



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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September 23, 2012

16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
The Conception of the Honorable Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John.

- 9:10am – 3rd & 6th Hour, Confessions
- 9:30am – Divine Liturgy
 - Epistles: 2 Cor. 6:1-10
Gal. 4:22-31 (Saint)
 - Gospels: Lk. 5:1-11
Lk. 1:5-25 (Saint)
- 11:00am – Carpathian Club's picnic – Please join us for picnic, organized by The Carpathian Club. Everyone is welcome. Tickets are \$17 and can be purchased at the door.

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

6:00pm – Great Vespers, Confessions

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

9:10am – 3rd & 6th Hour, Confessions

9:30am – Divine Liturgy

A Visit to the Home of an Ancient Saint

On September 24 the Church honors the Protomartyr Thekla (or Thecla), a young woman whose life was changed when she sat for three nights by her open window and heard Saint Paul preach.

Thekla gave up her planned marriage, and accompanied Saint Paul as he traveled and preached. In later years she retreated from travel and lived a life of solitary prayer, escaping jealous pursuers by taking refuge in the opening in a rock that God provided for her.

A young Orthodox woman wrote, a few years ago, about being part of a group that visited the cave in which Thecla lived. It is located in the desert village of Ma'aloula, Syria and is cared for by the nuns of the Monastery of Saint Thekla. Pilgrims constantly come to pray in the cave, and to drink from the spring that flows in it. It has been the site of numerous healings.

The young visitor describes her experience in this way: "We had to climb up steps hewn into the mountain to get to the cave, which is somewhat like a large, three-sided room. In the deepest part, about twenty feet back from where the sunlight can reach, we saw a tree growing. Its branches hit the cave ceiling and ran towards the sunlight, all the way to the cave's opening. This was the tree we had seen as we approached the village in the minibus. It looked as though a beautiful hanging

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.

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.

garden had been cultivated inside the cave. Nearby was the spring of holy water that God had provided for Thekla. This spring is still running after all these centuries and has no source to replenish it other than the One who gave it. It is a sort of well now, and there is a metal cup so that people can drink from it. Like so many before us, we drank too..." (Hilary Chala, in "Encountering Women of Faith" Volume 2, Holy Cross Orthodox Press, 2011.)

At the further end of the cave is the chapel and the saint's tomb. Nearby is a stack of crutches and canes that pilgrims have discarded because they no longer needed them after receiving healing in this cave carved from the mountain.

Visitors can also go to the base of the mountain and walk into the opening that miraculously opened for Thekla, and make their way along a path, with water constantly flowing, inside the mountain. In places the path is wide enough for two to walk abreast; in others it is so narrow that a person is barely able to get through, face and body pressed against the stone. But the experience is an unforgettable one.

We can only pray that with the terrible carnage and upheaval that has Syria in its grip, Ma'aloula will be able to remain a place where visitors can come so close to the life of a saint.

Today's Memorial Offering



- *Sanctuary Lamp* – in memory of Demetri Berezny – by Helen Stathis.
- *Bread for the Holy Eucharist* – in memory of Demetri Berezny – by Helen Stathis.
- *Wine for the Holy Eucharist* – in memory of Mary Grudinoff, on Anniversary of her Death – by John and Helen Wanko.



Announcements

❖ Save the date! In celebration of our 90th Jubilee, the Hawaiian Iveron Myrrh-Streaming Icon of the Mother of God will be visiting our parish on **Wed. October 10, 2012**. Greeting of the Icon will be at 7:00pm, followed by Akathist to the Theotokos and the anointing with Holy Myrrh that streams from the Icon. Everyone is invited! Bring your family and friends!

❖ The 60th Anniversary of the priestly ordination of Protopresbyter **Daniel Hubiak** will be celebrated at Ss. Peter & Paul Church in Jersey City on **Mon. October 1st at 1:00pm** with Molieben, served by His Grace Bishop Michael, followed by a reception in the church hall. All former parishioners, family and friends of Fr. Daniel and Matushka Dunia are cordially invited to join in this celebration. Please contact Fr. Joseph Lickwar or sign up at the candle desk if you plan to attend.

❖ Our **90th Jubilee Celebration** is coming up! Please reserve the weekend of **October 27-28, 2012**. His Grace Bishop Michael will be serving Great Vespers and Panikhida for all our departed parishioners on Saturday evening at 6:00pm and the Divine Liturgy on Sunday at 9:30am followed by a festal reception. More detailed information will be posted in the next bulletin.

❖ The **17th All-American Council** of the Orthodox Church in America, at which a new Primate of the OCA will be elected is scheduled for Tuesday, November 13, 2012 in Parma, Ohio. More information can be found on OCA and our Diocesan websites.