



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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January 8, 2012

Afterfeast of the Theophany Sunday After the Theophany

- 9:10am – Hours, Confessions
- 9:30am – Divine Liturgy
 - Epistle: Eph. 4:7-13
 - Gospel: Mt. 4:7-13
- The Oath of Office of the new Parish Council.
- Panikhida in memory of:
 - Marianne Benda – by Theodore & Valentina Benda;
 - Mary Milk, offered by Walter Milk;
 - Antonina Rotko – by Sisterhood of the Assumption
- Fellowship – Please come downstairs following Panikhida for Coffee Hour, provided by Theodore & Valentina Benda in memory of their daughter Marianne Benda.

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, JAN. 14

6:00pm – Great Vespers

SUNDAY, JAN. 15

9:10am – Hours, Confessions

9:30am – Divine Liturgy

Some Writings about Jesus Are Not Gospels

January 8 is marked as the Sunday after Theophany. Over the past few weeks the Church has celebrated that momentous event as well as the Lord's Nativity.

What is known about the years between those two events, the time during which Jesus was growing up and preparing for His three-year ministry? The second chapter of the Gospel of Luke gives us a bit of insight, in the description of the twelve-year-old Jesus answering the questions of the elders in the Temple. After this, He returns to Nazareth with Mary and Joseph, and is obedient to them (2: 46-51).

Luke's words show that Jesus had the wisdom of His Father, and used it properly, to enlighten His people. The words also reveal His willingness to take on humanity completely, which included living in submission to two human parents. Beyond this, there is little if any information in the four Gospels about Jesus as a child or a young man growing into adulthood.

But other books claim to tell us far more than the New Testament Gospels we read in church. These books describe a young Jesus showing his power by turning clay birds into real birds. When he doesn't like the way other children are acting, he curses them and turns them permanently into corpses, and then blinds their parents.

Because the accounts in these books are so different from the early Church's experience of Jesus Christ, they were not accepted as part of the Gospel canon, meaning the group of books the Church regarded as truthful descriptions of God's plan and saving work. Documents that would become part of the New Testament had already been written just a few decades after Jesus' death and resurrection, some of them eyewitness accounts. These authentic descriptions formed the basis of the Church's teachings about the risen Lord. The great second-century saint Justin Martyr referred to the canonical Gospels as the "reminiscences" of the apostles.

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, Faith Verona, 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.

Saint Paul wrote in Ephesians 4: 4-6, "There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all." The early Church, as Paul's words show, was unified in its core beliefs about God, and therefore was quite able to distinguish those writings that did not reflect those beliefs. That is why books like those that depicted Jesus as a vengeful child did not make it into the canon of Scripture.

Bible scholar Ben Witherington writes about this in his book "The Gospel Code: Novel Claims about Jesus, Mary Magdalene, and Da Vinci." Witherington's book is an excellent answer to fiction like "The Da Vinci Code" and other books that pretend to tell the hidden truth about the formation of the Bible. He explains how it really was formed, and happened, and enables the reader to determine which of the many writings about Jesus are fiction, and which are true Gospels.

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to Michael Kovach, Deborah Wanko, Melanie Prybylski and to all who celebrate their Birthdays in the month of January. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many, Many, Many Years! Mnogaya Leta!

Today's Memorial Offering



- *Sanctuary Lamp* – in honor of Deborah Wanko's Birthday, offered by Daughters Lauren & Lindsay
- *St. John's Cross* – in memory of Marianne Benda on the Anniversary of her Birth, offered by Mother and Dad. .
- *Tripple Candelabra* – in memory of Mary Milk, offered by Walter Milk.

Announcements

❖ Congratulations and Many Years to the newly elected members of the Parish Council. **Faithful and selfless service is well pleasing to the Lord.** Next Council meeting will be tomorrow, Mon. Jan. 9 at 7pm.

❖ The **blessing of homes** has begun. Please sign up at the candle desk or call Father Igor for an appointment. Please indicate days and times that are most convenient for you to have Father Igor come and bless your home.

❖ Save the Date! On **Sunday, January 22, 2012** The Carpathian Club will sponsor a **Roast Pork Dinner** after the Divine Liturgy. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 on the day of the dinner. For tickets please see Robert Pierce or call Steve Wanko at 201- 437- 6549. All proceeds will go to the Church. Please support this fundraiser to help our parish to get through these financially difficult times.

❖ **Holy Water** that was blessed on the Feast of the Theophany is available for the faithful to take home. Water may be drawn from the font through next Sunday's Divine Liturgy. After then, additional water can be obtained by request of Father Igor.

❖ Rdr. Christopher and Rdr. Stephen express their great appreciation to everyone who donated their time, effort, and generous gifts on Sat. Dec. 17, 2011, to help make the sandwich drive for the Hoboken Shelter a great success. May God bless you all, both now and in the coming year!

❖ Upcoming **Panikhida** and Coffee Hour on **Jan. 15** – in memory of **Benedict Benda**, offered by Mary Mullally.