



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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Christ is risen!

May 20, 2012

6th Sunday of Pascha
Sunday of the Blind Man

- 9:10am – Hours, Confession
 - 9:30am – Divine Liturgy
- Epistle: Acts 16:16-34
Gospel: John 9:1-38
- Church School

Schedule of Services

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23

Forefeast of the Ascension

6:00pm – Great Vespers & Litya

THURSDAY, MAY 24

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

9:30am – Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, MAY 26

6:00pm – Great Vespers, Confessions

SUNDAY, MAY 27

8:40am – Hours, Confession

9:00am – Divine Liturgy followed by Panikhida and Coffee Hour in memory of Andrew Bacsik, on His 1st Anniversary of Repose.

Keeping the Life You Hate or Loosing the Life You Love

On May 22nd and 23rd we read the Gospel of John (12:19-47) in which Jesus Christ describes the kind of life His followers should pursue.

His words need careful attention. He says, "He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life." At a superficial glance, a reader might almost think that what He is saying sounds unkind. It could seem that Jesus is saying that you'll have your life forever if you hate it, but if you love your life you'll lose it.

But this is why a reader should always look more deeply into the words of Scripture than many people do. These words are nothing less than a promise of the eternal joy of the Kingdom – but they place the decision of whether or not that will be our destiny squarely on us. Jesus tells us this by saying, "If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall my servant be also; if any one serves me, the Father will honor him."

So, what does it mean to hate one's life? It doesn't mean that we should despise or reject God's gift of being born and living as a person in this world. We are meant to live a full, rich earthly life. But if we limit ourselves to this life, never looking beyond it to eternal life with God, we will not be doing His will. To follow Christ means we must be ready to suffer for Him, because this fallen world will bring suffering. If we deliberately avoid suffering for Christ, we will no longer be following Him, and we will not find our way to the Kingdom. We will have loved our life in this world, and tried to preserve it, at the cost of the eternal life God wants to give us.

To hate our life means to see that it is brief and fleeting,

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.

while eternal life will never end. Loving that eternal life, we are willing to give up this earthly one. We can endure hardship and tribulation for Christ while we live it, because we know that by so doing we are following Him; we are on the way to the place where we will be with Him forever in joy.

Jesus also says, "Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, for this purpose I have come to this hour." These words show that Jesus, like us, is fearful and apprehensive at the coming of death. He, too, loves the life in this world that God has given. But He is ready to do what He has called us to do. He will give up this life in certainty that He will be with His Father in eternal life. That life is His by nature. It is ours by adoption and immeasurable grace. ■

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to Lindsay Mary Wanko 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!



Today's Memorial Offering

- Sanctuary Lamp – in honor of Lindsay Wanko's Birthday – by Grandpa & Grandma.



Announcements

❖ Please, note that starting next Sunday, May 27, (Memorial Day weekend) and until Sunday, September 2, (Labor Day weekend) all Divine Liturgies (both on Sundays and on Feast days during the week) will begin at 9:00am.

❖ Monetary donations are taken at the candle desk towards the next sandwich outreach for homeless shelters, which will take place on Sat. June 9 at 10:00am in the church hall. Anyone interested in lending a helping hand that day is welcome to join us.

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

❖ Coffee Hour sponsors are needed. Please sign up at the candle desk.

❖ Stop&Shop, A&P and ShopRite Shopping Cards available at the candle-stand. Do your shopping as you always do it, and help our church raise funds at no additional cost to you.

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.