



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 18, 2012

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT Veneration of the Cross

- 9:10am – Hours, Confessions
- 9:30am – Divine Liturgy of St. Basil
Epistle: Heb. 4:14-5:6
Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1
- Church School

Schedule of Services

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 21

6:30pm – Joint Presanctified Liturgy followed by fellowship in the church hall.

FRIDAY, MAR. 23

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

SATURDAY, MAR. 24

9:30am – Divine Liturgy & Panikhida
6:00pm – Great Vespers with Litya

SUNDAY, MAR. 25 – ANNUNCIATION OF THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS

9:30am – Divine Liturgy

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A Different Kind of Marriage

On March 19 the Church celebrates the memory of a martyred married couple, Sts. Chrysanthus and Daria, who lived in third-century Rome. He was born in the Egyptian city of Alexandria; she was a native of Athens.

Chrysanthus had a good education and a sharp intellect. When he first came from Egypt to Rome with his father and observed Roman society, the worship of pagan gods struck him as childish. It was based on fanciful stories with no moral grounding. Trusting his own doubts, he began reading about other philosophies, and among them were writings describing Christianity.

Impressed, Chrysanthus decided to learn more about Christianity from an actual Christian. Gathering his questions, he visited an elderly man who had been described as a Christian sage. They talked at length, and Chrysanthus chose not only to become a Christian, but to proclaim the Gospel openly.

Chrysanthus' father was not pleased. As a member of Rome's military elite he had a position to protect, and he certainly didn't want his son mixed up with a group of rebels who defied the government and put their faith in a deity who had been executed as a common criminal. He thought of a way to reach his son and to turn the young man from his dangerous new ideas. He hired beautiful young women to seduce Chrysanthus, who struggled hard with temptation but managed to keep his resolve to be dedicated only to Christ.

The father made one last effort, and brought to his son a lovely girl named Daria, whose life had been dedicated to the gods. When Chrysanthus asked her how she could possibly worship statues and idols, she had a ready answer. Of course, she said, everyone knew that the idols were not to be

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.

worshipped. They were only there to focus people's attention on the real gods: fire, wind, rain.

Here was someone, Chrysanthus realized, who was more interested in truth than in mere seduction. They had long discussions, and he was able to show her that God through His Son had created fire, wind, rain and all natural things, so that He was the One to be worshipped. She willingly accepted baptism.

The two were married, and made a mutual decision to live in celibacy. They would let their zeal for Christ be the thing that united them, and use all their energy to preach His salvation. Sacrificing the pleasures of the world, they could travel more lightly on the path of salvation. The husband and wife brought many new people into the Church—enough so that they attracted the attention of the Roman government. They were martyred in about 237, but their names have shone through Christian history ever since.

The married-but-celibate model is not common today, but it fit these two saints' desire to give everything to Christ. It also reminds us that virginity was not always seen as a virtue only for women. Chrysanthus exemplifies the fact that men, too, could and can live as virgins dedicated to the Lord.

Today's Memorial Offering



- *Sanctuary Lamp* – in honor of Larissa Canova's Birthday – by daughters Keira & Mia.
- *Candles on the Altar* – in honor of Larissa Canova's Birthday – by Grandma and Grandpa.

Announcements

❖ This week is the week of **Veneration of the Cross**. If you would like to make a donation for the flowers that the Cross is decorated with, you can do so at the candle desk.

❖ This **Wed. March 21** at 6:30pm our parish will host **joint Presanctified Liturgy** with St. Sophia's and St. Mary's parishes. If you would like to bring a Lenten dish for the fellowship that will follow – please sign up at the candle desk.

❖ On **Sun. April 1** our parish will host **Deanery Lenten Vespers** at 4:00pm. If you would like to bring a Lenten dish for the fellowship that will follow – please sign up at the candle desk.

❖ For the next two Sundays, we will have a **collection to help Rev. Adam Sexton**, his matushka Angie and their eight children (some of them are adopted) who are displaced due to a fire at the church rectory of St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Nanticoke, PA on Sunday, March 4, 2012. Luckily, no one was hurt, but they lost everything they had and now temporarily stay at the Host Inn in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

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.