



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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October 11, 2009

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Fathers
of the 7th Ecumenical Council.

▪ 9:30am – Divine Liturgy

Epistles: 2 Cor. 9:6-11

Heb. 13:7-16 (Fathers)

Gospels: Luke 7:11-16

John 17:1-13 (Fathers)

▪ Church School – after the Liturgy

Schedule of Services

Saturday, October 17

6:00pm – Great Vespers

Sunday, October 18

9:30am – Divine Liturgy

If you have any information to be added into weekly bulletin, please send your info to Fr.IgorKsn@gmail.com

Longinus the Centurion

On Friday of this week we remember the martyred saint Longinus the Centurion, who stood at the foot of the cross and pierced the side of Our Lord with a spear. He was moved, as he stood there, to make a powerful confession of faith. He declared, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

If we think for a moment about what took place during the hours before Longinus uttered his memorable words, we'll have to dwell on some ugly scenes. Soldiers like Longinus were responsible for many of the terrible things done to Our Lord during those hours. Jesus was mocked, scourged, ridiculed and crowned by having sharp thorns put roughly on his head. The soldiers were more than willing to cast lots for His clothing, and to hear without anything but agreement the mocking of passersby as He endured agony on the cross.

Longinus belonged to the Roman Empire's fighting elite. He was trained to value power, and to believe in ruthless suppression of any who were perceived to be Rome's enemies. He would have been unlikely to have compassion for, or interest in, an itinerant preacher who had stirred up the populace in an alarming way. He could watch without emotion as that preacher was put to death in the slow, incredibly painful way reserved for criminals who were not citizens of Rome.

Longinus, according to most sources, was the officer in command at the Lord's crucifixion. It was his job to make sure that those on the crosses were definitely dead. This is why it is surprising to find, in some modern books that claim

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Intercessory Prayer

THE LIVING:

June Bianchini,
Walter and Mary Milk,
Stephen and Lillian Sokol,
Benedict and Eva Benda,
Theodore Rocca,
Alexei, Nicholas, Frank, Michael and Elizabeth Zuber,
Valentina Benda,
Andrew Koch,
Cindy Boswell,
Olga DeMay,
Helen Pirniak,
Marianne Guagenti,
Mikolaj, Avery, Sophie and Georgette Saba,
Agnes and George Silberman,
George Hook,
Helen Cotrone,
Peter Mazula,
Helen Pawlush,
Antonina Rotko,
Matilda Skripak,
Evelyn Morely,
Jaser and Gazie Nesheiwat,
Anne Hueston
Cathryn Christensen
Walter Epps
David Smith

God grant you Many Years!

THE NEWLY DEPARTED:

George Makara,
Anne Verona,
Ann Fondak,
Theodor Bacha,
Margaret Dellabella,

Memory Eternal!

PREPARING FOR ILLUMINATION:

Matthew Galati

Today's Memorial Offering

• **Sanctuary Lamp** – in memory of George Makara – by Helen Cotrone.



Announcements



❖ Our annual **Flea market** will be on October 17th and 24th. If you have any items that you don't need but are in good condition, please bring them to our church hall. To unlock the church hall, please call rectory. For pick-up please contact any member of "R" Club.

❖ **St. Demetrius Memorial Saturday** (Souls Saturday) this year is on October 24. Because of our Flea market, Divine Liturgy and Panikhida for all Departed will start at **8:30am**.

❖ **Akathists** for various needs and to different saints will be served this fall and winter on the second and fourth Wednesdays of a month, starting on October 28, at 6:00pm, followed by **adult catechetical classes**. These classes will cover different aspects of our faith. Please make every effort to attend.

❖ Needed are **sponsors for our Fellowship - Coffee Hour**. If you would like to participate, please sign up at the candle desk.

❖ Available at the candle desk are memorial candles, Altar wine and bread to be sponsored in prayerful intentions of your loved-ones.

Birthday Greeting

Happy Birthday to **Walter Milk**, who celebrated his Birthday on Wednesday, October 7, and to **Theodore Benda**, whose birthday was on October 1. God Bless you with good health and happiness for Many, Many, Many Years! Многая лета!

Thank You

Our heartfelt "Thank you" to Miroslaw Szeslawicki for updating our Flea market announcement sign.

Welcome to our Parish

We warmly welcome all families, friends and guests to our parish. We are glad to pray with you here today. Over the past eighty-six years, hundreds of people have called Ss. Peter and Paul their home. If this parish is the kind of a spiritual home you have been searching for, we would love to have you become a part of our family.

"Longinus the Centurion"

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to "demythologize" the Christian Gospel, the bald assertion that there were no eyewitnesses to the Crucifixion. These books then claim that without eyewitnesses we have no certainty that Jesus Christ actually died and rose again.

Yet the Gospel of John, in 19: 31-35 tells us in detail how the soldiers dealt with the crucified bodies that day, and in verses 26-27 it tells us how Jesus gave His Mother into John's care. So there were a number of witnesses, a fact which is one of the foundations of our faith.

Longinus was one witness who was overcome by what he experienced when Jesus died. He was awestruck at seeing the earth shake and the rocks split, and he knew that Jesus was the Son of God, as He had claimed to be. The rest of his life, after he accepted baptism, was spent as a follower of Christ who witnessed to others. He died a martyr at the hands of Pilate's soldiers, who pursued him and reluctantly followed their orders to kill him.

Just a bored centurion who had to make sure the Jewish troublemaker on the cross was really dead—those ordinary words describe Longinus. Yet he was changed, to become a great witness to the Resurrection. That is what God can do, and all the "demythologizing" books in the world can't undo it.



Troparion - Tone 1

Longinus, you beheld the King of Glory
who was nailed to the Cross, yet shone on those in darkness.
You were enlightened by His rays and became a martyr and save those who cry:
Glory to Him who gave you strength!
Glory to Him who granted you a crown!
Glory to Him who through you grants healing to all!