Drosis (daughter of Emperor Trajan); Martyrs Callinica and Basilissa of Rome; St. Isaac, Founder of the Dalmatian Monastery in Constantinople; Monk-martyr Euthymius of Prodromou (Mount Athos)

Today's Services

6:00 PM (Saturday) – Great Vespers

9:30 AM (Sunday) – Divine Liturgy

After Liturgy – Parastas in memory of Cathryn Christensen, offered by Helen Bilek, and in memory of Paraska Suchowacki, offered by Melania Turkiewicz

Today's Liturgy Readings

Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 & Ephesians 5:9-19 (See Bulletin Insert for Readings)

Gospel: Mark 9:16-30 & Matthew 4:25-5:12 (See Bulletin Insert for Readings)

Today's Special Offerings

St. Nicholas' Cross offered by Elizabeth Zuber in memory of Margaret Della Bella (anniversary of repose).

Announcements & Events

Lenten Vespers: Today's Lenten Vespers (at **4:00 PM**) is at St. John the Baptist Church, 1034 2nd Ave., Alpha, N.J. The schedule of the N.J. Deanery (North)'s Lenten Vespers for the following Sunday is posted on the church bulletin board.

Carpathian Club: The Club is meeting on Thursday, March 26th, at 7:30 PM.

Diocesan Events: Rt. Rev. Bishop Michael's fifth anniversary of episcopate will be observed on Saturday, May 9, 2015. See flyer posted on the church bulletin board.

Upcoming Services

March 24-25, 2015 (Holy Annunciation)

6:00 PM (Tuesday) – Vigil w. Lity

9:30 AM (Wednesday) – “Vesperal” Divine Liturgy

March 27-28, 2015 (Laudation of the Virgin Mary)

6:00 PM (Friday) – Akathistos to the All-holy Virgin Mary

9:30 AM (Saturday) – Divine Liturgy

March 28-29, 2015 (Fifth Sunday of Lent)

6:00 PM (Saturday) – Great Vespers

9:30 AM (Sunday) – Divine Liturgy

Divine Liturgy Variables on Sunday, March 22, 2015 (Tone 8)
4th Sunday of Great Lent: Commemoration of John Climacus (of “The Ladder”)

Hieromartyr Basil of Ancyra; Martyr Drosis (daughter of Emperor Trajan); Martyrs Callinica & Basilissa of Rome;

St. Isaac, Founder of the Dalmatian Monastery at Constantinople; Monk-martyr Euthymius of Prodromou (Mt. Athos)

RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION IN TONE EIGHT

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

TROPARION OF ST. JOHN CLIMACUS IN TONE EIGHT

The barren wilderness thou didst make fertile with the streams of thy tears; and by thy deep sighing thou hast given fruit through thy struggles a hundredfold. Accordingly, thou hast become a star for the universe, sparkling with miracles. Therefore, O righteous Father John Climacus, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

- *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 ST. JOHN CLIMACUS IN TONE FOUR

The Lord truly set thee on the heights of abstinence, to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe, O our father and teacher John!

PROKEIMENON IN TONE EIGHT

Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!

v. In Judah is God known; His name is great in Israel.

Second 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 a promise to Abraham, since He had no one greater by whom to swear, He swore by Himself, saying, “Surely I will bless you and multiply you.” And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by one greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of His purpose, He interposed with an oath. So that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

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

Brethren, for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth, finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: “Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.” See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

ALLELUIA IN TONE EIGHT

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

v. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!

v. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

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

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (9:16-30)

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it dashes him

down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked Thy Disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.” And Jesus answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me.” And they brought the boy to Him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, “How long has he had this?” And he said, “From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if Thou canst do anything, have pity on us and help us.” And 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!” And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again.” And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, “He is dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the house, His Disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” And Jesus said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting.” They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And Jesus would not have anyone know it; for He was teaching His Disciples, saying to them, “The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and after He is killed, He will rise on the third day.”

The Reading from 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.”

- *“In thee rejoices all creation ...” 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!