



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)

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February 10, 2013

36th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Epistle: 1Tim. 1:15-17

Gospel: Mt. 15:21-28

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16

6:00pm – Great Vespers, Confessions

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17

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

A Man with a Mustard Seed

On February 16 we read in the Gospel of Luke that Jesus told His disciples: "If you had faith as a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this sycamore tree, 'Be rooted up, and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you"(17: 6).

Most of us, reading this passage, see it as a striking image. Perhaps when we were church school students we were given mustard seeds as an encouraging reminder that even a little faith can eventually achieve wonderful things.

But how many of us really believe that our faith could bring about big changes, especially against great odds? Do we have faith at least as substantial as a mustard seed?

On this day we remember a man who did have that faith: Saint Nicholas (or Nicolai) of Japan, who worked to foster Orthodox Christianity in that country. He was born Ivan Kasatkin in 1836 in Smolensk, Russia. A bright student, he won a scholarship to the St. Petersburg Theological Academy and began his studies there in 1856.

Four years later, an announcement was posted on the Academy's notice board: Graduates were invited to apply for the position of chief priest at the Russian Embassy Church in Japan. Ivan Kasatkin, reading the announcement, felt deeply drawn to the idea of going to Japan. He hurried to complete his application, and was soon given the good news that he had won the position. In June of that year, 1860, he was tonsured a monk and given the name Nicholas. He spent the following winter making the long voyage to his new country.

Nicholas knew what he would face when he arrived. He was a missionary in a land where Christianity was prohibited. There was widespread persecution of its adherents; Japanese called it a "vicious" religion. The Bible and numerous other needed books had not yet been translated.

He began slowly, spending years talking to people in 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.

streets, in order to absorb Japanese culture and language and show that he respected both. His first convert, a samurai and son of a Shinto priest, helped him bring others to the faith, but he was not looking for large numbers. Having seen the Japanese people's high regard for the written word, he sought out Christian spiritual works to translate, while continuing to meet and talk with people.

Over time the number of converts to the Orthodox faith in Japan grew and Fr. Nicholas was eventually consecrated Bishop of Tokyo. Parishes and schools were established, and a number of Japanese men were educated and ordained as clergy for the Mission.

The Russo-Japanese War (1904-5) was a time of danger and uncertainty for Nicholas, as the most visible Russian in Japan. But he declined special protection, and quietly went on with his work of translation and visits to his parishes, by then numbering over 200. He would live for another 11 years, carrying on with his work energetically despite illness and the many demands placed on him. When we wonder how much our faith can really do, Nicholas' life is a good example. We may never have as much faith as he had, but even a mustard seed grain's worth can grow into something beautiful to glorify God.



Today's Memorial Offering

- *Sanctuary Lamp* – in memory of Mary & John Chonko – by Cathryn Christensen.



Announcements

❖ 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.

❖ Save the date! – The 3rd Annual **Altar Server Retreat** will take place on **March 1-3, 2013** at St. Basil's Academy in Garrison, NY. For questions please contact Fr. Jason Vansuch @ 609-851-3811. More information is posted on the bulletin board.

❖ **ShopRite and Stop&Shop 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.

❖ **Coffee Hour** sponsors are needed. Please sign up at the candle desk.

❖ Always available at the candle desk are **memorial candles, and Bread and Wine for the Holy Eucharist**. They can be offered in honor or in memory of your loved-ones. Please remember that not only these offerings are sign of your faith and hope in God's help which is always sent to all who turn to Him and His Saints with faith and prayers; but also these are simply the deeds of mercy needed for the salvation of those whom you pray for, as well as for your own salvation.

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to Stephen Cimboic, 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!