



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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June 5, 2011

7th Sunday of Pascha. Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council. Afterfeast of the Ascension

- 8:40am – General Confession
 - 9:00am – Divine Liturgy
- Epistle: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36*
Gospel: John 17:1-13
- Panikhida** – in memory of newly departed Andrew Bacsik, on the 9th day of his departure, offered by Andrea and Russ Wyskanycz.
 - Fellowship** – Please come downstairs following Liturgy for Coffee Hour, sponsored by Andrea and Russ Wyskanycz in memory of newly departed Andrew Bacsik.

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, JUNE 11- MEMORIAL SATURDAY

9:00am – Divine Liturgy
6:00pm – Great Vespers & Litya

SUNDAY, JUNE 12- HOLY PENTECOST

8:40am – Hours
9:00am – Divine Liturgy

The Sadness of Indifference

On June 10th we read the entire twenty-seventh chapter of the Book of Acts, which describes Saint Paul's final sea journey, from Caesarea to Rome.

We're immediately reminded of the hazards and uncertainties Paul faced in his travels. Before we even get to verse 5, Luke tells us twice that "the winds were against us." The voyage to Rome would continue to be full of danger and hardship.

But in the previous chapter, the twenty-sixth, Paul has faced something perhaps harder to bear: total indifference to the Gospel. The chapter describes Paul, a bound prisoner, making his defense before Herod Agrippa II, the son of Herod Agrippa I who had "laid violent hands" on Christians.

Paul begins his defense with hope that Agrippa will be a fair judge because he is "especially familiar with all customs and controversies of the Jews" (26:3). Paul has already been interrogated by Festus, the Roman governor of Judea who is also present. Paul doesn't expect much from Festus, a pagan and probably unfamiliar with the Old Testament prophecies and their completion in Jesus.

But from Agrippa, a Jew, Paul hopes for more. So he addresses a majestic explanation of the Christian faith to Agrippa as a fellow Jew, basing it on the Old Testament expectations. He speaks of the "promises made by God to our fathers, to which our twelve tribes hope to attain." He expresses incredulity that he should be accused by Jews for holding to that hope. Then he asks, "Why is it thought incredible by any of you [Jews who know the Old Testament prophecies] that God raises the dead?" (26:8).

Paul also testifies about his experience on the road to Damascus, when he saw a heavenly light "brighter than the

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:

Andrew Bacsik, Helen Pawlush, Mary Milk, Antonina Rotko, Helen Cotrone, June Bianchini, Maryanne Benda, Anne Verona, Ann Fondak, Theodor Bacha, George Makara, Steven Petronko, Agnes Silberman.

Memory Eternal! Вечная Память!

sun, shining round me and those who journeyed with me." He describes a voice – in Hebrew – identifying Jesus as Lord and calling him to bear witness to Jesus Christ so that people can "turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God" (26:18).

We might expect that there would be at least a brief thoughtful silence in response to such a stirring message. But Festus can hardly wait to say loudly, "Paul, you are mad, your great learning has made you mad." Paul calmly denies this, but challenges Agrippa, again as a fellow Jew: "King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe."

Agrippa answers, "In a short time you think to make me a Christian!" His only reaction to Paul's fiery faith is a lame half-joke. Paul must have been disappointed, and sorry for this lost soul, the last of the Herods, who reacts with indifference and without hope to the offer of life.

Today's Memorial Offering



• *Sanctuary Lamp* – in memory of Daniel Grudinoff, on his Anniversary of Death – by John & Helen Wanko.

• *St Nicholas Cross* – in honor of Grandpa Ken Bianchini, on his Birthday – by Keira & Mia Canova



Announcements

❖ There will be a Parish Council meeting tomorrow, Monday, June 6 at 7:00pm. All members are urged to attend.

❖ Our parish name's day picnic is coming! Reserve this date: **Wednesday, June 29, 2011, at 6:00pm.** Everyone is welcome. If you can, please bring dish to share. There will be a sign-up list at the candle desk. Hot dogs, hamburgers and kielbasa will be provided. Let us celebrate the Feast of our Patron Saints!

❖ **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 are: June 26 – sponsored by RBO; July 10 – by Wasilewski Family.

Congratulations

To Matthew & Tonya Galati on the Birth of their new baby girl – Reagan Joanne Galati! May God bless and preserve all your family for Many, Many, Many Years!

Our Deepest Sympathy

to Andrea and Russ Wyskanycz, and all the Bacsik family on the loss of their beloved father and grandfather, our parishioner Andrew Bacsik, who fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday, May 29, 2011. May he rest in peace in God's Heavenly Kingdom! Memory Eternal! Vechnaya Pamiat!