



Ss. PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

98 West 28th Street, Bayonne, NJ 07002

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Intercessory Prayer

THE LIVING:

Benedict and Eva Benda, Valentina Benda, Cathryn Christensen, Olga DeMay, Marianne Guagenti, George Hook, Andrew Koch, Peter Mazula, Walter and Mary Milk, Helen Pawlush, Helen Pirniak, Matilda Skripak, Stephen and Lillian Sokol, Elizabeth Zuber.

May God grant you Many Years!

THE DEPARTED:

Newly Departed Antonina Rotko, Helen Cotrone, June Bianchini, Maryanne Benda, Anne Verona, Ann Fondak, Theodor Bacha, Margaret Dellabella, George Makara, Julia Brelinsky, Steven Petronko, Agnes Silberman.

Memory Eternal! Вечная Память!

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to Victor Wasilewski and to all who celebrate their Birthdays in the month of January. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many, Many Years!

Welcome Visitors

We welcome all visitors to our Divine Liturgy. It is our joy to have you with us today. If this is your first visit to our parish, we welcome you and invite you to return as often as you are able.

While Holy Communion may only be received by prepared Orthodox Christians, our non-Orthodox guests are welcome to join us in venerating the Cross, receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy and for fellowship in our Church Hall after the service.



Announcements

❖ **Blessing of homes** will begin Jan. 6th after the Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Holy Theophany. Please sign up at the candle desk or call rectory for an appointment. Please indicate your name, preferred date, time, as well as address and phone number.

❖ **Calendars** for 2011 are available at the candle desk. Please pick one if you did not do so yet.

❖ **Save the date! – Ice Skating on Sunday, January 30, 2011** sponsored by NJ District of F.O.C.A. Everyone is invited. Gathering at 2:30 p.m. in our church hall. Ice Skating will be indoors from 3:15pm – 4:30pm at the Korpi Ice Rink located in Bayonne High School. For more info, please contact Marge Kovach, 732-815-9765 mjkovach@aol.com, see a flyer posted on our bulletin board, or visit our website.

❖ **Coffee Hour Sponsors are needed.** Have it in memory or in honor of your loved ones. Please sign-up at the candle desk. Upcoming Coffee Hours: January 16 – offered by Halina Harasim.

❖ **A&P and ShopRite Shopping Cards** available at the candle stand. Do your shopping as you always do it, and help our church raise funds at NO COST to you.

❖ Available at the candle desk are **memorial candles, Altar bread and wine** to be sponsored in prayerful intentions of your loved-ones.

Our Deepest Sympathy

To the family and friends of our parishioner, newly departed Antonina Rotko who fell asleep in the Lord on Thursday, December 30, 2010. May she rest in peace in God's Heavenly Kingdom! Memory Eternal!

Parastas will be held at Sweeney Funeral Home (857 Kennedy Blvd) **Sun. Jan 2 at 5:30pm.** Funeral service will be in our Church **Mon. Jan 3 at 9:00am.**

January 2, 2011

Sunday before the Theophany

- 9:00am – General Confession, Hours
- 9:30am – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 2 Tim. 4:5-8
Gospel: Mark 1:1-8
- **Panikhida** – in memory of Archpriest Nicholas and Matushka Glykeria Fedetz-offered by Tais Fedetz.
- **Coffee Hour** – in honor of Victor Wasilewski's Birthday, provided by Stephen and Lisa Wasilewski.

Schedule of Services

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5TH –

Eve of THEOPHANY

6:00pm - All-night Vigil & Blessing of Waters

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6TH –

THEOPHANY OF THE LORD

9:30am - Divine Liturgy with Blessing of Waters

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8TH

6:00pm - Great Vespers & Confessions

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9TH

9:10am - Hours

9:30am - Divine Liturgy

The Blessing of Homes

The custom of blessing homes during the Theophany season is of special beauty and significance. It is not simply a sentimental tradition without meaning, nor is it a custom whose meaning we have forgotten, like an old friend whose face we remember, but whose impact on our life has been forgotten.

When an Orthodox Christian believer moves into a new home, he dedicates his new home as the abode of a follower of Christ. He asks that God, the source of all goodness and the Giver of every perfect gift, to bless his house and all that is within it; he recalls that Jesus Christ, His Son, came to bring Salvation to all, even as He brought Salvation to the house of Zaccheus; he prays that the Holy Spirit may abide in it, guiding those who dwell in it in the Paths of righteousness.

On the Feast of Theophany we rededicate our home for its original purpose, just as we must periodically rededicate our life to Christ. We do it especially on this Feast because this is the day on which we remember in the Church Year the coming of Christ who began His Ministry when He descended into Jordan to be Baptized by St. John the Forerunner and Baptist. He enters again into our lives reminding us that we must "repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand."

An Orthodox Christian must dedicate not only himself and his house to the Lord, but his daily work and all his efforts as well. All things are to be done to the glory of God. That is why in the Orthodox Church, not only religious objects, such as icons, crosses, churches and vestments, are blessed, but also homes, fields, animals and all objects which are used in our daily life for the good of man. In this the Church expresses its faith that the Holy Spirit's sanctifying action extends over the whole Creation.