



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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June 17, 2012

2nd Sunday after Pentecost
All Saints of America and Russia.

Happy Father's Day!

- 8:40am – 3rd & 6th Hour, Confessions
- 9:00am – Divine Liturgy

Epistles: Rom. 2:10-16

Heb. 11:33-12:1 (Saints)

Gospels: Mat. 4:18-23

Mat. 4:25-5:12 (Saints)

- Panikhida** – in memory of **Matilda Skripak**, on her 1st Anniversary of Repose – by John Skripak and Family
- Coffee Hour** – Please come downstairs for a fellowship following the Panikhida.

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, JUNE 23

4:30pm – Baptism of Mykola Stets

6:00pm – Great Vespers, Confessions

SUNDAY, JUNE 24 – NATIVITY OF

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

8:40am – Hours, Confession

9:00am – Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour, sponsored by the Russian Brotherhood Organization of St. John the Baptist.

On Non Second-Guessing God

The Epistle reading for June 22, which is Romans 9:6-19, contains some uncompromising words of Saint Paul.

Paul writes that it is God's prerogative to treat people as He wishes to, even when that treatment seems unfair to us human beings. He cites God's words to Moses: "I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and compassion on whom I will have compassion." Paul comments that "it depends not upon man's will or exertion, but upon God's mercy."

Then Paul acknowledges the injustice that some people might see in this. He writes, "You will say to me then, 'Why does He still find fault? For who can resist His will?' In other words, why does God judge us if our actions, good or bad, have no effect on our salvation anyway?"

Paul's answer in the next verses (read on June 25) is unequivocal: "But who are you, a man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, 'Why have you made me thus?' In the chapters that follow, Paul will make clear his certainty that everything God does, including things so hard for us to understand, are part of His plan to bring every willing person to salvation. But for now it is not our place to question or second-guess what He does.

On June 23rd we remember a sixteenth-century saint, Artemius, who is referred to as a "righteous child wonderworker" and who lived in the Russian village of Verkola. The story of his life is another reminder that we shouldn't second-guess God.

Even as a small boy, Artemius had been kind, contemplative and quietly cheerful, so that many people called him a child of God. But tragedy struck when he was just

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.

twelve. He was helping his father in the open fields when a thunderstorm came up so quickly that the two had no time to run for shelter. A bolt of lightning struck Artemius dead.

Instead of remembering Artemius' godly qualities as signs of God's love, the villagers adhered to the old superstition that his manner of death, at so young an age, was a sign of God's displeasure. They denied him a proper funeral and burial, and his body was left in the forest, covered only by tree branches.

But many years later, people noticed a light shining over the place where he was lying, and when his body was uncovered it was just as it had always been—there was no corruption or ruin. Realizing that God had shown His young child to be a saint, the villagers took his body to church, and his relics were a source of healing for many. Later, a monastery was built with Saint Artemius as its patron.

Though the Bolsheviks hacked the young saint's relics to pieces in 1918 and threw them into a well, the power of his example stays strong. We needn't second-guess God about our own destinies, or about those whom He has chosen as His saints. ■

Announcements

❖ **Father's Day Greetings** to all fathers, grandfathers, great grandfathers & godfathers. Let us honor our fathers by praying for them and showing our love and respect. May God bless all fathers with good health, joy, peace for Many Years! Let us also not forget to pray for our departed fathers who have entered Eternal Life. Memory Eternal!

❖ The celebration of the **Feast of the Holy Apostles Peter & Paul** is coming up! There will be Great Vespers with Litya on Thu. June 28th. On Fri. June 29th there will be the Divine Liturgy at 9:00am; and at 6:00pm we will have our **parish name's day picnic**. Everyone is welcome. There is a sign-up list at the candle desk for the food that's needed. Let us celebrate the Feast of our Patron Saints!

❖ Monetary donations are taken at the candle desk towards the next **sandwich outreach** for homeless shelters, which will take place on **Sat. July 7** at 10:00am in the church hall. Anyone interested in lending a helping hand that day is welcome to join us.

❖ Our **90th Jubilee Celebration** is coming up! Please reserve the weekend of **October 27-28, 2012** for the celebration. Also, your help in preparation for the event is greatly needed and highly appreciated. If you can help in any possible way, please speak to Fr. Igor or any member of the Parish Council; and remember: "Many hands make light work". More information will be posted as soon as it becomes available.

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.