



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

WWW.SSPETERANDPAULBAYONNE.ORG

Rev. Fr. Igor Kseniuk, Rector 201-436-3244 office; 646-387-5494 cell; fr.igorksn@gmail.com
Stephen Wasilewski, President 201-436-3754 home; 201-960-4352cell; stephen12375@aol.com
Vladimir J. Nehrebecki, Choir Director 201-618-6721

January 29, 2012

33rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday of Zacchaeus.

New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia

- 9:10am – Hours, Confessions
 - 9:30am – Divine Liturgy
- Epistle: 1 Tim. 4:9-15*
Gospel: Lk. 19:1-10
- Church School
 - Coffee Hour in honor of Tonya Barbara Galati's Reception into Orthodoxy, offered by Matthew, Jacob and Reagan Joanne Galati.

Schedule of Services

MONDAY, JAN. 30 – THREE HOLY HIERARCHS

9:30pm – Divine Liturgy

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 1

6:00pm – Great Vespers, Blessing of Candles

THURSDAY, FEB. 2 - MEETING OF THE LORD

9:30pm – Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Candles

SATURDAY, FEB. 4

6:00pm – Great Vespers, followed by Service of Prayers and Private Confessions

SUNDAY, JAN. 29

8:50am – Service of Prayers and Private Confessions, Hours

9:30am - Divine Liturgy

Two Brothers on Different Paths

January 31 is the feast day of Saints Cyrus and John, who belong to the group of saints known as "Unmercenaries" because they used their healing skills to help people and did not take payment.

They were not blood brothers. Cyrus lived in Egypt and later became a monk in Arabia, while John was an officer of the Roman Army serving in what is now Turkey.

John heard of the things Cyrus had done, not only curing people's physical ailments with his medical ability, but urging them to pray and to repent of their sins so that both their bodies and souls could be healed. John was intrigued, and traveled to Arabia to meet Cyrus. In the words of Bishop Nikolai Velimirovich, the two became "brothers in spirit." They served together as doctors and spiritual fathers to countless people. Both being outspoken Christians, they faced torture and martyrdom together, too, and were killed in the year 311.

Christopher Hitchens, an outspoken opponent of Christianity and all religions, recently died of cancer. Hitchens was an articulate and well-educated man who appeared often on television and wrote for national magazines. He was one of two brothers – actual blood brothers – and the two men diverged very widely in their attitudes toward the Christian faith. Christopher wrote a book called "God is not Great" in which he argued that religion, and particularly Christianity, has had a harmful effect on the world. Peter Hitchens, his brother, is the author of "The Rage against God" in which he tells how "atheism led me to faith" and lays out the reasons why he strongly disagrees with his brother, and is a practicing Christian.

In our society, such atheists as Christopher Hitchens and Richard Dawkins receive considerable media attention, and

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, Olga Stecher.

THE DEPARTED:

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

influence some people to question their faith. So Peter Hitchens' book is a helpful one, because he argues effectively against his brother's assertions, specifically in a section of the book entitled "Addressing the Three Failed Arguments of Atheism."

He takes issue, for example, with Christopher's statement that "the order to 'love thy neighbor as thyself' is too extreme and too strenuous to be obeyed." Peter refutes this idea by offering examples of people risking their lives, health or safety for others. He acknowledges that living as a Christian is difficult, especially in a culture that places little value on selflessness, but insists that "we are far better for trying than for not trying."

Peter Hitchens published his book before his brother died. Despite his profound disagreement with Christopher, he doesn't condemn him. Instead he hopes for his brother's conversion, or that at least he will discover that "belief in God is not a character fault." His compassion is an example of what is called for in one of today's readings, 1 Peter 3:15: "Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence."



Today's Memorial Offering

- *Sanctuary Lamp* – in memory of Stephen Korbela, on his 38th Anniversary of Repose – offered by Elisabeth Zuber.

Announcements

❖ A Heartfelt Thank You to the Carpathian Club for the very well organized and delicious Roast Pork Dinner last Sunday. Sincere Thank You to all of you who participated in this important for our church fundraiser. May our Lord abundantly bless you for everything you do for His Church with good health and happiness for Many blessed Years! Многая Лета!

❖ The blessing of homes continues. Please sign up at the candle desk or call Father Igor for an appointment.

❖ Sandwich outreach for homeless shelters will take place on Sat. Feb. 4 at 10:00am in the church hall. Anyone interested 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.

Congratulation

With great joy we would like to welcome into our spiritual family newly Illumined Tonya Barbara Galati, who was received into Holy Orthodoxy last Thursday. May God bless and preserve you and your family in good health and happiness for Many blessed Years!

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.