



# 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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## November 20, 2011

23<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Forefeast of the Entry of the Most-holy Theotokos into the Temple*

- 9:30am – Divine Liturgy  
*Epistle: Eph. 2:4-10*  
*Gospel: Luke 12:16-21*
- Church School
- Panikhida, followed by Coffee Hour – in memory of newly-departed Benedict Benda, on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of his Repose, offered by Benda Family.
- 6:00pm – Great Vespers with Litya

### Schedule of Services

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21 – THE ENTRY OF THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE**  
9:30am – Divine Liturgy

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23**  
6:00pm – Akathist of Thanksgiving  
“Glory to God for All things”

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26**  
6:00pm – Great Vespers and Confessions

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27**  
9:30am – Divine Liturgy

## Hell Cannot Hold Him Nor Can a Bag

*On November 21st we celebrate the feast of the Entry of the Most-Holy Theotokos into the Temple. The coming of Jesus Christ into the world is so important that everything surrounding it, including the event this feast commemorates, is also important.*

*For years before Jesus' birth, His Mother was prepared for her role. While she was still very young, her parents and neighbors took her to the Temple, singing holy songs and carrying candles. She walked up the steps of the Temple and was met by the high priest. She entered the Holy of Holies with him as a sign of her special destiny. Normally nobody entered that place except the high priest, once a year. Then Mary grew up and matured spiritually among holy people, until God was ready to send His Son to us and to have her give Him birth.*

*We celebrate and revere the people and events surrounding the Incarnation because we believe it alone tells the truth about God. Only Christians teach that God's Divine Son came among us to offer us life through His death and resurrection. That is why we can't go along with those who say that every religion is basically the same, and leads to God.*

*Among those who say this is Rick Steves, the well-known travel writer and TV personality. Though Steves is a committed and community-serving Lutheran, he apparently shares the idea that all religions are equal and the same.*

*He describes with admiration a man he met in a remote Turkish village. The man had an embroidered bag hanging in a place of honor on a wall of his small house. The bag, he told Steves, contained a copy of the Qu'ran as well as a Bible and a copy of the Talmud. Though a devout Muslim himself, the man felt that he honored all three faiths by keeping their holy Scriptures together in one bag.*

## Intercessory Prayer

### THE LIVING:

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

### THE DEPARTED:

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

## Annual Parish Meeting

**will be on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> after the Divine Liturgy. Please plan on attending – your presence is necessary.**

*This man is an example, Steves writes, of the way we should all be. How appropriate, how good a symbol of unity it would be if we could all have bags with the various holy Scriptures in them.*

*But this day's feast reminds us that Christians cannot settle for such a tidy solution to the problem of spiritual disunity among human beings. We are not “people of the Book” because we worship a God who did infinitely more than give us a sacred Scripture. He was born from the long-prepared Mary as a Man, and when grown He burst the walls of hell asunder. If hell could not contain Him, certainly a bag can't do it.*

*Our own Scriptures tell us that Jesus Christ came to save everyone, not just those who call themselves His followers. We must love and respect those of other faiths, and need to work at finding common ground with them. But we also have to show them the Man who died on the cross for them – the Man who just won't fit in that bag.*



## Announcements

❖ We are in the **Nativity Fast**, which ends after the Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord, December 25<sup>th</sup>. Please remember the importance of the spiritual part of the Fast – make proper preparations and receive private Confession and Holy Communion during this time.

❖ On **Wed. November 30, 2011** at 7:00pm His Grace Bishop Michael will visit our parish with a special presentation about the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ – “The True Meaning of Christmas”. We will explore the meaning of this wonderful feast as conveyed to us through scripture, the liturgical services and hymns, as well as the various holy traditions of our Orthodox Church. A question and answer period will follow the presentation. Light refreshments and fellowship will be held in the Church Hall. Everyone is welcome!

❖ **Seminarian St. Nicholas Wish List Project** – Our Seminarian Family this year is Dn. James Bozeman, his wife Katherine, and their two sons Alexander, age 12 and Gabriel, age 6. Please help fulfill their St. Nicholas wish list by selecting an item or two from the giving tree in the Church Hall. Gift items will be collected until Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. For your convenience, monetary donations will be accepted and converted into gifts or gift cards. Please see Marge Kovach for details.

## 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.