



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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August 21, 2011

10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST.

Afterfeast of the Dormition

Apostle Thaddaeus of the Seventy.
Martyr Bassa (Vassa) of Edessa.

- 8:40am – Greeting of Bishop Michael, His Vesting, and Hours
- 9:00am – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 1 Cor. 4:9-16
Gospel: Matt. 17:14-23
- Fellowship – Following the Divine Liturgy, please join us in the Church Hall for a Luncheon with our beloved spiritual shepherd and archpastor, His Grace Bishop Michael.

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27

6:00pm – Great Vespers and Confessions

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

8:40am – Hours

9:00am – Divine Liturgy

www.SsPeterAndPaulBayonne.org

Isn't it possible to be saved

even if you consciously sin throughout your life and never bother to repent? Couldn't you plan to live as you please and then confess everything on your deathbed, and gain salvation that way?

Some people claim that this kind of cynical plan could work. But on August 24 we remember a saint who shows us that it definitely cannot work. He is Saint Cosmas the Aetolian.

Born in the mountainous region of Aetolia, Greece in 1714, Cosmas was tutored in the Orthodox faith by an archdeacon during his childhood. Drawn to monasticism, he went to live in the Philotheou Monastery on Mount Athos.

Cosmas saw the effects of centuries of Turkish rule over Greece. The Church had been oppressed, and many people had had no churches, no spiritual teachers, and no priests to baptize them.

Cosmas received permission to travel around Greece, going on foot or by donkey to remote areas, and by ship to the islands. He taught the people, and established churches, schools, and charitable centers. The Orthodox Church declared Cosmas a saint in 1961.

Saint Cosmas taught that to be saved we must love each other. But he insisted that God is not satisfied with superficial love. He said:

"If you want to find perfect love, sell all your belongings, give them to the poor, and then go find a master and become a slave. Can you do this and be perfect?"

"You say this is too heavy? Then do something else. Don't sell yourself as a slave. Just sell your belongings and give them to the poor. Can you do it? Or do you find this too heavy a task?"

"All right, you cannot give away all your belongings. Then give half, or a third, or a fifth. Is even this too heavy? Then give one

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, Stephen & Lillian Sokol, Elizabeth Zuber, Joseph Korin.

May God grant you Many Years!

THE DEPARTED:

n/d Matilda Skripak, n/d 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!

tenth. Can you do that? Is it still too heavy?

"How about this? Don't sell yourself, or give a penny to the poor. Only do this: don't take your poor brother's coat, don't take his bread, don't persecute him, don't eat him alive. If you don't want to do him any good, at least do him no harm. Just leave him alone. Is this also too heavy?"

"You say you want to be saved. But how? How can we be saved if everything we are called to do is too heavy? We descend and descend until there is no place further down. God is merciful, yes, but He also has an iron rod."

So, according to Saint Cosmas, the "plan" of living as we please, sinning without repenting, and counting on a deathbed confession to save us, can't work. Living selfishly only means we will "descend and descend until there is no place further down." We will no longer be able to love God, or the people around us, because we are so used to caring only for ourselves. As for repenting, if we haven't practiced during our life, the time will come when we have simply forgotten how.

Today's Memorial Offering



• *Sanctuary Lamp* – in memory of Peter Lopen Sr, on the 12th Anniversary of his Repose – offered by Lopen Family.

• *Church Wine* – in honor of Peter Lopen Sr. – by Lopen Family.

Εἰς Πολλά Ἴτη Δέσποτα

*W*e lovingly welcome our dear Vladika, His Grace, Bishop Michael, Bishop of New York and the Diocese of New York and New Jersey. We also welcome Archpriest Joseph Likwar, Archdeacon Michael Suvak, matushki, and all friends of our parish. Thank you for joining us for this special occasion. May God grant you Many Years!

Vacation Planning

If you go away during summer on vacation trips, make sure to find an Orthodox Church near wherever you travel and attend the Divine Liturgy on Sunday and major Holy Days there. Our website will help you to find any orthodox Church in USA and Canada. You might be tired of hearing it, but it's important truth we should never forget – there is no vacation from God!

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.