



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

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Intercessory Prayer

THE LIVING:

Eva Benda, Theodore & 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.

Celebrating Our 90th Jubilee

Calendar of Festive Events

➤ **Saturday, October 27, 6:00pm** – His Grace Bishop Michael will be present at **Great Vespers**, followed by **Panikhida** for all departed parishioners of our parish.

➤ **Sunday, October 28, 9:00am** – entrance, greeting and vesting of His Grace Bishop Michael. The **Hierarchical Divine Liturgy** will begin at 9:30am followed by a **festal reception**. (*The reception will be held at the "Knights of Columbus" on Avenue C and 30th Street. The cost for the hot buffet is \$50 per person and reservations can be made through Russ Wyskanycz or Steve Cimboic. Please make your reservations as soon as possible since we need to make final arrangements with the caterer.*)

Announcements

❖ Our heartfelt **Thank You** to all of you who participated in preparation and who helped out during the visit of the Hawaiian Iveron Icon of the Mother of God last Wednesday. May God bless you abundantly with His earthly and heavenly blessings for everything you do for His Holy Church!

❖ Next **Sunday, October 21**, a collection will be taken to support the Nativity of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Monastery in Saxonburg, PA that made a beautiful copy of the Hawaiian Iveron Icon of the Mother of God which was given as a gift to our parish in memory of the visit of the Miraculous Icon last Wednesday. The Monastery struggles financially and any help will be greatly appreciated.

❖ On **Sunday, November 4, 2012** there will be an **Annual Luncheon & Card Party** at St. Mary's Orthodox Church, 89 W 29th St, Bayonne, NJ. For tickets (\$10) please see Olga DeMay.

❖ The Bayonne "R" Club will have the **Flea market on Saturdays, Nov. 10th & 17th, 2012**. Donations of items are accepted. If necessary, please contact any member to arrange for pick up.

October 14, 2012

19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Holy Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council

- 9:10am – 3rd & 6th Hour, Confessions
- 9:30am – Divine Liturgy
 - Epistles: 2 Cor. 11:31-12:9*
 - Heb. 13:7-16 (Fathers)*
 - Gospels: Lk. 8:5-15*
 - Jn. 17:1-13 (Fathers)*
- **Molieben** for the official opening of our new **Church Library** followed by fellowship in the Church Hall.

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

MEMORIAL (DEMETRIUS) SATURDAY

9:30am – Divine Liturgy & Panikhida
6:00pm – Great Vespers, Confessions

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21

9:10am – 3rd & 6th Hour, Confessions
9:30am – Divine Liturgy

The Secret Knowledge We Already Have

On October 24th and 25th we read Colossians 1:18-29. In these verses Saint Paul is speaking to Christians in Colossae, a city in Asia Minor, who are tempted to seek hidden, exclusive knowledge that others don't have.

At the time when this letter was written, false teachers were busily preaching and teaching in places where Paul had preached and taught the truth. Many of these false teachers were Gnostics, who advocated, and encouraged others to adhere to, ideas that were far from the teachings of the apostles.

First, the Gnostics claimed that Jesus Christ was only one of several "savior angels" and that He was not superior to the angels. Christians believe that He is above every created being, including angels, and that He is the only Savior. Christ is, with His Father and the Holy Spirit, the Creator of all things. This is why Paul writes (v.16) about Jesus Christ that "by Him all things were created that are in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers."

Another idea promoted by the Gnostics was that matter is evil, so evil that they said the world was created not by God but by the devil, because God would never have anything to do with mere matter. For Gnostics, the only significant thing in human life was the spirit, not the body. To counter this, Paul emphasizes "the body of His flesh" as the means by which He, Jesus Christ, can "present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before Him." Paul in fact makes a point of talking about his own body and about the Church as Christ's body. He writes, "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of His body, that is, the church..."

One of the most basic teachings of Gnosticism was that the only way to become a spiritual human being—the most desirable possible human achievement—was to gain secret knowledge not accessible to every person, but only certain ones. This idea was very threatening to the Church, because the Gnostics looked down on Christianity as a primitive faith, and prized secret rituals over the sacraments of the Christian Church.

Opposing this idea, Paul writes that he became a minister "according to the divine office which was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now made manifest to His saints." In other words, God sent Paul as a divinely-appointed minister to His people so that Paul could reveal to them the "knowledge of God's mystery, of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (2:2-3).

Christians have no reason to seek hidden, exclusive knowledge. The great mysteries are all in God and Jesus Christ, the creators of all things, and our loving God and His Son reveal them to us.