

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.

April 23, 2017 – 2nd Sunday of Pascha: St. Thomas Sunday

Today's Saints

Great-martyr George the Wonderworker; Martyr Alexandra the Empress; Martyrs Anatolius & Proton, Soldiers; Martyrs Felix, Fortunatus, and Achilleus of Vienne; St. Marolus, Bishop of Milan; St. Pusinna of Champagne; Hieromartyr Adalbert, Bishop of Prague, Evangelizer of Poland, Prussia, and Hungary

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.

Announcements & Events

- The Parish Council is meeting today after Divine Liturgy.
- Blessing of Graves at Graceland Cemetery in Kenilworth, N.J. will be on Tuesday, April 25th at 10:00 AM.
- This year, the summer schedule of morning services starting at 9:00 AM will begin on the first Sunday of May (May 7, 2017) and will last until Sunday, October 29, 2017.

Upcoming Services

April 29-30, 2017 (Next Weekend)

6:00 PM (Saturday) – Great Vespers
9:30 AM (Sunday) – Divine Liturgy

Stephen Wanko is organizing a used book donation drive to assist an Eagle Scout in establishing a library in support of Women Rising, a Jersey City based organization which helps women in Hudson County in a variety of ways. Please drop off new or gently used books for children to adults (no textbooks) in the church hall. Thank You.

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2017

NEW SUNDAY OR ANTI-PASCHA

SUNDAY OF THOMAS THE APOSTLE, CALLED "THE TWIN"

GREAT-MARTYR GEORGE THE TROPHY-BEARER

- *The Priest begins Divine Liturgy with "Blessed is the Kingdom" and the choir responds "Amen." The Priest then leads the singing of the Paschal Troparion.*

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (TWICE). Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death ...

- *The Choir then sings "and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!"*
- *After the Little Entrance, sing these troparia and kontakia in the following order:*

TROPARION FOR THOMAS SUNDAY IN TONE SEVEN

From the sealed tomb, Thou didst shine forth, O Life! / Through closed doors Thou didst come to Thy Disciples, O Christ God. / Renew in us through them an upright spirit, // by the greatness of Thy mercy, O Resurrection of all!

TROPARION FOR ST. GEORGE IN TONE FOUR

You were bound for good deeds, O martyr of Christ: George; / by faith you conquered the torturer's godlessness. / You were offered as a sacrifice pleasing to God; / thus you received the crown of victory. / Through your intercessions, forgiveness of sins is granted to all.

- *Do NOT sing the patronal troparion of the temple.*

KONTAKION FOR ST. THOMAS SUNDAY IN TONE EIGHT

Thomas touched Thy life-giving side with an eager hand, O Christ God, / When Thou didst come to Thy apostles through closed doors. // He cried out with all: Thou art my Lord and my God!

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 THREE

Great is our Lord and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure.

v. Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God!

Second 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 Apostles. (5:12-20)

And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed. Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (12:1-11)

In those days, Herod the king laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword; and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. So Peter was kept in prison; but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the Church. The very night when Herod was about to bring him out, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison; and behold, an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, "Wrap your mantle around you and follow me." And he went out and followed him; he did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened to them of its own accord, and they went out and passed on through one

street; and immediately the angel left him. And Peter came to himself, and said, “Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.”

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. For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all the earth.

v. The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (20:19-31)

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the Disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the Disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.” And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other Disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe.” Eight days later, His Disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, “Peace be with you.” Then He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing.” Thomas answered Him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.” Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the Disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His Name.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (15:17-16:2)

These things I command you, that you love one another. If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do

not know Him who sent Me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, ‘They hated Me without a cause.’ But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning. These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.

- *Instead of “It is truly meet,” the choir sings “The angel cried to the Lady” and “Shine, shine, O New Jerusalem.”*
- **Communion Hymns:** Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise thy God, O Zion. The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil tidings! Alleluia! Alleluia!
- *Instead of “We have seen the true light,” the choir sings “Christ is Risen” ONCE.*
- *At Liturgy Dismissal: When priest says “Glory to Thee, O Christ . . .” the Choir responds with “Christ is Risen” THRICE. The Paschal Dismissal is used.*

