



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 19, 2012

SUNDAY OF MEATFARE Sunday of the Last Judgment

- 9:10am – Hours, Confessions
- 9:30am – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 1 Cor. 8:8-9:2
Gospel: Mt. 25:31-46
- Church School
- Oath of Office of the Carpathian Club
- Panikhida – in memory of:
 - Julia Wasilewski, (9th Anniversary of Death), Valentina Travis (17th Anniversary of Death), Fr. Michael Chanda (14th Anniversary of Death) – offered by Wasilewski Family;
 - Departed members of the Carpathian Club – offered by the Carpathian Club
- Fellowship – Please come downstairs following the Divine Liturgy for Coffee Hour in memory of Julia Wasilewski and Valentina Travis – provided by Wasilewski Family.

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, FEB. 25

6:00pm – Great Vespers, Confessions

SUNDAY, FEB. 26

9:30am – Divine Liturgy

6:00pm – Forgiveness Vespers with the Rite of Forgiveness – beginning of Great Lent

Violence in the Service of God

On February 20 the Church celebrates the memory of a saint known for compassion and love toward for the poor. Yet he is also associated with a shocking act of violence. He is Saint Leo of Catania, in Sicily.

Born in 709 in the northern Italian town of Ravenna, Leo became a Benedictine monk at a young age. He spent the next years in Reggio Calabria, at the southern tip of Italy and close to Sicily. Destitute families in the area soon learned that the young monk was a reliable helper, giving them food and money, and encouraging them through his example of prayer and trust in God.

When Catania needed a bishop, the people and the nearby bishops immediately thought of Leo. He was consecrated, and continued his work among people in need. But poverty was not the only problem he faced—the island of Sicily and the neighboring parts of Italy were strongly influenced by sorcery, magic and witchcraft. As bishop, he spent many hours working to keep people from placing their hope in these things instead of God.

Among the sorcerers in the area was a man named Heliodorus, who could speak convincingly and had a striking appearance. He loved attention; in fact he hoped to dazzle people. There seemed to be no way of doing this in his position as a deacon in the Church, so he took up sorcery, and became highly skilled at doing magic tricks that made crowds gasp in amazement. He also claimed that he knew how to cast spells, which inspired fearful admiration in the gullible.

Saint Leo attempted with gentle persuasion to turn Heliodorus away from magic and back to faith. He failed, partly because Heliodorus resented his rise to the rank of bishop. As a native of Catania, Heliodorus felt that he should have been

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.

the one chosen—why should a “foreigner” be brought in as bishop, leaving him still a deacon?

Heliodorus tried more and more boldly to challenge Saint Leo with his sorcery. Finally one Sunday he interrupted the Liturgy, shouting and flashing his magic tricks to divert people from the service. Saint Leo, for all his patience and compassion, couldn't allow this. He finished the service, and took Heliodorus outside, challenging him to prove his power. Then he built a fire and dragged the magician into it with him. When the fire died down, Leo was unharmed; Heliodorus had been burned to ashes.

The Old Testament (1 Kings 18) contains a famous story of similar violence, in which the prophet Elijah destroys the prophets of Baal. Such stories are disturbing, but their point is that God will not permit false teachers to entice people away from Him. He will not let them confuse His people, trying to show that He is not God.

When those teachers refuse to repent, as Heliodorus did, God may carry out His warning to destroy their earthly lives so that they can no longer destroy the lives of others with falsehood.

Today's Memorial Offering



- *Sanctuary Lamp* – in memory of Julia Wasilewski, offered by Victor, Stephen & Lisa Marie.
- *Triple Candelabra* – in memory of Valentina Travis, offered by Wasilewski Family.
- *Bread for the Holy Eucharist* – in memory of Julia Wasilewski, offered by Victor, Stephen & Lisa Marie.

Announcements

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

❖ **A Heartfelt Thank You** to the **Carpathian Club** for the very well organized and delicious Roast Pork Dinner. **\$1,000** was raised and donated to the Church from this important fundraiser. May our Lord abundantly bless you for everything you do for His Church with good health and happiness for Many blessed Years!

❖ A newly produced video lesson “**Fasting: 7 Questions and 7 Answers**” by His Grace Bishop Michael is now available on our diocesan website www.nynjoca.org. This video lesson is a timely resource as we rapidly approach the beginning of Great Lent. Please make sure to check it out.

❖ **Food Pantry** donations are always accepted. Place your non-perishable items in blue bins downstairs.

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.