



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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June 3, 2012

8th Sunday of Pascha HOLY PENTECOST – Feast of the Holy Spirit

- 8:30am – Order of Confession, Hours
- 9:00am – Divine Liturgy & Vespers with Kneeling Prayers

Epistle: Acts 2:1-11

Gospel: John 7:37-52; 8:12

NOTE: This week of Holy Pentecost there is a general dispensation from fasting.

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, JUNE 9

6:00pm – Great Vespers, Confessions

SUNDAY, JUNE 10 – ALL SAINTS

8:40am – Hours, Confession

9:00am – Divine Liturgy

Visit us online at:

www.SsPeterAndPaulBayonne.org

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

God Will Find a Way to Reach Us

On June 8 we read Romans 2: 14-29. The very first verse is: "When Gentiles who have not the law do by nature what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law."

The phrase "a law to themselves" is one of many Scriptural verses that in our modern culture have taken on a different meaning from the one the original writer intended. When we hear this phrase, we think of people who go their own way, following their personal inclinations rather than adhering to the rules and norms that govern other people's lives.

But Saint Paul had something far different in mind. He goes on to say that Gentiles, the non-Jews who do not know the Law of the Old Testament, "show that what the law requires is written on their hearts." This is why they can "do by nature what the law requires." God has put in their hearts an understanding of the way He wants people to live. He reaches these Gentiles not by giving them the law, as He did to the Jewish people, but by giving them a natural inclination to obey Him and a conscience that "also bears witness." So their hearts are their law, and in this sense they are a "law to themselves."

Then Saint Paul addresses those who do have the law, his fellow Jews. He cautions them that being "instructed in the law" is not enough – in fact, it can imperil their salvation if they only know it and do not keep it in their daily lives. He writes, "You who boast in the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law?" Paul respects the law, but by itself it cannot save.

As an example, he writes that circumcision – a basic practice of the Jews – has no meaning if the circumcised person is unfaithful to God: "He is a Jew who is one inwardly,

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.

and real circumcision is a matter of the heart, spiritual and not literal." Once again, Saint Paul is describing God's effort to reach us. For Jews, the response to God's reaching begins with the written law, but must become something that is felt from the heart. Similarly, true circumcision is not physical but spiritual. God reaches the Jews by giving them these outward things – law and circumcision – and guiding them to a deeper, "inward" understanding.

Saint Paul wants those he's addressing to know one thing: God can reach anyone who is ready to be reached, whether Jew or Gentile. So he writes: "Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also since God is one; and He will justify the circumcised on the ground of their faith and the uncircumcised through their faith. Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law." ■



Today's Memorial Offering

• **Sanctuary Lamp** – in honor of Ken Bianchini's Birthday – by Granddaughters Keira and Mia.

• **Wine for the Holy Eucharist** – in memory of Lydia Wanko's Anniversary of Death – by John & Helen Wanko.

• **Bread for the Holy Eucharist** – in memory of Daniel Grudinoff's Anniversary of Death – by John & Helen Wanko.

Announcements

❖ Monetary donations are taken at the candle desk towards the next **sandwich outreach** for homeless shelters, which will take place this **Saturday 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.

❖ Always available at the candle desk are **memorial candles, and Bread and Wine for the Holy Eucharist**. They can be offered in honor or in memory of your loved-ones. Please remember that not only these offerings are a sign of your faith and hope in God's help which is always sent to all who turn to Him and His Saints with faith and prayers; but also these are simply the deeds of mercy needed for the salvation of those whom you pray for, as well as for your own salvation.

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.