



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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April 15, 2012

Holy Pascha

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

- 9:30am – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Acts 1:1-8
Gospel: John 1:1-17
- Blessing of the Paschal food followed by breaking of the Fast in the Church Hall and a traditional Paschal Fellowship at the Carpathian Club.

Schedule of the Bright Week

- MONDAY, APRIL 16 – Bright Monday**
9:30am - Divine Liturgy
- TUESDAY, APRIL 17 – Bright Tuesday**
9:30am - Divine Liturgy
- SATURDAY, APRIL 21 – Bright Saturday**
6:00pm - Great Vespers & Confessions
- SUNDAY, APRIL 22 – St. Thomas Sunday**
9:30am – Divine Liturgy

Christ is risen!

This Bright Week of April 15-21, as we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord and enjoy the festal services, is a good time to think about the deepest meanings of Christ's saving actions for us.

Metropolitan Hilarion Alfeyev's book "The Mystery of Faith: An Introduction to the Teaching and Spirituality of the Orthodox Church" can guide us in this thinking. Originally published in 2002, the book has been offered in a new (2011) edition by Saint Vladimir's Seminary Press (<http://www.svspress.com>), with a foreword by Bishop Kallistos of Diokleia.

The book's final chapter, entitled "The Life of the Age to Come", discusses death and resurrection, prayer for the departed, the last judgment, and hell.

The Christian tradition, the author writes, inherited its belief in the resurrection of the dead from the Old Testament. A striking example of the Old Testament belief is in the words of the brothers facing martyrdom in the book of Maccabees. One brother addresses the king who is about to execute him: "Thou like a fury takest us out of this present life, but the King of the world shall raise us up, who have died for His laws." The mother of the martyred brothers declares that the Creator who made the world "will also of His own mercy give you breath and life again..."

Metropolitan Hilarion writes that the practice of praying for the dead is based on the understanding "that the fate of the soul after death is not clear before the final, universal resurrection, and that the situation of the departed might be changed for the better by the prayers of the living." He cites traditional sources to show that there is a chance – not

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.

certainty – that prayer can deliver some people from hell. Saint Gregory Dialogos prayed for the emperor Trajan, a persecutor of Christians, and "received confirmation from God" that his prayers had been heard.

Universal salvation is the subject of several currently popular books. Metropolitan Hilarion summarizes the Orthodox teaching: "It would be a heresy to insist on the necessity of the salvation of all, as if this were compulsory for both God and human beings, but it is not a heresy to believe in the possibility of the salvation of all, and to continue to pray and hope for that."

The words of Saint Silouan of Mount Athos quoted in the book are a warning against hoping that our enemies will burn in hell:

You say that so-and-so is an evildoer, and may he burn in Hell-fire. But I ask you – supposing God were to give you a fair place in Paradise, and you saw burning in the fire the man on whom you had wished the tortures of Hell, even then would you really not feel pity for him, whoever he might be, an enemy of the Church even? Or is it that you have a heart of steel? But there is no place for steel in Paradise. Paradise has need of humility and the love of Christ, which pities all men.

Today's Memorial Offering



- Sanctuary Lamp – in memory of Andrew Wanko, on Anniversary of his Birth – by John & Helen Wanko.
- St. John's Cross – in memory of MaryAnn Yendrey, on Anniversary of her Repose – by Mary Macinsky.

• Triple Candelabra and Candles on the Altar – in memory of Juliana & Andrew Bacsik – by Diana Szatkowska.

• Bread and Wine for the Holy Eucharist – in memory of George, Peter, Donald and Lawrence – by Helen Stathis.



Announcements

❖ A deepest appreciation to all of you who have helped out in any possible way with preparation for the services during Holy Week. A heartfelt Thank You to Andrea & Russ Wyskanycz for donating and decorating the outside of our Church with two beautiful Paschal wreaths. May our Risen Lord bless and keep all of you in His loving care for many blessed years!

❖ Please make an appointment with Fr. Igor to bless the graves of your departed loved ones after Pascha.

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.