



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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February 5, 2012

34th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee.

Afterfeast of the Meeting

- 8:50am – The Order of Confession
- 9:30am – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 2 Tim. 3:10-15
Gospel: Lk. 18:10-14
- Church School
- Panikhida – in memory of:
 - Juliana & Andrew Bacsik, offered by Andrea & Russ Wyskanycz;
 - Rev. Nicholas & Mat. Geraldine Fedetz, offered by Tais Fedetz;
 - departed members of the Kisiel Family, offered by Halina Kisiel
- Coffee Hour – in memory of Andrew & Juliana Bacsik, and Fr. Nickolas & Mat. Geraldine Fedetz, provided by Andrea & Russ Wyskanycz, and Tais Fedetz.

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, FEB. 11

6:00pm – Great Vespers, Confessions

SUNDAY, FEB. 12

9:10am – Hours, Confessions

9:30am – Divine Liturgy

Honoring or Abusing the Promise of God

During the week of February 5th we read New Testament passages that describe contrasting groups of people: those who honor God's promise of salvation, and those who abuse it for their own purposes.

Mark 13:1 warns believers to "take heed to yourselves; for they will deliver you up to councils; and you will be beaten in synagogues; and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear testimony before them."

But when they stand before hostile powers, believers should not be anxious beforehand about what to say. Instead they should "say whatever is given to you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit." Those who do bear testimony, and preach the true Gospel, will be "hated by all for My name's sake." Yet even then there is no reason to turn away from Christ, because God's promise is that "he who endures to the end will be saved." Honoring that promise will lead to the Kingdom, even though the road is rough.

II Peter 2 and 3 describe those who abuse rather than honor God's promise. In the previous chapter, Peter has reiterated the assurance that the Holy Spirit inspires those who preach the Gospel in the right way: "...no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the impulse of man, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."

But he goes on to warn that just as false prophets put forth their destructive teachings in earlier days, "there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their licentiousness, and because of them the way of truth will be reviled."

Peter says that these false teachers have "hearts trained in greed." They are exploiters of others who "despise authority." They are scoffers who cynically ask, "Where is the promise of His

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, Olga Stecher.

THE DEPARTED:

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

coming?" So rather than honor the promise, they abuse it by their ridicule, encouraging others to doubt it. They "entice unsteady souls" to revere them instead of Christ.

What motivates these scoffers? Peter answers when he writes about their greedy hearts and their attitude toward authority. Christians must place God at the center of their lives. They can't be greedy for notoriety, trying to gather personal followers. They can't despise authority, because God asks His people to submit freely to His loving authority. For people greedy for acclaim and who despise authority, submission to God is impossible. It's equally impossible for them to believe God's promise, and honor it.

Peter warns us against these people who he says are like "waterless springs." He acknowledges that some things are hard to understand, including Paul's teaching. But knowing this, and knowing that some people will twist the teachings, we can leave their wrong ideas aside and concentrate on growing in the "grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to Eva Benda and to all who celebrate their Birthdays in the month of February. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many Years!

Today's Memorial Offering



- *Sanctuary Lamp* – in memory of John Yendrey, on his Anniversary of Repose – offered by Mary Macinsky.
- *St. John's Cross* – in memory of Juliana & Andrew Bacsik.
- *Triple Candelabra* – in memory of Rev. Nicholas & Mat. Geraldine Fedetz.
- *Candles on the Altar* – in memory of Andrew & Juliana Bacsik.

- *Bread for the Holy Eucharist* – in memory of Juliana & Andrew Bacsik, offered by Diana Szatkowska.
- *Wine for the Holy Eucharist* – in memory of Juliana & Andrew Bacsik, offered by Diana Szatkowska.



Announcements

- ❖ 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 mikovach@aol.com, or see a flyer on the bulletin board.
- ❖ Food Pantry donations are always accepted. Place your non-perishable items in blue bins downstairs.
- ❖ A&P and ShopRite Shopping Cards available at the candle-stand. Do your shopping as you always do it, and help our church raise funds at NO COST to you.

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.