



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

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

February 17, 2013

37th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Zacchaeus Sunday

- 9:10am – 3rd & 6th Hour
- 9:30am – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 1Tim. 4:9-15
Gospel: Lk. 19:1-10
- Oath of Office and Installation of Officers of the Carpathian Club.
- Panikhida – in memory of **Julia Wasilewski**, offered by Wasilewski Family, and for **all the departed members of the Carpathian Club**.
- Fellowship – Please come downstairs for a breakfast in our Church Hall, sponsored by Carpathian Club followed by Oath of Office done by Mayor Mark Smith.

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

6:00pm – Great Vespers, Confessions

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

9:10am – Hours, Confessions

9:30am – Divine Liturgy

A Book Review

The recent book, "Religion for Atheists" by Alain de Botton is subtitled "A Non-Believer's Guide to the Uses of Religion." The author sees value in the forms and practices of various religions, but not in their content, which is faith and worship.

So he proposes that many of those forms and practices should be retained, because they offer comfort and give structure to life. But, as an atheist, he says that their content should no longer be praise and worship of God. One example he offers is to create restaurants with tables at which people would sit with strangers and share a meal. Then they would discuss deep questions such as, "What do you fear?" and "Whom can you forgive?" This experience would retain two admirable forms: the shared meal of the Eucharist, and the cleansing ritual of confession of sins. But it would replace their religious content with secular content acceptable to non-believers.

De Botton writes that "the starting point of all religions is that humans are weak and vulnerable and needing direction." This statement reflects a basic premise of atheism: that religion is invented by human beings to comfort each other, to give moral guidance, and to explain things that are impossible to explain or justify. Atheism sees no divine presence working in the world; standards and ideals are created by people.

But one of the readings for January 22 reveals the Church's teaching about the source of these standards and ideals: "His divine power has granted us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence, by which He has granted to us His very great promises, that through these...you may become partakers of the divine nature" (II Peter 1: 3-4).

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.

As these words from Scripture tell us, the starting point of Christianity is not that we are "weak and vulnerable." The starting point is that God wants to give us "glory and excellence." He offers us the chance to become "partakers of the divine nature." Free and forgetful creatures that we are, we need the rituals and practices of the Church as encouraging reminders of our high calling. Christians would be adamant in saying that to empty the Church's practices of their religious content, and insert human-made ideas instead, would be to rob all of us of the greatest gift we have been given.

De Botton says this about human freedom: "Real freedom does not mean being wholly left to one's own devices; it should be compatible with being harnessed and guided." This sounds suspiciously--for an atheist--like Saint Paul's statement that we should be "slaves of God" (Romans 6:22). Paul believes that this slavery is the greatest freedom, in fact the only freedom, because nothing else can lead us to "eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Whatever de Botton believes his "real freedom" will lead us to, he seems to have more in common with Saint Paul, whom many atheists abhor, than he realizes.



Today's Memorial Offering

- **Sanctuary Lamp** – in memory of Joseph Berezny – by Cathryn Christensen.
- **St. John's Cross** – in memory of Margaret Dellabella – by Elizabeth Zuber.

- **St. Nicholas Cross** – in memory of Wasilewski Family – by Victor, Stephen & Lisa Marie.
- **Tripple Candelabra** – in memory of Julia Wasilewski, on 10th Anniversary of Death – by Husband Victor & children Stephen & Lisa Marie.



Announcements

❖ **Coffee Hour** next **Sunday, Feb. 24**, will be sponsored by Ted and Valentina Benda and their family. They are planning to be in the Church and invite everyone for a fellowship after the Liturgy.

❖ **1st Wedding Bann:** The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony of **Lauren A. Wanko**, parishioner of Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Bayonne NJ, and **Nicholas G. Petronko**, parishioner of St. Gregory Palamas Orthodox Church in Glen Gardner, NJ is scheduled for **Friday, March 8, 2013**. Anyone who wants to express any concerns or protests please speak to Fr. Igor.

❖ **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.

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to Galina Burkova, 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!