



# 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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## August 26, 2012

### 12<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- 8:40am – 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Hour, Confessions
- 9:00am – Divine Liturgy

Epistle: 1 Cor. 15:1-11

Gospel: Mat. 19:16-26

- Coffee Hour – Please come downstairs for a fellowship following the Divine Liturgy.

## Schedule of Services

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 31

6:00pm – Molieben of Thanksgiving at the Church New Year

### SEPTEMBER 1 – CHURCH NEW YEAR

6:00pm – Great Vespers, Confessions

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

8:30am – Order of Confession, Hours

9:00am – Divine Liturgy

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## The Good Son of a Bad Father

On August 28 the Church remembers the righteous Hezekiah, king of Judah, son of the previous king, Ahaz.

Perhaps Hezekiah, who became king at the age of 25, felt compelled to make up for the actions of his notorious father, who would never listen to the prophet Isaiah and who shut down the Temple in Jerusalem, instead revering the gods of the Assyrians.

Hezekiah labored intensely to reinstate worship of Israel's God. At the beginning of his reign he ordered the Temple to be reopened, directing the priests and Levites to "carry out the filth from the holy place" (2 Chronicles 29: 5). They did so, and were able to report to the king that "All the utensils which King Ahaz discarded in his reign when he was faithless, we have made ready and sanctified; and behold, they are before the altar of the Lord" (29:19). Hezekiah and the people brought sacrifices and thank offerings, and "thus the service of the house of the Lord was restored" (29:36).

To celebrate, Hezekiah sent couriers all over the kingdom with a decree that the priests and people should come to Jerusalem and observe Passover together. Scripture candidly records that in some places the couriers were laughed to scorn and mocked, and that "only a few of the men of Asher, of Manasseh, and of Zebulun humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem" (30:11).

Nevertheless, a great assembly did come for the feast, including some people who had not properly prepared themselves, and who "ate the Passover otherwise than as prescribed" (30:18). Hezekiah, obviously a forgiving and loving man, had prayed that God would "pardon every one who sets his heart to seek God, the Lord the God of his fathers, even though not according to the sanctuary's rules of cleanness"

## 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.

(30:19).

Hezekiah's efforts strengthened and helped unite the people, but they still faced external threats. When Sennacherib, the powerful king of Assyria, attacked Judah, Hezekiah's first response was not a noble one. Panicked, he offered Sennacherib huge sums of money to withdraw. In order to pay, he gathered all the silver in the Lord's house, and even "stripped the gold from the doors of the temple of the Lord" (2 Kings/4 Kingdoms 18:16).

But the Assyrian couldn't be bought off, so Hezekiah did something better – he built up and reinforced his people's walls and defenses. He also returned to reliance on God rather than money, and told everyone not to be "afraid or dismayed before the king of Assyria and all the horde that is with him; for there is one greater with us than with him" (2 Chronicles 32:7). He and Isaiah prayed, and God answered their prayers by destroying the Assyrian warriors.

Close to death, Hezekiah had to repent of an episode of pride before God. He was not a perfect person, but Scripture compares him to King David, another man who greatly pleased God in spite of many missteps, weaknesses, and faults.



## Today's Memorial Offering

- St. John's Cross – in memory of my brother Max Padla, on his Birthday – by Terry Cimboric.



## Announcements

❖ This Friday, August 31 a Molieben of Thanksgiving will be served at 6:00pm. Let us offer our prayers to the Lord as we begin the Church New Year.

❖ Divine Liturgy time change! Please note that next Sunday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> is the last time the divine Liturgy will be served at 9:00am. Starting Saturday, September 8, 2012 (the Feast of the Nativity of the Most-Holy Theotokos) the beginning of the Divine Liturgies reverts back to 9:30am.

❖ The Carpathian Club will hold its annual picnic on Sunday September 23, 2012 from 11am-3pm on the church grounds. The price is \$17 at the door and \$15 in advance. For tickets please see Robert Pierce.

❖ Our 90<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Celebration is coming up! Please reserve the weekend of October 27-28, 2012. His Grace Bishop Michael will be serving Great Vespers on Saturday evening at 6:00pm and the Divine Liturgy on Sunday at 9:30am. Everyone is welcome to join us in celebration of this great milestone in our Parish history.

## 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.