



# 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 7, 2010

### 35<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

SUNDAY OF MEATFARE

Sunday of the Last Judgment.

Afterfeast of the Meeting

- 9:00 – General Confession
- 9:30am – Divine Liturgy
  - Epistle: 1 Cor. 8:8-9:2
  - Gospel: Matt. 25:31-36
- Installation of Carpathian Club's Committee
- Panikhida in memory of:
  - all departed members of Carpathian Club – offered by Carpathian Club's committee
  - Ann Csernica – 9<sup>th</sup> day of Repose – offered by Marge Cimboic
  - Theodore Bacha – 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Repose
- Church School
- Fellowship – Please come downstairs following Liturgy for Coffee Hour, sponsored by Carpathian Club.

*Today is the last day before Great Lent for eating meat. It is permitted to eat milk and eggs on every day of this week including Wednesday and Friday.*

*If you have any information to be added into weekly bulletin, please send your info to [Fr.IgorKsn@gmail.com](mailto:Fr.IgorKsn@gmail.com)*

## Schedule of Services

Wednesday, February 10, 2010

6:00pm – Akathist to the North American Saints

7:00pm – Adult Catechetical Class

Saturday, February 13

6:00pm – Great Vespers

Sunday, February 14 – Sunday of Forgiveness – Cheesefare

9:30am – Divine Liturgy followed by Maslenitza - potluck dinner.

1:00pm - Forgiveness Vespers. Great Lent begins.

## Commemorated this Week

On February 11 we remember Saint Blaise, the fourth-century bishop of Sebaste in Armenia who lived during the persecutions of Christians by the emperor Diocletian. The bishop encouraged imprisoned believers, prayed for the martyrs, and stood courageously for the faith.

In his later years, Saint Blaise retreated to a mountain cave. Wild beasts recognized him as a trustworthy person and kept him company, even receiving healing from him.

Human beings were not so able to see Saint Blaise's holiness as the animals were; he was arrested at his cave, tortured, and martyred. But believers for centuries have prayed to him for the well-being of domestic animals.

A new book entitled Living in God's Creation by Elizabeth Theokritoff, and published by St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, describes the authentic Orthodox Christian understanding of creation, an understanding which has enabled Saint Blaise and many others to live in true harmony with the world. The book makes an important distinction between "the environment" and "creation." The environment is something around us; it is defined in relation to human beings. Creation is defined in relation not to us, but to the Creator. It is "the reality to which we ourselves belong, along with everything else from archangels and galaxies to caterpillars and quarks."

This recognition of creation as having value is central to the Christian Gospel. Such a Gospel came as something brand new to a world steeped in pagan Greek philosophy, which saw the body as a prison of the spirit, and matter as worthless. Christians said something

## Intercessory Prayer

### THE LIVING:

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, 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:

Helen Cotrone, June Bianchini

### THE DEPARTED:

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

### Memory Eternal!

### PREPARING FOR ILLUMINATION:

Matthew Galati

startlingly different: "When we affirm that eternal life involves resurrection, we are saying that matter has an eternal significance."

Living in God's Creation traces this authentic understanding of creation through the teachings of the Church Fathers, the ascetical and monastic tradition, and the worship and sacraments of the Orthodox Church. Although the author's scholarship is exceptional, it is never heavy or intimidating, and gives us much to think about. For example, she writes: "We should know by now that there is no path to the Kingdom except through a thousand ordinary, humdrum decisions, whether it is sparing a kind word for somebody or recycling a sheet of paper."

One chapter of the book offers stories of saints who valued creatures and matter as God's gift. We meet Paul of Oborna, a forest-dweller who often sat with birds perched all over him and eating from his hands, while bears nearby patiently waited their turn as foxes and rabbits ran around, with no fear of Paul or of each other. Other saints also befriended animals; some lived with vipers. Their relationship was never sentimental, and they didn't champion "animal rights" but acknowledged the "rightful place" of animals and growing things in creation.

The book calls us to live "sacramentally", neither putting our hope in technology nor looking back to some "golden age" of harmony with nature, but conforming ourselves to God's will and anticipating the transfiguration of all things. Saint Blaise, awaiting martyrdom, would have known just what that means.



## Announcements

❖ The youth of our parish is collecting items and preparing assistance packages to be sent to Haiti in response to an urgent appeal from the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). The IOCC is also accepting monetary donations. Please see Marge Kovach for details.

❖ This week on Wednesday, February 10, we will have an Akathist to the North American Saints at 6pm, followed by Adult Catechetical Class.

❖ On Sunday, February 14 we will have a potluck Masleitza after the Divine Liturgy. Please sign up at the candle desk if you would like to bring a meat-free dish to share. Pierogies will be provided. Also, there will be pierogies available for purchase.

❖ Bishop-Elect Michael (Dahulich) will be consecrated to the episcopacy on Saturday, May 8, 2010. As part of the celebration, a banquet meal will take place the afternoon of Saturday, May 8 at the Casino-in-the-Park Restaurant in Jersey City. Tickets are \$75 per person, children 8 and under - \$25. Seating is reserved in tables of eight. Please sign up at the candle desk or call rectory for reservations. Deadline is March 21.

Visit us online at: [www.SsPeterAndPaulBayonne.org](http://www.SsPeterAndPaulBayonne.org)

## 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-seven 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.