



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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February 13, 2011

37th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

- 9:10am – Hours
- 9:30am – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 2 Tim. 3:10-15
Gospel: Lk. 18:10-14
- Church school
- Panikhida - in memory of Mary Milk and Antonina Rotko – offered by John & Loraine Korello.
- Fellowship – Please come downstairs for a Coffee Hour provided by Matthew & Tonya Galati.

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH

6:00pm - Great Vespers & Confessions

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH

9:10am - Hours

9:30am - Divine Liturgy

Visit us online at:

www.SsPeterAndPaulBayonne.org

The Reality of Sin

The reading for February 17 contains a striking statement: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." Another memorable verse follows: "If we say that we have not sinned, we make [God] a liar, and His word is not in us."

These verses are from 1 John 1:8 to 2:6. Their directness makes it clear that the writer, John the Apostle and Evangelist, must have been dealing with some disturbing challenges to the Christian faith.

Those challenges came from the various groups and sects that appeared in the earliest days of the Christian Church, when John was writing. Many of these groups, influenced by Oriental or Greek pagan philosophies, taught that the soul is the only important part of the human being. The body is a prison from which the soul must strive to escape. In fact, all material things, including the body, are unworthy of salvation.

Devaluing matter led these groups to have ideas about Jesus Christ that were not those of the Church. A belief system called Docetism (from the Greek word for "to seem") taught that Christ did not really come as a true human being; He only seemed to do so. The Docetists couldn't accept that God would lower Himself to take on a material body.

But our faith is based on Jesus Christ coming to our world as true Man and true God. He had to take on everything that is ours, including a body, in order to save it. Our bodies will be resurrected in glory, not cast off as worthless. We are whole beings—body, soul, spirit—and our wholeness is eternally precious to God.

When John writes that if we say we have not sinned "we make God a liar," he is referring to another teaching of some groups in his time. They said that sin is unimportant. It is merely something done in the body, and if the body and matter are unimportant, so is sin.

Intercessory Prayer

THE LIVING:

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

May God grant you Many Years!

THE NEWLY DEPARTED:

Helen Pawlush, Mary Milk, Antonina Rotko

THE DEPARTED:

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!

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.

But John insists, by referring to Jesus Christ as the eternal One whom "our hands have handled" (1:1), that God honored matter and the body when He sent His Son in the body. Therefore, everything we do in the body is important, and the reality is that sin exists and must be struggled against so that it can be overcome. To deny the reality of sin is to deny what Christ's coming as Man showed us, and that denial makes God a liar. It also endangers our salvation, because denying sin is deceiving ourselves, and turns us away from repentance.

But the reality of sin doesn't leave us without hope. John reminds us that we are called to obey God, and to love each other as He loves us. We may fall short, but when that happens, Jesus Christ is our advocate before the Father. He is the expiation "for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world" (2:2).



Today's Memorial Offering

- *Sanctuary Lamp* – in memory of Stephen Petronko – by Ann Kunigonis.
- *St Nicholas' Cross* – in memory of Stephen Petronko – by Ann Kunigonis.



Announcements

❖ Our Parish Council meeting will be this coming Thursday, Feb. 17th at 7pm at the Church Hall. All members are urged to attend.

❖ **Maslenitsa Luncheon** will be on Sunday, March 6th after the Divine Liturgy. Come and enjoy a meal with friends and family before the Forgiveness Vespers. \$10 per person; kids 12 and under – free. Make your reservation today at the candle desk so we may know how much food to prepare.

❖ Annual **Wine & Cheese festival** at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church will be on Friday, Feb. 18 at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$20; for more info see a flyer at the bulletin board.

❖ **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: Feb. 20th – by Chris Bygonaise; Feb. 27th – by Alena Burkova and Alex Nechushkin.

❖ **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.