



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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April 7, 2013

**THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT
VENERATION OF THE CROSS**

**Rest of St. Tikhon, Patriarch of
Moscow and Enlightener of North
America**

- 9:10am – Hours, Confession
- 9:30am – Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

*Epistle: Heb. 4:14-5:6;
Heb. 7:26-8:2 (Saint)*

*Gospel: Mk. 8:34-9:1
Jn. 10: 9-16 (Saint)*

Schedule of Services

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

6:30pm – Mission Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at St. Sophia's Ukrainian Orth. Church

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

6:00pm – Akathist to the Passion of Christ with Panikhida for the Departed

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

9:10am – Hours, Confession
9:30am – Divine Liturgy

Really One of Us

On April 7 we read one of the clearest statements the New Testament gives us about Jesus Christ and who He really is.

Hebrews 4:14-15 says that Jesus Christ is the Son of God "who passed through the heavens" – meaning that He is the eternal Son of the Father, who has His dwelling with the Father in the heavens.

Then Hebrews goes on to say that Jesus is not one who is "unable to sympathize with our weaknesses." Why is this so? Because He "in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin."

Christ couldn't have been "tempted as we are" unless He was fully human, which means that He was sometimes hungry, uncomfortable, cold, sad, exhausted, angry and upset, just as we are. Always maintaining His divinity, He still became one of us, a true human person.

One of the special "additional readings" for this day shows us how Jesus expressed His humanity to people around Him so that they could know it was authentic. In John 10: 9-16 Jesus compares Himself to the shepherd who is not an uncaring hired hand, but a real protector who will lay down his life for his sheep. He won't be frightened off by a wolf, leaving the sheep to be snatched and scattered by the predator.

Jesus' hearers, many of whom know the life of a shepherd well, comprehend what He is saying about Himself. He is telling them that He knows their life because He has come among them to share it.

Then Jesus says, "I know my own and my own know me." These words, like the verses from Hebrews, stress His true humanity. There is no way people could be Jesus' own, or know they are His own, except by recognizing Him as one of

Intercessory Prayer

THE LIVING: Mary Angeli, 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.

them. Yet those who are willing to understand Him fully know also that He is the Savior.

That is why in the verses that follow, when some accuse Him of being mad and having a demon, others retort, "These are not the sayings of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?" (10: 21).

A day earlier, on April 6th, is the commemoration of a saint who had to defend the teaching that Jesus Christ truly became a human being. The sixth-century Saint Eutychius, served for many peaceful years as Patriarch of Constantinople. But then a heresy with a very long name and a very large influence – aphantodocetism – took hold strongly in the empire. The teaching was that Jesus Christ, because He was divine, had a body that did not feel human sensations such as hunger and thirst, or pain.

Saint Eutychius, along with others, argued that salvation means nothing if Jesus Christ's humanity was not real. For standing up against the false teaching, which had attracted even the Emperor Justinian, Eutychius was exiled. But he stood firm in the Church's teaching: Christ saved us by becoming one of us and overcoming our great enemy, death.



Today's Memorial Offering

• **7-Day Vigils on the Altar** – in honor of Maxim Kseniuk's Birthday – by Father Igor, Matushka Anna & grandma Maria.

• **Sanctuary Lamp** – in honor of Lauren Petronko's Birthday – by Grandma & Grandpa Wanko.

• **St. Nicholas Cross** – in honor of Mia Canova's Birthday – by Dede & Babi Wanko.

• **Wine for the Holy Eucharist** – in memory of Andrew Wanko, on Anniversary of his Birth – by John & Helen Wanko.

Announcements

❖ Please note that there is a new item added to the Memorial Offerings book – **7-Day Vigils on the Altar**. These are the candles that are lit for seven days on the Altar Table. It is a good way to offer your prayers for the health or in memory of someone whom you love. Also, if you would like to sponsor Coffee Hour, you can sign up in the same Memorial book in the space provided for each Sunday.

❖ **Lenten Charitable Outreach** takes place every Saturday in April at 11am in the Church Hall. If you are able to lend a hand in making sandwiches, it will be deeply appreciated.

❖ **Church Bell Fundraiser:** As you've probably noticed, one of the bells in a bell tower broke down. The repair will cost around \$800. We kindly ask you to help with this project. May God bless you for your generosity.

❖ **NJ Deanery Mission Vespers** today (4pm): *North:* Holy Resurrection Church, Wayne, NJ; *South:* Holy Cross Church, Medford, NJ; For more information please see a flyer posted on the bulletin board.

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to Maxim Kseniuk, Lauren Petronko, Mia Canova, Jacob Galati, and to all who celebrate their Birthdays this month. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnogaya Leta!