



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](http://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

December 16, 2012

28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Nativity (St. Philip's) Fast

Sunday of the Forefathers.

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

Epistle: Col. 3:4-11

Gospel: Lk. 14:16-24

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

6:00pm – Great Vespers, Confessions

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

9:10am – 3rd & 6th Hour, Confessions

9:30am – Divine Liturgy

Visit us online at:

www.SsPeterAndPaulBayonne.org

If you have information to be included in weekly bulletin, please email it by Wednesday to Fr.IgorKsn@gmail.com

Metropolitan Tikhon calls for prayers in wake of Connecticut school shooting

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

All of us have been shaken by the news of the tragic death of twenty young children and six adults at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. All of a sudden, the image of Rachel, who was 'weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more' [Jeremiah 31:15], becomes more than simply a passage from scripture. Rather, it becomes an unfortunate reality in the lives of those affected by the senseless incident and in our own hearts, as we share in their lamentation and sorrow.

None of us can truly understand the personal distress that so many are facing today. Yet every one of us knows the reality of such tragedy and experience it in the depths of our hearts. Our very being is shaken and we feel powerless to do anything. Nevertheless, we make an effort to direct our prayers towards the families of those who have lost their most dear ones, most of whom are innocent and pure children.

Concerning those who have fallen asleep, Saint Paul exhorts us not to "grieve even as others who have no hope" [1 Thessalonians 4:13]. And yet, herein he does not forbid us from grieving. Now is the time for us to weep, but we must weep with the firm hope that comes from our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. "Shed tears, but remain calm; weep modestly, and with fear of God," writes Saint John Chrysostom. And following this example, each of us must strive to transform our sorrow into prayer.

I therefore call on the clergy and the faithful of the Orthodox Church in America to offer fervent prayers for the souls of

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.

those whose lives have been so brutally cut short and for the consolation of all those whose existence has been shattered by this unfathomable event. I also ask that those who are physically able to offer their services to the grieving and the broken-hearted, both in the Newtown community and throughout this land.

It is at times like this that we must put our faith into action and offer our Christian support and love, to make our prayers concrete through action. Many have been affected, and many more will be overcome by grief, despair and isolation. We must ensure that we do all we can to provide a sense of true community to all those in need and to bear their burdens as the Lord asks us to.

Together with my brother bishops on the Holy Synod, I offer my condolences to all the grieving families, and I pray that they will find hope in the abundant grace of God. May they be given strength at this most painful moment and find comfort along the difficult path that lies ahead. Let no one among us have any fear, but let us remember that our Lord Jesus Christ has overcome fear, has trampled down death, and has granted us eternal life and great mercy."



Today's Memorial Offering

- Candles on the Altar – in memory of Juliana Bacsik, on the Anniversary of her Birth – by Andrea and Russ Wyskanycz.



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.

❖ Today after the Liturgy a collection will be taken to support the children who survived but were spiritually and mentally traumatized in a school shooting in Connecticut last Friday. Thank you for your support.

❖ Monetary donations are taken at the candle desk towards the next sandwich outreach for homeless shelters, which will take place this Saturday January 12, 2013 in the church hall. Anyone interested in lending a helping hand that day is welcome to join.

❖ Donations for St. Andrew's food pantry are always accepted. Place your non-perishable food or toiletry items in blue bins downstairs.

❖ 2013 Fundraiser – the parish council will be sponsoring a "Tricky Tray" fundraiser in 2013. Although a date for the event is yet to be determined, we are beginning to ask for donations of new and unopened items still in the original packaging. This collection will be ongoing, and your generosity is appreciated. Consider donating any Christmas gifts that may not be your taste, a gift basket of non-perishable items that you don't mind parting with, and lastly, remember to keep your eyes open for the after-Christmas bargains!