



Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

A parish of the Orthodox Church in America

Rectory: 98 W. 28th Street, Bayonne, N.J. 07002

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Choir Director: Mr. Yuriy Galkin

FEBRUARY 22, 2026 / SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS (TONE 4)

RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION IN TONE FOUR

When the women disciples of the Lord / learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, / they cast away the ancestral curse / and elatedly told the apostles: / “Death is overthrown! / Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!”

TROPARION OF 1ST & 2ND FINDINGS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST’S HEAD IN TONE FOUR

The head of the Forerunner has shone from the earth, / sending forth rays of incorruption and healings to the faithful. / It gathers together a multitude of angels above / and summons the human race below // to send up glory with one voice to Christ our God.

- *Choir sings troparion of Apostles Peter & Paul*
- *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

KONTAKION FROM LENTEN TRIODION IN TONE SIX

O Master, Teacher of wisdom, / Bestower of virtue, / Who teaches the thoughtless and protects the poor, / strengthen and enlighten my heart! / O Word of the Father, / let me not restrain my mouth from crying to Thee: / “Have mercy on me, a transgressor, // O merciful Lord!”

PROKEIMENON IN TONE EIGHT

Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our God!

v. In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

Prokeimenon in Tone Seven: The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord and shall hope in Him.

THE EPISTLE

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans (13:11-14:4).

Brethren, you must do this, because you know that the time has come for you to wake up from your sleep. For the moment when we will be saved is closer now than it was when we first believed. The night is nearly over, day is almost here. Let us stop doing the things that belong to the dark, and let us take up weapons for fighting in the light. Let us conduct ourselves properly, as people who live in the light of day—no orgies or drunkenness, no immorality or indecency, no fighting or jealousy. But take up the weapons of the Lord Jesus Christ, and stop paying attention to your sinful nature and satisfying its desires. Welcome those who are weak in faith, but do not argue with them about their personal opinions. Some people's faith

allows them to eat anything, but the person who is weak in the faith eats only vegetables. The person who will eat anything is not to despise the one who does not; while the one who eats only vegetables is not to pass judgment on the one who will eat anything; for God has accepted that person. Who are you to judge the servants of someone else? It is their own Master who will decide whether they succeed or fail. And they will succeed, because the Lord is able to make them succeed.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians (4:6-15).

Brethren, for it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believe, and so we speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

ALLELUIA IN TONE SIX

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

v. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy Name, O Most High.

v. To declare Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth by night.

v. The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (6:14-21).

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The Reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (11:2-15).

Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is he who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to behold? A reed shaken by the wind? Why then did you go out? To see a man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, those who wear soft raiment are in kings' houses. Why then did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, 'Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way before thee.' Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has risen no one greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered

violence, and men of violence take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John; and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil tidings! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

SAINTS COMMEMORATED TODAY

Commemorated on February 22: *Expulsion of Adam from Paradise*. First and Second Findings of the Honorable Head of St. John the Baptist [*transferred from February 24*]; St. Abilius, Bishop of Alexandria; Martyrs Maurice and his son, Photinus, and Martyrs Theodore, Philip, and 70 soldiers, at Apamea in Syria; Uncovering of the relics of the Holy Martyrs at the Gate of Eugenius at Constantinople; Ss. Thalassius, Limnaeus, and Baradates, Hermits of Syria; St. Maximianus, Bishop of Ravenna; St. John the Saxon, Abbot of Athelney; St. Athanasius the Confessor, of Constantinople; Finding of the Relics of St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow & All Russia, Enlightener of North America.

TODAY'S PARASTAS

Today's Parastas after Divine Liturgy is in memory of Rita Richards, offered by Fr. W. Sophrony Royer, and Julia Wasilewski, offered by the Wasilewski Family.

CORRECTION TO LAST WEEK'S BULLETIN

Last week's bulletin should have read Parastas offered in memory of Ann Verona (not Paul Verone) offered by the Verona Family. Apologies to the Verona Family for the error in last week's bulletin.

TODAY'S SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Altar Vigils offered by Reader Stephen Wasilewski in memory of Julia Wasilewski (23rd anniversary of repose). **Sanctuary Lamp** offered by Wasilewski Family in memory of Julia Wasilewski (23rd anniversary of repose). **St. John's Cross** offered by Reader Stephen Wasilewski for the safe travel of all employees of Guardant Health. **Triple Candelabra** offered by Fr. W. Sophrony Royer in memory of Rita Richards (15th anniversary of repose).

UPCOMING SERVICES

6:00 PM (Monday-Thursday) – Great Canon of Repentance
6:00 PM (Friday) – Akathistos of the Divine Passion
9:30 AM (Saturday) – Memorial Divine Liturgy w. Blessing of Kolyva
5:00 PM (Saturday) – Great Vespers
9:20 AM (Sunday) – Third Hour & Divine Liturgy

PARISH NEWS AND LOCAL EVENTS

(1) Everyone is invited to the Social Hour in the church hall downstairs after Divine Liturgy.
(2) As a charity for Lent, our parish will collect cans of soup and other non-perishable foods for donation to a local food pantry. Donated food items may be left in the church hall from now until Sunday, March 22, 2026. Please make certain that donated items are not past the expiration date. Thank You for your donations to this charitable project.

- (3) Orthodoxy Sunday Vespers will be celebrated on Sunday, March 1, 2026 at 4:00 PM at St. John's Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Church, 145 Broad St., Perth Amboy, NJ. Rt. Rev. Bishop Irinej (Dobrijevič) will be the main celebrant and homilist. See flyer on bulletin board in the church vestibule.
- (4) The schedule of Deanery Lenten Mission Vespers is now available—please see flyer on the bulletin board in the church vestibule.

