



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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Christ is risen!

May 13, 2012

5th Sunday of Pascha
Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

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

Epistle: Acts 11:19-26, 29-30

Gospel: John 4:5-42

- Church School

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, MAY 19

6:00pm – Great Vespers, Confessions

SUNDAY, MAY 20

9:10am – Hours, Confession

9:30am – Divine Liturgy

Visit us online at:

www.SsPeterAndPaulBayonne.org

If you have information to be included in weekly bulletin, please email it to Fr.IgorKsn@gmail.com

Coming From Two Different Places

On May 15 we read the final verses of the eighth chapter of John's Gospel. In these climactic verses, Jesus so disturbs His hearers by the things He says that they take up stones to throw at Him.

The verses leading up to this climax (8: 12-42) were read last week, and they record a conversation between Jesus and some Pharisees. This dialogue is an example of people seriously misunderstanding what Jesus is telling them. It happens because they and He are coming from two different places. While He speaks to them of heavenly realities as God's divine Son, their comprehension is limited by the thought patterns and realities of this world.

Jesus makes a startling claim: "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (8: 12). The Pharisees don't really respond to His claim, grand and provocative as it is. Instead they raise an objection they've brought up previously: Jesus is bearing witness to Himself, and it takes the testimony of two men to make witness true.

Willing to accede to their insistence that two witnesses are needed, Jesus points out that "I bear witness to myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness." But once again, rather than asking what He means, they ask a mundane, even insulting, question: "Where is your Father?" The question implies either that He is illegitimate and doesn't know His Father, or that Joseph, the one they know as His father, is too unimportant a person for Him to be making such lofty claims. But Jesus still tries to raise their level of understanding. They would know the Father, He tells them, if they really knew Him.

Then Jesus tells the Pharisees that "I go away, and you will seek me and die in your sin; where I am going you cannot come." Instead of taking this as a challenge to their sinful

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.

behavior, they fall back for the third time on a superficial understanding: they speculate that He must mean He is going to kill Himself.

The next verses show that Jesus doesn't simply consign the Pharisees to damnation. He says, "I told you that you would die in your sins, for you will die in your sins unless you believe that I am he." His hearers have every chance to know Him and gain salvation, and He gives them the means of doing so: by paying attention to "what I have told you from the beginning."

In the chapter's final verses, Jesus says that "if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." The questioners indignantly challenge Him. They ask, "Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died?" When He replies that "before Abraham was, I am" they take up those stones. Much easier to destroy Him with earthly questions and earthen stones than to follow Him and risk accepting that all He says about Himself is the plain, life-altering truth. ■



Today's Memorial Offering

- *Sanctuary Lamp* – in memory of Kathryn Yendrey, on Anniversary of her Repose – by Mary Macinsky.
- *Wine for the Holy Eucharist* – in memory of John and Kathryn Yendrey – by Mary Macinsky.



Announcements

❖ **Mother's Day Greetings** to all mothers, grandmothers, great grandmothers & godmothers in our Parish. Let us honor our mothers by praying for them and show our love and respect. May God bless all mothers with good health, joy, peace for Many Years! Let us also not forget to pray for our departed mothers who have entered Eternal Life. Memory Eternal!

❖ **A heartfelt Thank You** to Philip Benda for donating a new lawn mower and taking care of the lawns on the church property on a weekly basis. May our Risen Lord bless and keep you in His loving care for Many Blessed Years!

❖ **On Sunday, May 20th** at 12:00 Noon St. Mary's Carpatho-Russian Church (89 W 29th Street, Bayonne, NJ) will host their Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Chinese Auction. Everyone is invited. For tickets please see Olga DeMay, or call MaryAnn Hudak at 201-823-0305.

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to Danielle Kovach and to all who celebrate their Birthdays in the month of May. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnogaya Leta!

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.