



SS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

A PARISH OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA, DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

98 West 28th Street, Bayonne, NJ 07002

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January 15, 2012

31st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Epistle: 1 Tim. 1:15-17

Gospel: Lk. 18:18-27

- Church School
- Panikhida in memory of Benedict Benda – offered by Mary Mullally.
- Fellowship – Please come downstairs following Panikhida for Coffee Hour, provided by Mary Mullally in memory of Benedict Benda.

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, JAN. 21

6:00pm – Great Vespers

SUNDAY, JAN. 22

9:10am – Hours, Confessions

9:30am - Divine Liturgy

Visit us online at:

www.SsPeterAndPaulBayonne.org

If you have any information to be added into weekly bulletin, please send your info to Fr.Igorksn@gmail.com

Truth at Great Personal Cost

On January 21 we remember Saint Maximus the Confessor, who was born in the year 580 in Constantinople. He defended the faith so uncompromisingly that he is one of the great Fathers of the Church.

Maximus did not start out to be a monk or priest. His parents were members of the nobility, and he was highly intelligent and well-educated. When offered an important position in the court of the Emperor Heraclius, the young man accepted it and filled it very well.

But Maximus soon realized that the imperial court was not the place for him. He gave up his position and joined a monastic community outside the city. This was the right choice; he loved the monastic life and later became abbot of the monastery. His prayer life guided him to read, study and write about Jesus Christ with great depth of understanding.

Life, though, was not destined to be peaceful. In the year 626 his monastery was invaded and dismantled. The monks were forced to leave, and Maximus fled from Alexandria to Carthage, and from Carthage to Rome.

It was in Rome that he met Pope Martin I, with whom he discovered a very important common interest. Both of these scholarly, pious men opposed a false teaching about Jesus Christ called monothelitism. Those who adhered to this teaching said that He had only one will—His divine will.

For Maximus and Martin, this was a dangerous falsehood because it undermined Jesus' complete and real humanity. To be the Savior of humanity, Maximus said, Jesus had to have two wills: His divine will as Son of God, and His human will as truly one of us.

Unfortunately, the Patriarch accepted the Monothelite

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.

teaching. Even worse, the Emperor himself accepted it, largely for political reasons. So Maximus was accused of treason, taken back to Constantinople against his will, and thrown into prison where he languished for years. But he staunchly defended the faith, and the true humanity of the incarnate God, throughout all those years.

When he was in his early eighties, Maximus was finally sentenced. His tongue was cut out so that he could no longer speak "treasonous" words, and his hand was cut off so he could no longer write them. He endured all this, as well as exile, public humiliation and beatings, still insisting that Jesus Christ had possessed a human will and a divine will. Many years later, at the Sixth Ecumenical Council which took place about two decades after his death, the Church exonerated him and declared his teachings to be true.

Saint Maximus once wrote, "To harbor no envy, no anger, no resentment against an offender is still not the same as having love for that person. It is possible, without any love, to avoid rendering evil for evil. But to render good for evil—that is the quality of perfect spiritual love." These words have special power because they come from a man who suffered so cruelly for no crime except defending the truth.

Today's Memorial Offering



- *Sanctuary Lamp* – in memory of Ben Christensen, offered by Cathryn Christensen.
- *Bread for the Holy Eucharist* – in memory of Demitry Berezny, offered by Cathryn Christensen.
- *Wine for the Holy Eucharist* – in memory of Paraska Berezny, offered by Cathryn Christensen.

Announcements

❖ Next Sunday, Jan. 22, 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.

❖ **Food Pantry opens:** We are beginning collection of non-perishable food and toiletry items in the church hall. Please feel free to make any contributions you can spare for the needy. A list of needed items is on display near the blue bins downstairs.

❖ Our next **sandwich outreach** for homeless shelters will take place on **Sat. Feb. 4** at 10:00am in the church hall. Anyone interested in lending a helping hand is welcome to join us.

❖ Save the date! – **Ice Skating on Sun. Feb. 12.** Gathering at 1:30pm in our church hall. For more info, please contact Marge Kovach, 732-815-9765 mikovach@aol.com, or see a flyer on the bulletin board.

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.