



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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December 18, 2011

27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY

- 9:10am – Hours, Private Confessions
- 9:30am – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Heb. 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40
Gospel: Matt. 1:1-25
- Church School
- Panikhida – in memory of:
 - Andrew & Juliana Bacsik, in memory of their 90th Birthdays, and on the 6th Anniversary of Juliana's Repose, offered by Andrea & Russ Wyskanycz;
 - Benedict Benda, on the 40th day of his Repose, offered by Eva Benda & Family;
 - Antonina Rotko, on her 1st Anniversary of Repose, offered by Suchowacki Family
- Fellowship – Please come downstairs following the Divine Liturgy for Coffee Hour in memory of Andrew & Juliana Bacsik, provided by Andrea & Russ Wyskanycz, and in memory of Benedict Benda, provided by his wife Eva & children.

The Orthodox Rule of Prayer

To dedicate a period of time each day to listening to Jesus, and to prayer, is to choose, as Mary did, "the better part," "the one thing needful." It means that we have realized that meeting God in prayer is the most important thing we can do each day. We read in the Bible that God would speak to Moses "face to face" (Exodus 33:11). What a wonderful thing it is for us, too, to develop this kind of intimacy with God whereby we speak to Him in prayer each day face to face. To remind yourself that it is indeed "face to face," place an icon of Christ before you as you pray.

The people of God whose prayers are recorded in the Bible and in the prayer books of the Church, seldom ever read a book on prayer, seldom ever went to a seminar on prayer, seldom ever heard a sermon on prayer. They just prayed! And the prayers of the Church are so important because the whole theology of what we believe about God is to be found in those prayers (lex credendi, lex orandi). What we believe is what we pray. And what we pray is what we believe. That is why the Church Fathers say that one who truly prays is a theologian. And a true theologian is one who prays.

Satan fears prayer because God hears prayer. Satan will stop at nothing to distract and discourage a person from prayer. If he succeeds at this, he separates us from our greatest source of power. This is why the Church Fathers keep stressing that to pray, a person must struggle to his last breath.

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.

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, DEC. 24 – Eve of the Nativity

9:30am – Divine Liturgy
4:30pm – All-night Vigil (Great Compline, Matins)

SUNDAY, DEC. 25 – THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

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

MONDAY, DEC. 26 – Synaxis of the Theotokos

9:30am – Divine Liturgy

TUESDAY, DEC. 27 – Protomartyr Stephen

9:30am – Divine Liturgy

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.

Today's Memorial Offering



- *Sanctuary Lamp* – in memory of Benedict Benda, on the 40th Day of his Repose – by Benda Family.
- *Tripple Candelabra and Candles on the Altar* – in memory of Juliana & Andrew Bacsik.
- *Bread and Wine for the Holy Eucharist* – in memory of Juliana & Andrew Bacsik.

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 make proper preparations to have a private Confession and Holy Communion during this time.

❖ A heartfelt **Thank You** to Andrea & Russ Wyskanycz for donating and decorating the outside of our Church with two beautiful wreaths and garlands, and to Tonya & Matthew Galati for donating beautiful Christmas tree for our Church. A **deepest appreciation** to all of you who participated in decorating of our Church yesterday. May God pay you back hundredfold for your time and talent!

❖ On **Sunday, January 15, 2012** there will be a **75th Annual Novogodny (New Year's) Ball**, sponsored by F.O.C.A. This event will be in Cherry Hill, NJ. For more information please see a flyer at the bulletin board.

❖ Save the Date! On **Sunday, January 22, 2012** The Carpathian Club will sponsor a **Roast Pork Dinner** after the Divine Liturgy. All proceeds will go to the Church. More information is coming up.

❖ Always available at the candle desk are **memorial candles, and Bread and Wine for the Holy Eucharist**. They can be offered in honor or in memory of your loved-ones. Please remember that not only these offerings are a sign of your faith and hope in God's help which is always sent to all who turn to Him and His Saints with faith and prayers; but also these are simply the deeds of mercy needed for the salvation of those whom you pray for, as well as for your own salvation.