Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

A parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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Rector: V. Rev. W. Sophrony Royer Choir Director: Mr. Yuriy Galkin

September 13, 2026 / 15th Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 6)

RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION IN TONE SIX

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; / the guards became as dead men. / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thy most pure body. / Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. / Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. / O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, // glory to Thee.

TROPARION OF THE FOUNDING IN TONE FOUR

Thou hast revealed the beauty of the holy dwelling place of Thy glory on earth / to be like the splendor of the heavenly firmament, O Lord. / Through the prayers of the Theotokos, / strengthen it for ever and ever and accept our supplication / which we ceaselessly offer Thee therein, // the life and resurrection of all!

TROPARION OF THE FOREFEAST IN TONE FOUR

We offer in supplication / the life-creating Cross of Thy goodness, O Lord, / which Thou hast granted to us
although we are unworthy. // Through the Theotokos, save all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of man!

TROPARION OF HIEROMARTYR CORNELIUS IN TONE FOUR

O Blessed Cornelius, / you were distinguished in works of righteousness. / You received the enlightenment of godliness, / and were a fellow-laborer with the Apostles, / for you shared in their work, / preaching Christ's incarnation to all. / With them pray that all who honor your memory may be saved!

- *Choir sings troparion of Apostles Peter & Paul*
- *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

RESURRECTIONAL KONTAKION IN TONE SIX

When Christ God, the Giver of Life, / raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, / He bestowed resurrection on the human race. // He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

- *Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

KONTAKION OF THE FOUNDING IN TONE TWO

Grant renewal of spirit in our hearts, / and illumination to all that is within us, / as we celebrate in faith the sacred dedication of Thy house, / which Thou wast well pleased to have built in Thy divine Name, // O Thou Who alone art glorified in the sanctuary.

PROKEIMENON IN TONE SIX

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance!
v. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!
Prokeimenon in Tone Four: Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore.

THE EPISTLE

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians (Gal. 6:11-18, 2 Cor. 4:6-15).

Brethren, see with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. For it is the God who commanded light to 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 Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed – always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you. And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (3:1-4).

Brethren, who also have been called by God! Think of Jesus, whom God sent to be the High Priest of the faith we profess. He was faithful to God, who chose him to do this work, just as Moses was faithful in his work in God's house. A man who builds a house receives more honor than the house itself. In the same way Jesus is worthy of much greater honor than Moses. Every house, of course, is built by someone — and God is the one who has built all things.

ALLELUIA IN TONE ONE

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
v. I have exalted one chosen out of My people.
v. For My hand shall defend him and My arm shall strengthen him.
v. Thy foundations are in the holy mountains; the Lord loveth thy gates, O Zion, more than all the dwellings of Jacob.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. John (Jn. 3:13-17, Matt. 22:35-46).

No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "The Son of David." He said to them, "How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying: 'The LORD said to my Lord, sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool'? If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?" And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

The Reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (16:13-18).

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! I have loved the beauty of Thy house, O Lord, and the place where Thy glory dwells. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

TODAY'S PARASTAS

Parastas after Divine Liturgy in memory of Mitred Archpriest Constantine Buketoff and Wilfred J. Royer (offered by Fr. W. Sophrony Royer).

TODAY'S SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Altar Vigils offered by Helen Wanko in memory of Andrew Wanko (anniversary of repose). **Sanctuary Lamp** offered by Fr. W. Sophrony Royer in memory of Wilfred Royer (anniversary of repose). **St. John's Cross** offered by Fr. W. Sophrony Royer in memory of Donald G. Royer. **St. Nicholas' Cross** offered by Fr. W. Sophrony Royer in memory of Anastasia Sahonchik.

SAINTS COMMEMORATED TODAY

Commemorated on September 13: *Forefeast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross and Commemoration of the Founding of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem*. Hieromartyr Cornelius the Centurion; Martyrs Chronides, Leontius and Serapion, of Alexandria; Martyrs Macrobius and Gordian at Tomi (in Romania); Hieromartyr Julian of Galatia; St. Peter of Atroa; St. Philip (father of St. Eugenia of Rome); St. Maurilius, Bishop of Angers; St. Nectarius, Bishop of Autun; Ss. Amatus, 1st Abbot of Remiremont Abbey &Amatus, Bishop of Sion (in Switzerland); St. Venerius the Hermit; St. Wilfrida, Abbess of Wilton Abbey; Great-martyr Ketevan, Queen of Georgia; St. Hierotheus the Younger of Iveron (Mt. Athos).

UPCOMING SERVICES

5:00 PM (Sunday) – Great Vespers w. Lity [*Elevation of the Holy Cross*]
9:30 AM (Monday) – Divine Liturgy [*Elevation of the Holy Cross*]
5:00 PM (Saturday) – Great Vespers
9:20 AM (Sunday) – Third Hour & Divine Liturgy

CHURCH EVENTS

- **Today & September 20**, Special collections will be taken today and next Sunday for the benefit of this year's diocesan charity, "Operation Buffalo."
- **September 16 (Wednesday),** The Parish Council's next meeting is September 16, 2026 at 5:45 PM.
- **September 18-20 (Friday-Sunday)**, Senior Retreat at St. Andrew's Camp. Jewell, NY—featuring Dr. David Ford of St. Tikhon's Seminary as guest speaker. Registration fee (all-inclusive): $150.
- **September 25-27 (Friday-Sunday)**, Mountain Men's Respite, Adirondacks (New York State).
- **September 26 (Saturday)**. Parish Council Conference, Ss. Peter & Paul Cathedral, Jersey City, NJ.
- **October 2-4 (Friday-Sunday),** Fall Teen Retreat, YMCA in Claryville, NY.
- **October 25 (Sunday),** Our parish's Pasta & Meatball Dinner, in the church hall at 12 PM. See flyer on bulletin board in the vestibule for more information.
- **October 29-30 (Thursday-Friday)**, Diocesan Assembly, Mother of God Church, Princeton, NJ.