



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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Christ is risen!

May 8, 2011

3rd Sunday of Pascha
Holy Myrrbearing Women

Holy Apostle and Evangelist
John the Theologian

- 9:30am – Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Acts 6:1-7;
1 John 1:1-7(Saint)

Gospel: Mark 15:43-16:8;
John 19:25-27; 21:24-25(Saint)

- Fellowship - Please come downstairs following Liturgy for Coffee Hour, provided by Olga DeMay and Stephen Wasilewski. Thank you, Olga and Stephen!

Schedule of Services *

* Please note that there will be no Vespers on Saturdays May 14th and 21st.

SUNDAY, MAY 15

9:30am - Divine Liturgy

Our God of Surprises

On May 13 we remember the second-century virgin martyr Glyceria. Born to a rich Roman family, she faced poverty when her father died and the family money was lost.

She had far more challenging experiences than losing wealth. Arrested for her faith by a pagan governor, Glyceria was imprisoned and left to starve. But the governor was in for a surprise, as the "Prologue from Ochrid" tells us: "After a certain time, when the governor reckoned that the maiden must have died of hunger, he opened the prison and was astounded to see her in good health, bright and merry" (Vol. II pg. 174).

Glyceria further surprised the pagans around her by continuing to praise Christ openly. She was so devoted to God that when tortured with fire, she declared her grateful willingness to share the experience of the prophet Daniel in the fiery furnace.

On this day we read in Acts 8:40-9:19 about several other people who were also surprised by God. First up is the apostle Philip, who instructed the Ethiopian eunuch on the road to Gaza. After their meeting, the Spirit of the Lord "caught up Philip" and he "was found at Azotus." What a surprise it must have been to Philip to be taken from one place to another in that mysterious way. Yet he doesn't seem to have missed a beat. We read that he went right ahead with his work, and "passing on he preached the gospel to all the towns till he came to Caesarea."

The next verses are about Saint Paul, still at this time called Saul, who was surprised on the road to Damascus by a lightning flash and a voice he had not heard before. Somehow, he knew to address the person speaking as "Lord." When he got back up on his feet, having been knocked to the ground by the encounter, he was further surprised to realize that he had (temporarily) lost his sight.

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 DEPARTED:

Helen Pawlush, Mary Milk, Antonina Rotko Helen Cotrone, June Bianchini, Maryanne Benda, Anne Verona. Steven Petronko.

Memory Eternal! Вечная Память!

Happy 70!

Our prayers and best wishes to Valentina & Theodore Benda, who celebrated their 70th Anniversary of Marriage on May 4th. May God bless you and preserve you in health and happiness for Many, Many, Many Years! Mnogaya Leta!

Finally we read about Ananias, who was told by the Lord to go and find Saul. Ananias' reply to God indicates his surprise, and his reluctance. He "reminds" God that Saul had very recently been persecuting Ananias and other Christians. Saul was known to them as a man doubly to be feared because he had done much evil to them, and also because he had authority from the chief priests to do more.

Yet God tells Ananias that Saul is His "chosen instrument" and that this hater of Christians will soon be carrying His name "before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel." So, despite his hesitant surprise, Ananias obeys God. In doing so he is blessed to play a central part in establishing Paul as the great missionary he will become.

If we ever doubted it, the people we remember and read about on this day should convince us that God often surprises us, doing things in His own way to accomplish His divine will.

Today's Memorial Offering



- *Sanctuary Lamp* – in memory of Joseph Macinsky, on his Anniversary of Repose – by Mary Macinsky.



Announcements

❖ We welcome Archpriest Fr. John Nehrebecki who served the Divine Liturgy today with us. While Fr. Igor is away, please remember that Church phone is in service and Fr. Igor checks messages daily. In case of emergency, please contact Fr. Joseph Lickwar at 201 - 434 - 1986.

❖ **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 Hour – May 15 – offered by Mark Benda & Family, in honor of 70th Anniversary of Marriage of Theodore and Valentina Benda.

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.