



Ss. PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

A PARISH OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA, DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

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September 5, 2010

15th Sunday after Pentecost
*Holy Prophet Zachariah
and Righteous Elizabeth*

- 8:30am – General Confession
- 8:55am – Churcing of the Child – newly baptized Naum Stets
- 9:00am – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 2 Cor. 4:6-15
Gospel: Matt. 22:35-46
- Fellowship – Please come downstairs following Liturgy for Coffee Hour, provided by Alena Burkova. Thank you

Schedule of Services

Tuesday, September 8

6:00pm – Great Vespers with Litya

Wednesday, September 8 – THE NATIVITY OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

7:00am – Divine Liturgy

Saturday, September 11

6:00pm – Great Vespers

Sunday, September 12

9:10am – Reading of Hours

9:30am – Divine Liturgy

Today we remember Elizabeth, who was privileged to give birth to the greatest of the prophets, John the Baptist.

But the years before John's birth were certainly not a time of privilege. Elizabeth and her husband Zechariah, were "both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless" (Luke 1:6-7). But they had no children – the greatest of misfortunes. Still worse, their hopes of having a baby were slim because "both were advanced in years."

So when the angel Gabriel told Zechariah that they would have a child, and that this child would "make ready for the Lord a people prepared", Elizabeth was deeply grateful. Unlike her husband, who doubted the archangel's word, she thanked God by saying, "Thus the Lord has done to me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men".

The next extraordinary event in Elizabeth's life was the visit of her cousin Mary, who told Elizabeth that she, too, was going to have a baby. Elizabeth, at this, was "filled with the Holy Spirit" and her own baby leaped in her womb. Again, she was overwhelmed with gratitude and exclaimed, "And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"

Elizabeth's words "mother of my Lord" are very important. They are Biblical precedent for the Orthodox practice of referring to Mary as "Theotokos" or "Mother of God." This is another way in which the Spirit visited Elizabeth in a special way – she is the one privileged to give Mary this title.

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to Mrs. Helen Wanko and to all who celebrate their birthdays in the month of September. May God bless all of you with good health and happiness for Many, Many, Many Years! Mnogaya Leta!

Intercessory Prayer

THE LIVING:

Walter and Mary Milk, Stephen and Lillian Sokol, Benedict and Eva Benda, Theodore Rocca, Alexei, Nicholas, Frank, Michael and Elizabeth Zuber, Valentina Benda, Andrew Koch, Cindy Boswell, Olga DeMay, Helen Pirniak, Marianne Guagenti, George Silberman, George Hook, Peter Mazula, Helen Pawlush, Antonina Rotko, Matilda Skripak, Evelyn Morely, Anne Hueston, Cathryn Christensen, Walter Epps, David Smith

May God grant you Many Years!

THE NEWLY DEPARTED:

Steven Petronko, Agnes Silberman, Julia Brelinsky, Helen Cotrone, June Bianchini

THE DEPARTED:

Maryanne Benda, Anne Verona, Ann Fondak, Theodor Bacha, Margaret Dellabella, George Makara.

Memory Eternal! Вечная Память!

Welcome to our Parish
We warmly welcome all families, friends and guests to our parish. We are glad to pray with you here today. Over the past eighty-six years, hundreds of people have called Ss. Peter and Paul their home. If this parish is the kind of a spiritual home you have been searching for, we would love to have you become a part of our family.



Today's Memorial Offering

• **Sanctuary Lamp** – in honor of grandma Helen Wanko's Birthday – by grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

• **St Nicholas's Cross** – in memory of Irena Balkun - by Halina Harasim.



Announcements

❖ Mark your calendars: Archpastoral visit of our newly-elected hierarch, his Grace Bishop Michael to our parish is scheduled for Saturday, November 27 and Sunday, November 28, 2010. Please save these dates and plan to attend on both days. More details are coming up.

❖ Tuesday, September 14 is the feast of **Exaltation of the Cross**. You can participate in decoration of the Cross of the Lord with flowers by making your donation at the candle desk. Thank you for your support.

❖ A new issue of "**The Orthodox Church**" magazine is available online at: www.oca.org. Pick up a hard copy of the magazine at the candle desk. Quantities are limited, so please take one per household.

❖ We are planning to install new carpet in our Church. If you would like to support this project, please make your contribution at the candle desk. Thank you.

❖ On **September 14, at 7:00pm**, there will be an **Open Forum** in Ss. Peter and Paul Church, South River, NJ, to discuss the draft of the Strategic Plan for the OCA. This document is available at www.oca.org or www.nynjoca.org. All are welcome to attend and participate in this forum.

❖ **Divine Liturgy time change!** Please note that from next Sunday the beginning of the Divine Liturgies reverts back to 9:30am.

❖ Save the date: **Carpathian Club's Picnic** - September 19. For tickets see Robert Pierce or John Korello.