



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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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:

Matilda Skripak, Andrew Bacsik, Helen Pawlush, Mary Milk, Antonina Rotko, Helen Cotrone, June Bianchini, Maryanne Benda, Anne Verona, Agnes Silberman.

Memory Eternal! Вечная Память!

because, as Gabriel says, "you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time" (1: 20).

When Mary the Theotokos visits her relative Elizabeth with the news of her own pregnancy, there is still another mystery, which Elizabeth herself questions. She asks, "And why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" Elizabeth also is the first human being to repeat Gabriel's words to Mary: "Blessed are you among women." This simple, elderly woman is chosen by God to utter the first human affirmation of the marvel of the Incarnation.

In one of the readings for this day, Saint Paul describes the greatest of mysteries, the saving work of God: "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that by His poverty you might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8: 9).

Some are willing to accept God's mysteries, as Elizabeth did. Others doubt and challenge the messengers He sends to tell us about His mysteries, as Zechariah did. It is up to us to decide which example to follow, and to decide which one will enable us to "know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ."



Announcements

❖ **Divine Liturgy time change!** Please note that from this coming Thursday, September 8, 2011 (the Nativity of the Most-Holy Theotokos) the beginning of the Divine Liturgies reverts back to 9:30am.

❖ Wednesday, September 14 is the feast of **Exaltation of the Cross**. Please consider to make a donation to decorate the Cross of the Lord with flowers. May God bless you abundantly for your support.

❖ **The Carpathian Club** will hold its **annual picnic** on **Sunday September 18, 2011** from 11am-3pm on the church grounds. The price of tickets is \$17 at the door and \$15 in advance. Please see Robert Pierce for tickets. Please note that Fr. Igor will have two guided tours to the Church during that time. If your friends that come to the picnic have never seen the Church inside – please make sure that they won't miss this opportunity.

❖ St. Spiridon Orthodox Church in Perth Amboy, NJ will hold their **3rd Annual Russian Cultural Festival** on **Sunday, September 18, 2011** from 12pm – 7pm. For more information please see a flyer on the bulletin board.

❖ St Gregory Palamas parish in Glen Gardner, NJ is hosting a **Tricky Tray** on **Sunday, September 30th**. For more details please see a flyer on the bulletin board.

A Heartfelt Thank You

To all of you who have helped out in any possible way to make the visit of our beloved Vladika, Bishop Michael a wonderful celebration of our spiritual family. May God bless and keep all of you in His loving care for many blessed years!

Pictures from this event are posted on our parish website.

September 4, 2011

12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST.

- 8:30am – General Confession, Hours
- 9:00am – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 1 Cor. 15:1-11
Gospel: Matt. 19:16-26
- Panikhida** – in memory of **Andrew Bacsik**, offered by the Parish Council. Memory Eternal!

Schedule of Services

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

6:00pm – Great Vespers with Lytia

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

NATIVITY OF THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS

9:30am – Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

6:00pm – Great Vespers and Confessions

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

8:40am – Hours

9:00am – Divine Liturgy

The Mysteries of Elizabeth

On September 5th the Church commemorates Saint Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptizer or Forerunner.

The first chapter of Luke tells us that she is "of the daughters of Aaron" and is the wife of the priest Zachariah. The two are praised with these words: "And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless" (1:6).

But the next verse describes one of the mysteries in Elizabeth's life: she is barren. Why would such a praiseworthy couple, now advanced in years, be deprived of the blessing of children? This mystery does not have a "solution" we can discover. God chooses to give this couple a child, in fact an extraordinary child. But the timing is His, not ours. Elizabeth and Zachariah will become parents very late in life, but they will not remain childless until they die.

Another mystery is the way the newborn child's name is announced. Elizabeth says, much to the surprise of the gathered relatives and friends, that his name is to be John. Not only would most people expect that this announcement would be made by the man of the family, but "John" is not a name that had been used in the families of either Elizabeth or Zachariah.

Why is she given this privilege? Perhaps because she, unlike her husband, was willing to believe the angel Gabriel's message from God. Zachariah doubted what the angel said—that such an old couple would have a child, whose name was to be John. But Elizabeth, just as she had accepted years of barrenness, accepted this wonderful news and shared it with the people around her. Zachariah could only mutely confirm her words. He had been temporarily rendered unable to speak