



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

www.SSPETERANDPAULBAYONNE.ORG

Rev. Fr. Igor Kseniuk, Rector 201-436-3244 office; 646-387-5494 cell; fr.igorksn@gmail.com
Stephen Wasilewski, President 201-436-3754 home; 201-960-4352cell; stephen12375@aol.com
Vladimir J. Nehrebecki, Choir Director 201-618-6721

July 29, 2012

8th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- 8:40am – 3rd & 6th Hour, Confessions
- 9:00am – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 1 Cor. 1:10-18
Gospel: Mat. 14:14-22
- Coffee Hour – Please come downstairs for a fellowship following the Divine Liturgy.

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4

6:00pm – Great Vespers, Confessions

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5

8:30am – Order of Confession, Hours

9:00am – Divine Liturgy

6:00pm – Great Vespers with Litya and Blessing of Fruits

MONDAY, AUGUST 6 - TRANSFIGURATION

9:00am – Divine Liturgy and Blessing of Fruits

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www.SsPeterAndPaulBayonne.org

Two Mothers with Different Hopes

On August 1st the Church remembers seven brothers, the Maccabees, and their mother Solomonia. She had to witness the brutal deaths of all her beloved boys, but the way she did it is memorable.

Antiochus IV, who reigned from 175 to 164 B.C., was the Syrian king so full of pride that he took the title "Epiphanes" and felt entitled to demand that his whole kingdom follow one set of customs—those of the pagan Greek culture.

What this meant for the Jews living under his rule was that they were directed "to forbid burnt offerings and sacrifices and drink offerings in the sanctuary...to build altars and sacred precincts for idols, to sacrifice swine and unclean animals, and to leave their sons uncircumcised. They were to make themselves abominable by everything unclean and profane" (1 Maccabees 1: 45-48).

While this was intolerable to many Jews, some went along with it so as to escape persecution and get along with the ruler. 1 Maccabees tells us: "All the Gentiles accepted the command of the king. Many even from Israel gladly adopted his religion; they sacrificed to idols and profaned the Sabbath" (1:41). Antiochus oversaw the desecration of the Temple itself. A faithful priest of the Temple who was in his nineties, Eleazar, was tortured and killed for his insistence on upholding the Old Testament Law.

The seven young martyrs remembered on this day were disciples of Eleazar. When the king brought them to trial, they openly declared their allegiance to him, and refused to break the Law of Moses by eating pork. The oldest brother, speaking for them all, challenged the king by asking, "What do you intend to ask and learn from us? For we are ready to die rather

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.

than transgress the laws of our fathers" (2 Maccabees 7: 2).

When only the youngest boy was left alive, Antiochus urged his mother Solomonia to persuade him to give in, so that she would at least have one son left. She pretended to do this, but actually whispered to him that he should show the same bravery his brothers had shown. She was sure they would all, by God's grace, be reunited. When her youngest defied the king and was killed, she said a prayer and died too.

On August 2nd we read the account of the mother of the sons of Zebedee who comes to Jesus and asks Him to "command that these two sons of mine may sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom" (Matt. 20:21).

Jesus knows that it is really the two sons themselves who are asking this, and He turns His attention directly to them. He tells them that places at His right or left are the Father's, not His, to give.

So we have two mothers, both wanting things for their sons. One seeks honor; the other encourages martyrdom. Yet both women, different as they are, give sons to God for His service, and He accepts them all.



Today's Memorial Offering

- Sanctuary Lamp – in memory of Rose Brelinsky, on the Anniversary of Death – by John & Helen Wanko.



Announcements

❖ Dormition Fast starts Wednesday, August 1 and lasts until August 15. For two weeks we keep fasting in honor of the Falling Asleep of the Most Holy Theotokos. Details of the dietary prescriptions are indicated on your parish wall calendar; the very important spiritual part of this fast among others is to spiritually prepare to and have a private confession during this time

❖ The Feast of Transfiguration of Our Lord is August 6th. Next Sunday, Aug. 5th we will have Vespers with Litya at 6:00pm, and at the end of the service baskets of fruits will be blessed. Be sure to bring your fruits. The blessing of fruits will also take place after the Divine Liturgy on Monday, Aug. 6th.

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to Loraine Korello and to all who celebrate their birthdays this week. 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, receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy and for fellowship in our Church Hall after the service.