

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

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Department of
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
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A Man of Visions

On May 26 the Church remembers the Apostle Carpus, one of the Seventy sent by the Lord to spread the Gospel through the known world.

Carpus was a friend of Saint Paul. We read his name in 2 Timothy 4:13, a single verse that shows a kind of homey closeness between them. Paul tells Timothy, when he comes, to "bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments." Paul trusted Carpus to keep and care for his personal possessions--things he needed and valued.

Paul gave Carpus the position of Bishop of Varna in Thrace, an area which includes parts of modern Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey. Carpus also preached in Crete, where he met Dionysius the Areopagite. It is Dionysius who tells us that Carpus received many heavenly visions, especially when he was preparing to serve the Divine Liturgy.

Dionysius recorded what Carpus told him about one vision--the most memorable one he ever had, because it taught him an unforgettable lesson about Jesus Christ. Carpus said that there were two men with whom he was very angry. One of them, not a believer, had "led astray to ungodliness a certain member of the Church." Then both of them did things that harmed and mocked the faith.

Carpus blamed himself for not trying to convert the "leader" and not attempting to bring the former Church member back to the truth. He said that he should have spent the rest of his life warning them that their conduct was putting them in spiritual danger. But in spite of this, he remained angry. He prayed that God would put them to death for what they were doing.



May 25, 2014

6th SUNDAY OF PASCHA

Sunday of Blind Man

3rd Finding of the Head of St. John the Baptist

• 9:00am – Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Acts 16:16-34

2 Cor. 4:6-15 (Saint)

Gospel: Jn. 9:1-38

Mt. 11:2-15 (Saint)

• **Panikhida** – in memory of the departed soldiers and veterans of our parish.

• **Fellowship** – everyone is invited for Coffee Hour following the Divine Liturgy

Schedule of Services

WED. MAY 28

6:00pm - Great Vespers with Litya

THUR. MAY 29 - ASCENSION OF THE LORD

9:00am - Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

followed by fellowship in the church hall

(continued on the next page)

Intercessory Prayers

We pray for all our fellow parishioners, but we pray especially for those who are incapable of being with us in church. Among them are:

Michael, Mary and Max Bakaletz, Genevieve Bobenko, Pauline Bodnar, Nancy Filak, Mary Hadginske, Helen Kurnewitz, Margaret Lawler, Kathleen Lazarczyk, Emil Mikulik, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Anatoly & Anna Rozanovich, Nadia Sojka, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

The vision given to Carpus had two parts. When he looked up he saw Jesus Christ surrounded by angels, a scene full of light and beauty. But when he looked down, he saw a "yawning and dark chasm." The two men "upon whom he had invoked a curse" crouched unsteadily on the slippery edge of the chasm, struggling to keep from falling into it. There were serpents "creeping up and gliding from underneath," trying to pull the men down while biting them and piercing their skin.

Carpus admitted that he took a certain pleasure in this terrible scene. Not only that, but as he looked at it he could easily forget the heavenly beauty he'd seen first.

But then he saw Jesus Christ and the angels again. The Lord rose from His "super-celestial throne" and descended, stretching out His hand to pull the two men out of danger. Carpus heard Him say, "Here I am, ready to be crucified again for the salvation of mankind."

Then Christ spoke again, in what seemed to be a warning to Carpus about his own sin--the sin of praying for others to die: "But see, whether it is well for you to exchange the dwelling in the chasm, and with serpents, for [a dwelling] with God, and the good and philanthropic angels."

Schedule of Services

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SATURDAY, MAY 31

5:30pm - Great Vespers followed by General Confession

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

9:00am - Divine Liturgy



Announcements

◆ Please note: **His Grace Bishop Michael** will visit our parish for the **Feast of Ascension**. He will lead us in prayer at the Great Vespers on Wednesday, May 28, and at the festal Divine Liturgy on Thursday, May 29, followed by fellowship in the church hall. Please try to attend these services.

◆ Mark your calendars: next **General Confession** will be this Saturday, May 31st after the Vespers.

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Richard Paul Rahnefeld**, who celebrates his birthday on May 27. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!

Thank you from Matushka

Dear fellow parishioners, I just had to tell you again what a wonderful baby shower you did last Sunday. It meant the world to me, and I had the best time. And as if that were not enough, you presented me with beautiful presents and far-too-generous gifts. I cannot thank you enough for that. My family and I will always be grateful for your kindness and generosity which are expressions of your Christian love and care. Many Years to all of you!