

Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Catholic Church

98 West 28th Street, Bayonne, New Jersey 07002

Parish Website: www.saintspeterandpaulbayonne.org

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

Choir Director: Miss Emily Fencik

Welcome to Ss. Peter and Paul's Church of Bayonne, N.J. Our church was founded in 1922 and is a parish of the Orthodox Church in America. We hope that you enjoyed your visit today and, if you are searching for a new spiritual home, we would love for you to become a member of our parish family. To our parishioners here today, thank you for your ongoing participation in our church's worship and ministry.

December 27, 2015 – Sunday after the Nativity (Tone 5)

Today's Saints

Ss. Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James "brother of the Lord";
Protomartyr Stephen the Archdeacon; St. Theodore Graptus the Confessor

Today's Divine Services

6:00 PM (Saturday) – Great Vespers

9:30 AM (Sunday) – Divine Liturgy

Today's Divine Liturgy Variables

See Bulletin Insert for today's Bible readings and other Liturgy variables.

Today's Special Offerings

Sanctuary Lamp offered by John and Helen Wanko in memory of June Bianchini (anniversary of birth). **St. Nicholas' Cross** offered by Theresa Cimboic in memory of Joseph Cimboic. **Triple Candelabra** offered by Theresa Cimboic in memory of Alexei and Anna Nahosh.

Announcements & Events

Parish Events: Please take notice of the schedule for house blessings on January 9-10, 2016 in the January issue of "Quo Vadis." For changes in the schedule, or cancellations/additions, please call the Rectory by Jan. 6, 2016. We are collecting the front covers of Christmas cards for recycling by the nuns of the Monastery of the Transfiguration. The deadline for bringing your card covers to church is January 31, 2016.

Upcoming Services

Dec. 31, 2015-Jan. 1, 2016 (St. Basil/Circumcision of Our Lord)

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

9:30 AM (Friday) – Divine Liturgy

January 2-3, 2016 (Next Weekend)

6:00 PM (Saturday) – Great Vespers

9:30 AM (Sunday) – Divine Liturgy

**Divine Liturgy Variables for Sunday, December 27, 2015 (Tone 5)
Proto-martyr Stephen the archdeacon & Sunday after the Nativity of
Christ**

*Commemoration of Ss. Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James “brother of the
Lord”*

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 NATIVITY IN TONE FOUR

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn therefrom to worship Thee, O Sun of Justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

TROPARION OF SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY IN TONE TWO

Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; for with the shepherds thou didst give glory, with the Magi thou didst worship, and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to save our souls.

TROPARION OF ST. STEPHEN IN TONE FOUR

The crown of the Kingdom hath adorned the brow of thy head * because of the contests that thou hast endured for Christ God, thou first of the martyred Saints; * for when thou hast censured the Jews’ madness, thou hast seen * Christ thy Savior

standing at the right hand of the Father. * O Stephen, ever pray Him for us, that He would 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 THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE THREE

Today the Virgin giveth birth to the Transcendent in essence; the earth offers the cave to the unapproachable One; the angels with the shepherds glorify Him; and the Magi with the star travel on their way; for a new child hath been born for our sakes, God before the ages.

PROKEIMENON IN TONE FOUR

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works, in wisdom hast Thou made them all!

v. Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, Thou art very great!

Second Prokeimenon in Tone Four: God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel!

THE EPISTLE

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

But I make known to you, brethren, 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 FOUR

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (6:8-7:5, 47-60)

In those days, Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, arose and disputed with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated men, who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, and set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place, and will change the customs which Moses delivered to us." And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel. The high priest said, "Is this so?" And Stephen said: "Brethren and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, 'Depart from your land and from your kindred and go into the land which I will show you.' Then he departed from the land of the Chaldeans, and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living; yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him in possession and to his posterity after him, though he had no child. But it was Solomon who built a house for Him. Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands; as the prophet says, 'Heaven is My throne, and earth My footstool. What house will you build for Me', says the Lord, 'or what is the place of My rest? Did not My hand make all these things?' You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, Whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it." Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they grinded their teeth against him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

v. Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness, and truth!

v. For Thou lovest righteousness and hatest iniquity.

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

THE GOSPEL

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

When the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him." And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region, who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child's life are dead." And he rose and took the Child and His mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (21:33-42)

Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed

him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers? They said to Him, “He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.” Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD’s doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes’?”

INSTEAD OF “IT IS TRULY MEET”

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

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 hast sent redemption to His people. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!