



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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February 3, 2013

35th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord

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

Epistle: Col. 3:12-16

Gospel: Mt. 25:14-30

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9

6:00pm – Great Vespers, Confessions

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10

9:10am – Hours, 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

Where Does Temptation Come From?

On February 6 we read the Letter of James 1:1-18. The writer is traditionally identified as James, the "brother" or relative of the Lord, who was the first Bishop of Jerusalem.

James addresses his words to "the twelve tribes in the Dispersion." This phrase might appear to refer specifically to the people of Israel, the Jews who are "dispersed" and living in various areas of the world.

But James describes himself as a "servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ." So the phrase he uses is really a description of the Church, which is the new Israel, dispersed in a pagan society. Christians are pilgrims and sojourners, whose true home is not in this world. The First Letter of Peter similarly addresses members of the Church as "the exiles of the Dispersion" (1:1.1)

In the next verse of his letter, James acknowledges that Christians will face trials. These should be counted as "all joy" because they test faith, and those who are steadfast in the test will come to be "perfect and complete" as followers of Christ.

James then assures his readers that God will provide the wisdom needed to withstand those trials to anyone who asks. All that's required of us is that we ask with faith that He is able and willing to provide what we need. If we ask while doubting all the while that He can really help us (James calls this being "double-minded") we can't expect to receive any real help; we are like a wave of the sea "driven and tossed by the wind." We need to make a solid commitment to God, and then act with unwavering faith in Him.

Nobody living in the fallen world and trying to follow Jesus

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.

Christ will be free from temptation. James acknowledges this, but he cautions that nobody should ever, in the midst of temptation, say that the temptation comes from God. God does not tempt anyone.

The source of our temptations, James says, is our own desires, misdirected and allowed by us to lure us into places we should not go. God has given us desires and appetites, and they can either be used in a healthy way or a destructive way. The choice is ours and so is the responsibility.

If temptation doesn't come from God, what does come from Him? Verse 17a contains the answer in words that we say as part of the Divine Liturgy: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights."

The next part of that verse tells us that in God "there is no variation or shadow due to change." This God who calls us to be constant is constant Himself; we can rely forever on that. He has "brought us forth by the word of truth that we should be a kind of first fruits of His creatures." That is a manifestation of His love for us – a love we can also rely on forever.



Today's Memorial Offering

- **Sanctuary Lamp** – in memory of Joseph Macinsky, on Anniversary of his Repose – by Mary Macinsky.
- **Candles on the Altar** – memory of Juliana & Andrew Bacsik.



Announcements

❖ A celebration honoring the 40th Anniversary of priesthood for our Diocesan Hierarchy, His Grace, Bishop Michael will take place tomorrow, **Mon. Feb. 4, 2013** at Holy Assumption Orthodox Church in Clifton, NJ. A Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will begin with the greeting of the bishop at 9:45am and will be followed by lunch at a local restaurant to be determined. For lunch tickets (\$40) please contact Fr. Joseph Lickwar, jlickwar@verizon.net. Eis Polla Eti Dhespota!

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

❖ Save the date! – **Youth Night on Fri. Feb. 22.** Hosted by the teens of Holy Resurrection Church 285 French Hill Rd, Wayne, NJ. Please RSVP 973-696-6572. For more information see a flyer on the bulletin board.

❖ **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.

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to Eva Benda, Samantha Cimboric, and to all who celebrate their Birthdays in the month of February. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnogaya Leta!