



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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July 3, 2011

3rd Sunday after Pentecost.

- 8:30am – General Confession
- 9:00am – Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Rom. 5:1-10
Gospel: Matt. 6:22-33

- Panikhida** – in memory of newly departed Andrew Bacsik, on the 40th 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, JULY 9

6:00pm - Great Vespers & Confessions

SUNDAY, JULY 10

8:40am - Hours

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

Visit us online at:

www.SsPeterAndPaulBayonne.org

Repenting is Not Just Lamenting

On July 4th and 5th we read Jesus' description of John the Baptist in Matthew 11: 2-20. He calls John "more than a prophet" and says John is the "messenger" written about by the prophet Malachi. Jesus goes on to "upbraid the cities where most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent."

That word "repent" is often associated with John, who began his ministry with the same words Jesus used as He started to minister: "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand!" If you asked a number of people what the word "repent" means, and what Jesus Christ and John were calling their hearers to do, several answers would probably be offered.

Some people believe that the word "repent" is a warning that we need to change our ways not out of love and respect for God, but in order to escape the punishment that He has vengefully planned for those who fall into sin. Others would say that to repent is to acknowledge that we are hopelessly entangled in sin, with no means of escaping the wrath of our angry Maker.

Bishop Kallistos Ware writes about the Orthodox experience of repentance in the first volume of his collected works, entitled "The Inner Kingdom." There he reminds readers that a view of repentance which only involves lamentation, despair, or fear of God's retribution is at best incomplete and at worst seriously wrong. He writes, "To repent is to look, not downward at my own shortcomings but upward at God's love; not backward with self-reproach, but forward with trustfulness. It is to see, not what I have failed to be, but what by the grace of God I can yet become."

Bishop Kallistos stresses the fact that God wants to forgive, not punish. This is emphasized by the Church's description of Christ as the "physician of souls" who knows very well how

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!

weak and prone to sin we are, and who stands ready to "blot out our transgressions" (in the words of the Lenten hymn) if we repent of them.

The Church helps us repent through the Sacrament of Confession. As Bishop Kallistos points out, neither the person confessing nor the priest hearing the confession is central in this sacrament. The absolution we receive is given by Christ Himself, with the priest as witness and counselor. The bishop writes, "In common with all the sacraments, Confession involves a joint divine-human action, in which there is found a convergence and "cooperation" (synergy) between God's grace and our free will. Both are necessary; but what God does is incomparably the more important."

John the Baptist addressed crowds with stirring words: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1: 29). These are not the words of a grim and frowning preacher, verbally beating people up for their faults. They are words of hope, filled with wonder at the goodness and mercy of God, who responds with love to all who repent.



Today's Memorial Offering

- *St. John's Cross* – in memory of newly departed Andrew Bacsik – offered by Lopen Family.



Announcements

❖ Our Parish Council meeting is postponed to **Monday, July 11th**, at 7:00pm. All members are urged to attend.

❖ On **Thursday, August 18th, 2011** there will be a **Diocesan Youth Day** for the children of our Diocese at Six Flags Great Adventure located in Jackson, NJ. The main focus of this Youth Event is to bring the children of our Diocese together in prayer, Christian fellowship, and lots of fun. For more information please see a flyer posted on the bulletin board or visit our Diocesan website: www.nynjoca.org.

❖ If anyone would like to take a good care of a nice older cat, please speak to Tonya Galati.

Birthday Greetings

To Mr. John Wanko and to all who celebrate their birthdays in the month of July. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many, Many, Many Years! Mnogaya Leta!

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.