

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthodox Church of America

A Parish of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey

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February 07, 2021

55th Sunday after Pentecost - Tone 2

Afterfeast of the Meeting.

St Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsacus

- 9:10 am - Hours
- 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy
1 Tim. 1:15-17
Matt. 15:21-28

Schedule of Services

Tuesday, February 9

- 7:00 pm - Akathist to Saint John, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord.

Friday, February 12

- 7:00 pm - Moleben to the Most Holy Theotokos:

Saturday, February 13

- 5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, February 14

- 9:10 - Hours
- 9:30 - Divine Liturgy followed by Panikhida.



WEEKLY BIBLE MESSAG

Saint Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsacus, was a native of the city of Melitopolis (in northwestern Asia Minor), where his father Christopher served as deacon. The youth did not receive adequate schooling, but he learned the Holy Scripture by attending church services. He had a good heart, and distributed to the poor the money he earned working as a fisherman.

Filled with the grace of God, Saint Parthenius from age eighteen healed the sick in the name of Christ, cast out demons and worked other miracles. Learning of the young man's virtuous life, Bishop Philetus of Melitopolis educated him and ordained him presbyter. In 325, during the reign of Constantine the Great, Archbishop Achilles of Cyzicus made him bishop of the city of Lampsacus (Asia Minor). In the city were many pagans, and the saint fervently began to spread the faith in Christ, confirming it through many miracles and by healing the sick.

The people began to turn from their pagan beliefs, and the saint went to the emperor Constantine the Great seeking permission to tear down the pagan temple and build a Christian church in its place. The emperor received the saint with honor, gave him a decree authorizing the destruction of the pagan temple, and provided him with the means to build a church. Returning to Lampsacus, Saint Parthenius had the pagan temple torn down, and built a beautiful church of God in the city.

In one of the razed temples, he found a large marble slab which he thought would be very suitable as an altar. The saint ordered work to begin on the stone, and to move it to the church. Through the malice of the devil, who became enraged at the removal of the stone from the pagan temple, the cart overturned and killed the driver Eutychian. Saint Parthenius restored him to life by his prayer and shamed the devil, who wanted to frustrate the work of God.

The saint was so kind that he refused healing to no one who came to him, or who chanced to meet him by the wayside, whether he suffered from bodily illnesses or was tormented by unclean spirits. People even stopped going to physicians, since Saint Parthenius healed all the sick for free. With the great power of the name of Christ, the saint banished a host of demons from people, from their homes, and from the waters of the sea.

Once, the saint prepared to cast out a devil from a certain man, who had been possessed by it since childhood. The demon began to implore the saint not to do so. Saint Parthenius promised to give the evil spirit another man in whom he could dwell. The demon asked, "Who is that man?" The saint replied, "You may dwell in me, if you wish." The demon fled as if stung by fire, crying out, "If the mere sight of you is a torment to me, how can I dare to enter into you?"

An unclean spirit, cast out of the house where the imperial purple dye was prepared, said that a divine fire was pursuing him with the fire of Gehenna.

Having shown people the great power of faith in Christ, the saint converted a multitude of idol-worshippers to the true God.

Saint Parthenius died peacefully and was solemnly buried beside the cathedral church of Lampsacus, which he built.



Intercassory Prayers

We pray for all our fellow parishioners, and we pray especially for those who are incapable of being with us in church. Please keep in your prayers our Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Genevieve Bobenko, Barbara Bogart, Michael Bzik, Mary Ann Dolak, Dorothy Fabian, Barbara Kary, Margaret Kovalycsik, Kathleen Lazorczyk, Dennis Maixner, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Sytagan, Eva Stashisky, Patricia Galley.

Birthday Greeting

Happy Birthday go out this week to **Jeffrey Rahnefeld** - Febr. 8; **Christopher Kary** - Febr. 10; and **Alissa Pecoraro** - Febr. 11. May God continue to enrich their life with the fullness of joy and happiness for many years - Mnogaya Lyeta!

Announcement

◆ **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactor (DDB)** our Diocese has an annual appeal asking all to consider becoming a DDB. This fund is used especially to support three main initiatives: mission parishes, seminarians and existing parishes. Please consider being a donor and helping in the work of the Diocese. For more info, go to nynjoca.org.

◆ **Sacrament of Holy Confession.** Anyone wishing to schedule an appointment for confession may do so by contacting Fr. Maryan at church or phone (908-930-2274). As our Holy Orthodox Church teaches, confession is an opportunity to cleanse our souls in a second baptism. We should all consider regular participation in this sacrament as a priority in our lives as followers of Jesus Christ.

◆ **Saint Vladimir's Seminary** has begun accepting applications for Academic Year 2021-2022! Prospective students are able to apply for one of three degree programs: Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, and Master of Theology (the Doctor of Ministry program is not recruiting again until the following year). The deadline to apply is May 1, 2021, with a late application deadline of June 1, 2021.

◆ 2021 Church Calendars for your home or office are still available at the Candle Deck - pick up yours today!

