



# 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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## March 11, 2012

### SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

#### St. Gregory Palamas

- 9:10am – Hours, Confessions
- 9:30am – Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

*Epistles: Heb. 1:10-2:3*

*Heb. 7:26-8:2 (St. Gregory)*

*Gospels: Mark 2:1-12*

*Jn. 10:9-16 (St. Gregory)*

- Church School
- Panikhida in memory of Ann Verona, offered by Faith Verona.
- Memorial Service in memory of Carol Koch, on the 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of her Repose, offered by Carpathian Club.

### Schedule of Services

**WEDNESDAY, MAR. 14**

6:30pm – Presanctified Liturgy at St. Sophia's Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

**FRIDAY, MAR. 16**

6:00pm – Akathist to the Passion of Christ with commemoration of the Departed.

**SATURDAY, MAR. 17 – MEMORIAL SATURDAY**

9:30am – Divine Liturgy & Panikhida

6:00pm – Great Vespers, Confessions

**SUNDAY, MAR. 18**

9:30am – Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

## Brokenness

*The second week of Great Lent beginning March 11 is a good time to consider Psalm 51 (50) with its emphasis on penitence and humility before God.*

*This psalm, used frequently in Orthodox worship services, refers to King David as a repentant sinner. The words "cleanse", "blot out", "wash" and "purge" appear in entreaties for God's mercy. The sinner feels his wrongs deeply and knows that only God can deliver him, saying, "For I know my transgressions and my sin is ever before me." He also knows that his sins are grave enough to deserve real punishment, and addresses God: "Thou art justified in Thy sentence and blameless in Thy judgment."*

*The word "broken" appears three times in the psalm. First we read the sinner's plea that God will let "the bones which Thou hast broken rejoice." These words remind us that even the bad things that happen to us – the things that break our bones – are under the authority of God: He is the one who has allowed them to be broken. But the very next word carries the certainty that God also can and will heal our bones and let them "rejoice."*

*God's power is infinite, and the sinner feels confident asking Him to "create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." The word translated here as "create" has the same meaning as in the Book of Genesis. God can make a person altogether new and clean, as He made the world in the first days of creation.*

*"Broken" appears again in verses that tell us what God wants from us. He is not looking for "burnt offerings" and animal sacrifices. Rather, "the sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise." So what does it mean to say that our spirits and hearts must be broken if they are to be acceptable gifts to*

## 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.

*God? In his book "Mere Christianity" the Anglican theologian C.S. Lewis addressed this in a way that has been helpful to many people who struggle to find meaning in the setbacks and suffering of human life. Lewis wrote:*

*"Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks on the roof and so on; you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make any sense. What on earth is He up to?"*

*The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of—throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were being made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself."*

## Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to Nadine Galasso, Alena Burkova, and to all who celebrate their Birthdays in the month of March. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnogaya Leta!



## Today's Memorial Offering

• *Sanctuary Lamp* – in memory of Katharyn Yendrey, on Anniversary of Birth – by Mary Macinsky.

• *St. John's Cross* – in memory of MaryAnn Yendrey, on Anniversary of Birth – by Mary Macinsky.

• *Bread and Wine for the Holy Eucharist* – in memory of Richard Pacheco – by Adrienne Konrady.



## Announcements

❖ Parish Council meeting will be on Tuesday, March 13 at 7:00pm. All members are urged to attend.

❖ The **Annual Diocesan Lenten Youth Retreat** for students 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades will be held at Holy Resurrection Church, Wayne NJ on **March 30-31, 2012**. The theme for this year is "The Theotokos: The Mother of The Light". For more information please see a flyer at the bulletin board.

❖ Mark your calendars! On **Tuesday, Apr. 3 at 7:00pm** there will be **Holy Unction** service at the Transfiguration Church (35 Sickletown Rd., Pearl River, NY 10965)

❖ **Food Pantry** donations are always accepted. Place your non-perishable items in blue bins downstairs.

## 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 and receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.