



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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January 22, 2012

32nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- 9:10am – Hours, Confessions
 - 9:30am – Divine Liturgy
- Epistle: 1 Tim. 1:15-17*
Gospel: Lk. 18:35-43
- Church School
 - Panikhida – in memory of Helen Pawlush (1st Anniversary of Repose), and Volodimir Kseniuk (65th Anniversary of Birth) – offered by Fr. Igor, Mat. Anna & Maxim Kseniuk.
 - Roast Pork Dinner for the benefits of our parish, sponsored by the Carpathian Club. Tickets are available at the door. Thank you for your support.

Schedule of Services

THURSDAY, JAN. 26

7:00pm – Reception into Orthodoxy of Tonya (Barbara) Galati.

SATURDAY, JAN. 28

6:00pm – Great Vespers

SUNDAY, JAN. 29

9:10am – Hours, Confessions

9:30am - Divine Liturgy

A Homeless Wanderer Who Found the Kingdom

On January 24 the Church celebrates the memory of Blessed Xenia of Petersburg. She was born in the 18th century to a noble family, and married a colonel who was a member of the Imperial Chorus. But she is probably best known as a "Fool for Christ."

This term is based on Saint Paul's words in I Corinthians 4:10: "We are fools for Christ's sake." The men and women who became "Fools for Christ" or "Holy Fools" gave up the normal life of family, job and home. They lived in complete dependence on God, and rejected the pursuit of security, status, or the respect of other people.

Xenia's early life followed the conventional path for a young woman of her time. But it changed dramatically when her husband Andrei died suddenly at a lively evening party with his soldier companions. She had loved him dearly and was concerned that there had not been time for him to make a final confession and to receive the Eucharist before he died. We don't know exactly how her concern influenced her next actions, but we do know that she sold her considerable possessions and gave away the proceeds, began wearing Andrei's military uniform, and called herself by his name. She gave her house to a friend, stipulating that it must be used to give shelter to those who afford to provide shelter for themselves. Her shocked family tried to have her declared mentally incompetent, but the court found her to be of sound mind.

Xenia left Petersburg and set out on an eight-year pilgrimage, going from one monastery to another and seeking spiritual guidance from the elders and holy people she met along the way. When she returned to Petersburg, she lived as an impoverished wanderer through the streets of the city's worst slum.

Intercessory Prayer

THE LIVING:

Eva Benda, Valentina Benda, Cathryn Christensen, Olga DeMay, Marianne Guagenti, George Hook, Peter Mazula, Walter Milk, Helen Pirniak, Stephen & Lillian Sokol, Faith Verona, Elizabeth Zuber.

THE DEPARTED:

Peter Kalada, Benedict Benda, Georgette Saba, Matilda Skripak, Andrew Bacsik, Helen Pawlush, Mary Milk, Antonina Rotko, Helen Cotrone, June Bianchini, Marianne Benda.

PREPARING FOR ILLUMINATION:

Tonya Galati

Out of fear and mistrust, some people treated this strange woman in a tattered military uniform with derision, shouting or spitting at her. But others were kind, offering her a bit of food or money out of the little they had. She would always give these gifts to needy people, and became recognized for her own charity as well as the good effect she seemed to have on those around her. They began to ask for her blessing, and welcome her presence.

Xenia, like other holy fools, was given the gift of doing miracles and seeing the future. She was able to save people from coming dangers, and once bluntly told a single woman who hoped to marry, "As you sit here drinking coffee, your future husband is burying his first wife." Some time later, the woman met and married the widower to whom Xenia was referring.

In her chapter on Saint Xenia in the book Encountering Women of Faith, Barbara Harris succinctly describes the gift holy fools give us: "With their eyes turned toward God and through extreme poverty and humility, fools offer us an extraordinary example of a voluntary kenotic [self-emptying] life."



Today's Memorial Offering

- Sanctuary Lamp – in memory of Joseph Macinsky, on his Anniversary of Birth – offered by Mary Macinsky.

Announcements

- The blessing of homes continues. Please sign up at the candle desk or call Father Igor for an appointment. Please indicate the most convenient for you days and times as well as you phone number.
- Food Pantry donations are always accepted. Place your non-perishable items in blue bin downstairs.
- Our next sandwich outreach for homeless shelters will take place on Sat. Feb. 4 at 10:00am in the church hall. Anyone interested in lending a helping hand is welcome to join us.
- Save the date! – Ice Skating on Sun. Feb. 12. Gathering at 1:30pm in our church hall. For more info, please contact Marge Kovach, 732-815-9765 mjkovach@aol.com, or see a flyer on the bulletin board.

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to our readers Stephen Wasilewski, Chris Bygonaise and to all who celebrate their Birthdays in the month of January. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnogaya Lyeta!

Congratulation

to Alena Burkova and Alexander Nechushkin on the Birth of their new baby girl Melania! May God bless and preserve all your family for Many Years! Многая Лета!

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.