



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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March 3, 2013

39th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

- 9:10am – 3rd & 6th Hour
- 9:30am – Divine Liturgy
 - Epistle: 1 Cor. 6:12-20
 - Gospel: Lk. 15:11-32
- Coffee Hour – Please come downstairs for a fellowship following the Divine Liturgy provided by the Bayonne "R" Club.

Schedule of Services

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

2:00pm – Holy Matrimony of Nicholas G. Petronko & Lauren A. Wanko.

SATURDAY, MARCH 9 – MEMORIAL SATURDAY

9:30am – Divine Liturgy & Panikhida

6:00pm – Great Vespers, Confessions

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

9:10am – Hours, Confessions

9:30am – Divine Liturgy

Getting Our Facts Straight

March 5th is the feast day of Saint Mark the Ascetic, who was revered for his gentleness and for his ability to write with clarity about the "facts" of the Christian faith.

There is not much information about Saint Mark's life, but he lived in the fifth century and knew many of the great Church leaders of that time, including Saint John Chrysostom, who was probably his teacher and mentor. At the age of forty he was tonsured a monk, and spent the next several decades as a hermit in the desert of the northwestern Nile Delta in Egypt.

He prayed with the Scriptures so closely that he learned them by heart. But, studious as he was, he did not ignore the living creatures around him. He paid attention to what was happening to them.

That is why he once noticed that the offspring of a hyena was blind, and wept for it. Because of his compassion the young animal's sight was restored. The mother hyena, in gratitude, brought him a sheepskin. While understanding the mother's gift, he made it clear to her that she was never to kill the sheep of the poor people who lived in the neighboring villages.

Saint Mark produced many writings, and in these we see his concern that people should have true knowledge, real facts, about the Christian life. So among his words are these: "Even though knowledge is true, it is still not firmly established if unaccompanied by works. For when we have totally neglected to practice something, our knowledge of it will gradually disappear." He is stating a basic fact: Just as God acted for us by becoming man and overcoming death, He wants us to have an active faith, not just an intellectual one.

In our own time, many people claim to state the facts about Christianity with certainty, but they are completely wrong. In a

Intercessory Prayer

THE LIVING:

Eva Benda, Theodore & Valentina Benda, Terry Cimboric, 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.

recent issue of the "New Yorker" Magazine, Adam Gopnik has an article about Galileo. In the article, Gopnik, who is not a Christian, writes that the Church's teaching is that "the omnipotent ruler of the universe could satisfy his sense of justice only by sending his son here to be tortured to death..." This is the example of someone who only writes about but does not act or live the Christian life, and therefore doesn't get his facts straight.

Gopnik's description of the reason why Jesus Christ became Man completely ignores the true, factual reason why He did so: to save us, His creatures. As Christians, we have a duty to insist that people who write about our faith get their facts straight.

This is why saints like Mark the Ascetic are so valuable. He not only wrote about the Christian faith but lived it. His words are true because they were "accompanied by works." A reading for this day tells us to do the same: "Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in deed and in truth" (1 John 3: 18).



Today's Memorial Offering

- Wine for the Holy Eucharist – in memory of Anna & Michael Hook – by Cathryn Christensen.



Announcements

❖ Please do not forget that daylight saving time starts next Sunday, March 10 by turning clock forward 1 hour.

❖ 3rd Wedding Bann: The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony of our parishioner Lauren A. Wanko and Nicholas G. Petronko, parishioner of St. Gregory Palamas Orthodox Church in Glen Gardner, NJ is scheduled for this Friday, March 8, 2013. Anyone who wants to express any concerns or protests please speak to Fr. Igor.

❖ 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.

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to Bill DeMay and to all who celebrate their Birthdays this month. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnogaya Leta!

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, receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy and for fellowship in our Church Hall after the service.