



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 27, 2011

24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- 9:10am – Hours, Confessions
- 9:30am – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Eph. 2:14-22
Gospel: Luke 13:10-17
- Church School
- Panikhida in memory of:
 - Marianne Benda, on the 3rd Anniversary of her Repose, offered by Theodore and Valentina Benda.
 - Georgette Saba, on the 40th day of her Repose, offered by Nesheiwat Family
- Coffee Hour – in memory of newly-departed Georgette Saba, offered by Nesheiwat Family.

Schedule of Services

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

7:00pm – Lecture by His Grace Bishop Michael “The True Meaning of Christmas”.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

6:00pm – Great Vespers and Confessions

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

9:30am – Divine Liturgy, followed by Annual Parish Meeting

Busybodies Need Not Apply

On December 1st we remember the prophet Nahum. He wrote triumphantly about the destruction, in the year 612 BC, of the city of Ninevah. With its great city fallen, the Assyrian Empire's long and brutal oppression of its neighbors would come to an end.

Much of Nahum's prophecy taunts the Assyrians, telling them that their overthrow is well-deserved. His closing words are, “There is no assuaging your hurt, your wound is grievous. All who hear the news of you clap their hands over you. For upon whom has not come your unceasing evil?”

Nahum also seems to tell the Assyrians that laziness contributed to their downfall: “Your shepherds are asleep, O king of Assyria; your nobles slumber” (3:18a.). This theme of dangerous laziness comes up again in New Testament readings for this day and the next: 2 Thess. 2:13-3:18.

In the first chapter of this second letter to the Thessalonians, Saint Paul offers his thanks that God “chose you from the beginning to be saved, through sanctification” (2: 13). Many of those he is addressing are new converts, so he urges them to hold fast to the teaching they have received by his preaching or his letters. There are those among them, he cautions, who do not have faith. But he reassures them that despite these faithless people, “God is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from evil” (3: 3).

Paul had preached in Thessalonica's synagogue, as he did in every place he stopped, for several weeks. Working with Timothy and Silas, he had attracted many Jewish converts. There were also Gentiles who had joined the Jewish faith, but were convinced by his preaching to become Christians. This created a serious problem; some resentful Jewish leaders maligned Paul and accused him of all sorts of moral and ethical failings. The new converts felt surrounded by hostile

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:

Peter Kalada, Benedict Benda, Georgette Saba, Matilda Skripak, Andrew Bacsik, Helen Pawlush, Mary Milk, Antonina Rotko, Helen Cotrone. June Bianchini. Marianne Benda.

Annual Parish Meeting

is next Sunday, December 4th after the Divine Liturgy. Please plan on attending – your presence is necessary.

opponents.

Another problem was that some of the new Christians had been misled into believing that the Day of the Lord had already come. Therefore, there was no need to prepare for it, and no need to do any work. Paul strives tells the Thessalonians they must “keep away from any brother who is living in idleness and not in accord with the tradition you received from us” (3:6). He also describes the example of his own life: “with toil and labor we worked night and day” (3: 8).

He refers to these idlers as “mere busybodies.” They are so lazy that rather than find something productive to do, they spend their time interfering with others' work. Paul has no patience with these people. He commands that everyone should work and earn an honest living. He urges those who are working as they should to keep away from those who refuse to do so. Yet Paul truly wants every one of God's beloved to be saved. So he tells the Thessalonians not to treat an idle busybody as an enemy, “but to warn him as a brother” (3:15).

Today's Memorial Offering



- *Sanctuary Lamp* – in honor of Stephen Wanko's Birthday – by daughters Lauren & Lindsay.
- *St. John's Cross* – in honor of Kenneth Bianchini's Birthday – by Grandpa & Grandma Wanko.

• *St. Nicholas Cross* – in honor of Stephen Wanko's Birthday – by Mom & Dad.

• *Triple Candelabra* – in memory of Marianne Benda, on the 3rd Anniversary of Repose – by Mom & Dad Benda.

• *Candles on the Altar* – in memory of Benedict Bedna – by Maria Suckovacki.



Announcements

❖ We are in the Nativity Fast, which ends after the Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord, December 25th. 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 – “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!

Birthday Greetings

and warmest wishes to Stephen Wanko, Miroslaw Szeslawicki, and to all who celebrate their birthdays in the month of November. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many, Many Years! Mnogaya Leta!

Announcements

❖ On Friday, December 2, 2011 there will be an Annual St. Nicholas Day Fish Dinner, sponsored by the Sisterhood of St. Barbara of the Holy Assumption Orthodox Church, 35 Orange Ave, Clifton, NJ. Adults - \$18.00. Children under 12 – Free. This event will feature a delicious, homemade seafood buffet, refreshments, desserts, basket raffles and much more! For tickets and more information, contact Olga Grib @ 973.471.3678. All are welcome! Bring a friend!

❖ Stephen Wasilewski and Chris Bygonaise are asking parishioners for their support in launching a charitable outreach to the Hoboken Shelter this Christmas season. Please feel free to contribute either food items or your personal time and effort as we make 75 sandwiches for shelter guests. We will be gathering in the church kitchen on the morning of Saturday, December 17, 2011, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM to make sandwiches. Food donations must be received in the church hall by Friday, December 16, 2011. Please sign up for either donations or participation on the sheets at the candle stand. Thank you, and may God bless you for your generosity!

❖ 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 27th. For your convenience, monetary donations will be accepted and converted into gifts or gift cards. Please see Marge Kovach for details.

❖ St. Mary’s A.C.R.Y. Chapter #36 is holding their Annual St. Nicholas Dinner on Sunday, December 11, 2011 at St. Mary’s Orthodox Church (89 West 29th St.) at 12 Noon. For reservations call: 201-823-0305, or 201-436-5221. Reservations close December 5, 2011.

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.

Our Deepest Sympathy

to the family and friends of Peter Kalada, who fell asleep in the Lord on Sat. November 19, 2011. May he rest in peace in God’s Heavenly Kingdom! Memory Eternal!

Ss PETER AND PAUL  ORTHODOX CHURCH
Library

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I would like to inform you that with the blessing of our Rector Fr. Igor, work has begun on organizing and expanding what will become our Church Library. This library will not only allow our parishioners to reflect on their Faith but will also serve as a tool for non-Orthodox visitors to our Church to better understand the truths of the Orthodox faith. Although we do at the moment have some books for the library, the vast majority of them are old and some are in poor condition. In order to create a modern library we are hoping that each parishioner will be able to donate one book to be placed in the library. Books can be donated “for the Glory of God” or if you wish, you can dedicate your donation to someone you love, living or deceased – in this case your donated book will have an appropriate inscription on the front page:

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|| *For the Glory of God / In Honor / In loving memory of* ||
|| *This book is donated to the Library of Ss. Peter & Paul* ||
|| *Orthodox Church in Bayonne, NJ by* ⌋

If you would like to make a monetary donation, which will be used to purchase a book, please place the donation in an envelope (available at the candle desk labeled “Orthodox Library”, place the name of the loved one being commemorated on the envelope, and leave it at the candle desk. This is a great way to obey the command of Christ to “Preach the Gospel”, and to Glorify God as well as to honor a loved one.

With thanks in Christ,

Matthew Galati, Church librarian.