



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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Christ is risen!

May 26, 2013

4th Sunday of Pascha Sunday of the Paralytic

- 8:40am – Hours
- 9:00am – Divine Liturgy
 - Epistle: Acts 9:32-43*
 - Gospel: John 5:1-15*
- Panikhida – in memory of:
 - Maria Pieruta, on the 9th day of Repose, offered by Halina Harasim;
 - Anette Morose, on the 9th day of Repose, offered by Carol & John Costello;
 - Irene Lawrence, on the 40th day of Repose.

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, JUNE 1
6:00pm – Great Vespers, Confessions

SUNDAY, JUNE 2
8:40am – Hours, Confession
9:00am – Divine Liturgy

The Challenge of Change

During the week of May 26 we read the tenth chapter of the Book of Acts, which tells of changes and growth in the early Church.

As people with varied backgrounds joined the Church, those who were already members had to find ways of worshipping in harmony with these newcomers. Sometimes their ideas of what God wanted from them also had to change, as the apostle Peter would learn.

The tenth chapter begins with Peter's vision of a large sheet being lowered by its four corners from heaven. Animals, some considered unclean in Jewish law, are contained in the sheet: "all kinds of four-footed creatures and reptiles and birds of the air." A voice telling Peter to "kill and eat" is followed by his protest that he has never eaten anything profane or unclean.

But when the voice tells him that he must not call profane anything that God has made clean, Peter begins to realize that his understanding of God's will must change. He will soon say, "I truly understand that God shows no partiality." So he preaches the Gospel to the Gentiles, people who were not raised as he was in the Jewish law.

Then comes another attitude-changing event: the Holy Spirit falls upon those listening to Peter. And "the circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God." The faithful believers of Jewish background are shown that God's grace is for others as well as themselves.

It isn't an easy fact for them to take in. The first verses of the eleventh chapter of Acts describe the reaction of the apostles and believers in Judea, hearing of the Gentiles'

Intercessory Prayer

THE LIVING: Eva & Philip Benda, Theodore & Valentina Benda, Terry Cimboic, Cathryn Christensen, Olga DeMay, Marianne Guagenti, George Hook, Peter Mazula, Walter Milk, Evelyn Morley, Helen Pirniak, Stephen & Lillian Sokol, Faith Verona, Elizabeth Zuber.

THE DEPARTED: Mary Angeli, Olga Stecher, Michael Moroch, Peter Kalada, Benedict Benda, Anette Morose, Georgette Saba, Matilda Skripak, Andrew Bacsik, Helen Pawlush, Mary Milk, Antonina Rotko, Helen Cotrone, June Bianchini, Marianne Benda.

acceptance of God's word. They criticize Peter: "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?"

The Church would face similar challenges many times again. In the third century, for example, the question arose of what to do with those who had "lapsed" during the persecutions in the Roman Empire. How were they to be received back into the Church, if they were received at all? Many Christians at that time had lost eyes, limbs and health because they refused to deny their faith. How would they live in harmony with those who had escaped persecution by recanting? So serious was this question that Church leaders devised three categories of the lapsed: those who had actually sacrificed to the pagan gods, those who had offered incense, and those who had purchased certificates stating that they had complied with the Empire's demands. The penances were different for each group.

The present world confronts Orthodox Christians with the challenge to love each person while firmly upholding Church teachings that many persons have abandoned. It is no easy task, and the only way to do it is to cling to the assurance, in John 16:33 that Christ gives us: "Be of good cheer, for I have overcome the world."



Today's Memorial Offering

• **Sanctuary Lamp** – in memory of Anastasia Grudinoff, on Anniversary of her Death – by Helen & John Wanko.

• **Bread and Wine for the Holy Eucharist** – in memory of Joseph Cimboic, on Anniversary of his Repose – by Teresa Cimboic.



Announcements

❖ Next Sunday, June 2 at 12 Noon St. Mary's Carpatho-Russian Church (89 W 29th Street, Bayonne, NJ) will host their **Annual Luncheon and Chinese Auction**. Everyone is invited. For tickets please see Olga DeMay.

❖ Next Sunday, June 2 at 2pm: **Afternoon Tea & Basket Raffle** at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church (46 Seymour Street, Yonkers NY). For tickets (\$15) call 908-420-3210 or 914-96-6815. This fundraiser is to benefit St. Andrews Camp for Children. Please help us to raise much needed funds for capital improvements

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to Reagan Joanne Galati and to all who celebrate their Birthdays this month. May God grant you good health and joy 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 and receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.