



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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January 13, 2013

Afterfeast of the Theophany Sunday after the Theophany

- 9:10am – 3rd & 6th Hour
- 9:30am – Divine Liturgy
 - Epistle: Eph. 4:7-13
 - Gospel: Mt. 4:12-17
- The Oath of Office of the new Parish Council.
- Panikhida – in memory of:
 - Borys Włodzimierz, offered by Halina Harasim
 - Olga Stecher, offered by Olga DeMay and Helen Pirniak

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19
11:00am – Baptism of Alexandra Nicole Cinpoes
6:00pm – Great Vespers, Confessions

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20
9:10am – Hours, Confessions
9:30am – Divine Liturgy

Warning: Jesus Never Said It Would Be Easy

On January 17 we read a series of warnings that Our Lord gave to His disciples and the Jewish leaders who were questioning Him. The verses are Luke 20:1-8.

On the 10th of January, the reading was another warning, a very direct one about Jesus' own destiny. He tells His followers that the Son of Man will be "mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon; they will scourge Him and kill Him and on the third day He will rise." The disciples do not comprehend what He is telling them. We read that they "understood none of these things" and "did not grasp what was said" (Luke 18:32-4).

In the readings for the 17th, the warnings are again about what will happen to Jesus, but they are also about those who refuse to honor Him. He tells a parable about the owner of a vineyard who has been far away for a long time. But they beat the servant he sends to get some of the vineyard's fruits. They do the same to a second and then a third servant.

The vineyard owner, we might think, would be angry enough by this time to send troops or some hired thugs to take what is his. But he doesn't do that. He asks himself, "What shall I do?" He then gives the tenants another chance, and sends his own son. Of course we know that the owner, in the parable, is God the Father, and the Son is Jesus Christ.

The parable continues: the tenants kill the son. And the following verses give the terrifying warning that God will "destroy those tenants, and give the vineyard to others." In other words, the apostles and their followers will be the Church's leaders, replacing the unfaithful Jewish leaders.

Verse 17, "The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner," refers to Jesus Himself. He, the One rejected by His people, is the chief cornerstone of the

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.

Church. The next verse warns that "everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; but when it falls on anyone it will crush him."

What do these severe words mean? They tell us that some will find Christ, with His message of forgiveness and humility, to be a "stumbling block" over which they will fall because they cannot accept it. Others will be broken by God's judgment of their rebellious disobedience—this is the stone that will fall on them.

So we have a choice to make, and Christ warns us that it will not be easy. We can reject Christ's life-changing message, but if we do it becomes a stumbling block for us. We can rebel against God's authority, and risk the crushing stone of His judgment.

But we can also choose to become "living stones" in the structure of the Church, with Him as our cornerstone. This is His hope for us, and it is our best hope, too.

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to Melanie Prybylski and to all who celebrate their Birthdays in the month of January. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnogaya Leta!



Today's Memorial Offering

- Candles on the Altar – in honor of Deborah Wanko's Birthday – by Daughters Lauren and Lindsay.



Announcements

❖ The **blessing of homes** has begun. Please sign up at the candle desk or call Father Igor for an appointment. Please indicate days and times that are most convenient for you.

❖ **Holy Water** that was blessed on the Feast of the Theophany is available for the faithful to take home. Water may be drawn from the font through next Sunday's Divine Liturgy. After then, additional water can be obtained by request of Father Igor.

❖ Save the date! – **Ice Skating on Sun. Feb. 10.** Gathering at 1:30pm in our church hall. For more info, please contact Marge Kovach, 732-815-9765 mikovach@aol.com, or see a flyer on the bulletin board.

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

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.