



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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April 21, 2013

FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

St. Mary of Egypt

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

Epistle: Heb. 9:11-14
Gal. 3:23-29 (Saint)
Gospel: Mk. 10:32-45
Lk. 7:36-50 (Saint)

Schedule of Services

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

9:30am –Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

SATURDAY, APRIL 27 – LAZARUS SATURDAY

9:30am – Divine Liturgy

6:00pm - Great Vespers with Litya & blessing of pussy willows

SUNDAY, APRIL 28 – PALM SUNDAY

9:10am – Hours, Confession

9:30am – Divine Liturgy & blessing of pussy willows

www.SsPeterAndPaulBayonne.org

Ready in Every Way to Hear His Word

At Thursday Vespers of the sixth week of Great Lent, which falls on April 25th this year, we read Genesis 46:1-7. The passage tells the story of Jacob's journey to Egypt with his sons. God calls the aged Jacob, and makes a great promise to him, speaking to him in visions of the night: "Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there." God also tells Jacob that his favorite son Joseph, presumed to be dead, will be the one to close the old man's eyes when he dies.

Having this assurance, Jacob and his sons set out: "They also took their cattle and their goods, which they had gained in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt, Jacob and all his offspring with him, his sons, and his sons' sons with him, his daughters, and his sons' daughters; all his offspring he brought with him into Egypt."

This is a momentous journey, because it begins the history of the Hebrews first flourishing in Egypt and then, in the Book of Exodus, being enslaved by a new king "who did not know Joseph."

The king is worried that the Hebrews have become "too many and too mighty for us." After the harsh years of slavery he imposes on them, Moses will come forth to deliver them from their Egyptian bondage and lead them toward the Promised Land.

But what would have happened if Jacob wasn't ready to hear and do the word of God, and to begin this important journey? In preceding verses (Genesis 45: 21-26) we are

Intercessory Prayer

THE LIVING: Eva & Philip 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: Mary Angeli, Olga Stecher, Michael Moroch, Peter Kalada, Benedict Benda, Georgette Saba, Matilda Skripak, Andrew Bacsik, Helen Pawlush, Mary Milk, Antonina Roiko, Helen Cotrone, June Bianchini, Marianne Benda.

told that Jacob's sons had returned from Egypt where, to their wonder, they met their brother Joseph. He was not only alive, but had become the highest official in the Egyptian government. They relate this amazing news to Jacob, but "his heart fainted, for he did not believe them." (The Orthodox Study Bible translates the verse this way: "But Jacob's mind was completely stunned, for he could not believe them.") He only does believe when he sees the loads of "good things of Egypt" and "provision for his father on the journey" back to Egypt that Joseph has sent with the brothers.

Jacob was not ready for the good news that his beloved Joseph was alive; he was too stunned and faint of heart. He regained his senses, fortunately, and was able to carry out God's plan for him. That plan was more than just for a father to be reunited with a beloved and long-lost son. Jacob's journey would begin a whole new chapter in the history of salvation.

As Great Lent ends, this passage reminds us that we, too, will soon receive the good news that someone presumed to be dead is truly alive. Are we ready to hear that news? Will we do whatever God wants us to do as a result of hearing it, and take our own place in the history of salvation?



Today's Memorial Offering

- **Sanctuary Lamp** – in memory of Michael Zuber – by Elizabeth Zuber & children.
- **St. Nicholas Cross** – in memory of the repose of Eva DeMay – by DeMay Family.



Announcements

❖ This Tuesday, Apr. 23 at 7:00pm there will be Sixth Annual Celebration of the Holy Unction service at the Holy Transfiguration Church (35 Sickletown Rd., Pearl River, NY 10965). His Grace Bishop Michael will be main celebrant. For more information please see flyer posted on the bulletin board.

❖ **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: Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Jersey City, NJ; *South:* St. Gregory Palamas Church, Glen Gardner, NJ; For more information please see a flyer posted on the bulletin board.

❖ Donations for **St. Andrew's food pantry** are always accepted. Place your non-perishable food or toiletry items in blue bins downstairs.

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to Anne Pacheco, Lisa Wasilewski and to all who celebrate their Birthdays this month. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnogaya Leta!