



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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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.

THE DEPARTED:

Olga Stecher, Michael Moroch, Peter Kalada, Benedict Benda, Georgette Saba, Matilda Skripak, Andrew Bacsik, Helen Pawlush, Mary Milk, Antonina Rotko, Helen Cotrone, June Bianchini, Marianne Benda.



Today's Memorial Offering

- *Sanctuary Lamp* – in honor of Kenneth Bianchini's Birthday, by Grandpa and Grandma Wanko.
- *Wine for the Holy Eucharist* – in memory of Lydia Wanko, on Anniversary of her Birth – by John and Helen Wanko.



Announcements

❖ We are in the **Nativity (St. Philip's) Fast** which ends after the Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord, December 25th. Please remember the importance of the spiritual part of the Fast as well – make proper preparations and receive private Confession and Holy Communion during this time.

❖ There will be F.O.C.A. Saint Andrew-Saint Nicholas Vespers on **Sunday December 2, 2012 at 4:00pm** at the Orthodox Church of Saint Gregory Palamas in Glen Gardner, NJ. Speaker: Father David Mezynski, Dean of Students-Saint Vladimir's Seminary.

❖ **Friday, December 7** - The Sisterhood of St. Barbara of the Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church, 35 Orange Avenue, Clifton, NJ, will have their Annual **St. Nicholas Day Fish Dinner** at 6:00 pm. Donation: Adults – \$20, children – \$5. For tickets and further information, contact Olga Grib @ 973-471-3678 or see a flyer posted at the candle desk.

❖ The F.O.C.A. Juniors are collecting **Christmas toys** for the children affected by hurricane Sandy. IOCC has connected us with two Orthodox Churches in the affected area willing to collect and distribute the toys. Please support this effort by donating a new toy. The toys will be collected in our Church hall through **Sunday, December 16**.

❖ **Stop&Shop, A&P and ShopRite Shopping Cards** are 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.

December 2, 2012

26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST *Nativity (St. Philip's) Fast*

- 9:10am – 3rd & 6th Hour
- 9:30am – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Eph. 5:9-19
Gospel: Lk. 18:18-27
- **Annual Parish Meeting** – please attend this meeting, your presence is necessary.

Schedule of Services

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6
6:00pm – Akathist to St. Nicholas

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8
6:00pm – Great Vespers

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

Visit us online at:

www.SsPeterAndPaulBayonne.org

Movie Review: A Separation in Iran

During the past year, the movie "A Separation" has won awards at film festivals all over the world.

Though set in contemporary Iran, it powerfully depicts human conflicts and emotions common to people in all cultures, including our own.

The movie begins with a married couple speaking earnestly and sometimes angrily to an unseen judge. The wife, Simin, wants to leave Iran with her daughter so as to give the child a better life than she can have under what Simin calls "the circumstances." These are not defined; we can assume she means the conditions under which Iranian women live, since she herself wears jeans and a simple colored headscarf rather than the body-concealing chador that some other women characters wear. Because her husband refuses to emigrate, she is seeking a divorce.

The husband, Nader, has his reasons. He is devoted to his father, who has severe Alzheimer's and needs constant care. When he tells the judge this, his wife impatiently reminds him that his father is so ill that "he doesn't even know you are his son." He retorts, "But I know he is my father."

The judge dismisses the couple's "small problem." Simin, totally frustrated, decides to move in with her parents. As she jams everything she can into a suitcase, her daughter silently watches. Is her mother leaving for good, or temporarily?

Nader now has to find someone to watch his father. He hires Razieh, a young married woman who must bring along her small daughter. On her first workday, the old man wets his trousers, and the pious Razieh calls a religious hotline to ask whether it would be sinful for her to change him. She soon finds that the job and the worry of it are too much for her.

The next day, Razieh infuriates Nader by leaving his father

alone for a time, tying him to the bed so he won't injure himself. Nader fires her and accuses her of stealing money. She insistently defends herself, and he finally pushes her out the door. Razieh's little daughter watches with wide, frightened eyes as Nader becomes more angry and Razieh more agitated.

The movie is filled with questions and mysteries. Did Nader push Razieh hard enough to make her lose her baby as she fell down the stairs? Did Nader know she was pregnant under her chador? Is Razieh's volatile, unemployed husband trying to get money wrongly by charging Nader with murder, having actually hurt his wife himself?

No character in the movie is blameless, except the two daughters. The adults all feel justified in what they do and say, but their certainty creates only sadness and confusion for each other and their children. Resolution seems impossible.

On December 8 we read Galatians 5:26: "Let us have no self-conceit, no provoking of one another, no envy of one another." These are good words for anyone living in the world so artfully presented in "A Separation," and for all of us who know the fallen human behavior it depicts.