



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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October 23, 2011

19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Holy Apostle Jacob (James),
Brother of the Lord*

- 9:10am – Hours
- 9:30am – Divine Liturgy

*Epistles: 2 Cor. 11:31-12:9
Gal. 1:11-19 (St. Jacob)*

*Gospels: Lk. 16:19-31
Mt. 13:54-58 (St. Jacob)*

- Church School

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

6:00pm – Great Vespers and Confessions

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

9:10am – Hours

9:30am – Divine Liturgy

Visit us online at:

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The Armor That Defeats Armor

On October 27 we celebrate the memory of St. Nestor of Thessalonica – a young student of the Greatmartyr Demetrius, who is remembered on the previous day.

Saint Nestor's story gives insight into a gruesome aspect of Roman imperial power. Many Roman rulers, in this case the emperor Maximian, displayed the cruelty that frequently comes with having absolute control over others' lives.

Maximian sponsored lavish public festivals in the arena. His favorite gladiator was Lyaeus – strong, big, and notoriously vicious. A feature of the festivals was Lyaeus' challenge to fight anyone willing to come forward. As he killed more and more men, the number of those offering to fight him dwindled.

Both Maximian and Lyaeus enjoyed not just the gladiator's victories, but horrible deaths for those he vanquished. The two didn't want to give up their sport, so the emperor began compelling rather than inviting men to fight Lyaeus. Christians were among the first to be pitted against him in large numbers.

Maximian had already imprisoned St. Demetrius, the inspiring leader of the Christians. Now he began forcing one after another of Demetrius' fellow believers to face Lyaeus on a specially-built terrace over the arena. There the powerful gladiator would fight and maim them, and then throw them off the terrace onto rows of upright spears, to die in agony – a procedure the emperor himself had invented to delight the crowds.

St. Nestor was not physically imposing. But knowing what was happening in the arena day after day, he felt called to take action. He visited St. Demetrius in prison, and received a blessing to confront Lyaeus on that deadly terrace.

Nestor managed to kill Lyaeus, and because many in the crowd knew that the victor was Demetrius' disciple, a shout of "Great is the God of Demetrius!" went up. But the emperor had been humiliated. He ordered Nestor's immediate beheading, and had Demetrius executed.

For a saint to ask and receive another saint's blessing to kill a man seems a strange departure from the Church's teachings. One of the hymns of praise to Nestor gives us a way to understand this: it says that he was "given power from above, like David against Goliath."

A reading for this day also gives us a way of thinking about Nestor's action. In Luke 11: 21-22, Jesus Christ answers those who accuse him of casting out demons by the prince of demons. He says, "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace; but when one stronger than he assails him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoil."

Maximian was "fully armed" and able to guard his palace and goods. But Nestor had stronger armor, and used it to defeat Maximian and "divide his spoil" by interrupting his enjoyment of wanton murder. Nestor, Demetrius and Lyaeus lost their lives. But perhaps they gave Maximian a chance to gain back his soul.

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 and receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

Today's Memorial Offering



- *Sanctuary Lamp* – in memory of Stephen Breilinsky, on the Anniversary of his Death – by Helen and John Wanko.
- *St. Nicholas' Cross* – in memory of Eva DeMay – on the Anniversary of her Birth – by DeMay family.

Intercessory Prayer

THE LIVING:

Benedict & Eva Benda, Valentina Benda, Cathryn Christensen, Olga DeMay, Marianne Guagenti, George Hook, Walter Milk, Helen Pirniak, Stephen & Lillian Sokol, Elizabeth Zuber.

THE DEPARTED:

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

Announcements

❖ The Bayonne "R" Club will continue the **flea market** next **Saturday, Oct. 29**. Donations are still accepted. If necessary, please contact any member to arrange for pick up of donated items.

❖ Ss. Peter & Paul Russian Orthodox Church in South River is hosting a **Russian Fall Festival** on **Sat. November 5th** from 10am–5:00pm. For more information please see a flyer posted on the bulletin board.

❖ On Sunday, **November 6, 2011** there will be a **Spaghetti Dinner & Card Party** at St. Mary's Orthodox Church, 89 W 29th St, Bayonne, NJ. Tickets are \$10. Please make remkservations by calling 201-823-0305 or 201-436-5221. Reservations close October 31, 2011.

Our Deepest Sympathy

to Nesheiwat family on the loss of their beloved mother and grandmother Georgette Saba. May she rest in peace in God's Heavenly Kingdom! Memory Eternal!