

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

170 Lexington Avenue, Passaic, New Jersey, 07055
www.stjohnspassaic.org

REV. FR. IGOR KSENIUK, Acting Rector 973-473-1928 (office)
646-387-5494 (cell)
fr.igorksn@gmail.com

Department of
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
ORTHODOX CHURCH in AMERICA

Deadly Double-Mindedness

During the week of January 12, the Church remembers two saints who suffered because of the double-mindedness, or indecision, of powerful people. They are Saint Tatiana of Rome (12th) and Saint Peter the Apostle (16th).

Tatiana lived in the early third century, and belonged to an eminent Christian family. Well-educated in the faith, she was a deaconess, and could speak about Jesus Christ with conviction and effectiveness.

The Emperor of Rome at the time, Alexander, was the son of a Christian mother, but he himself could not make up his mind about the faith. He kept statues of Christ and Apollo, and of Abraham and Orpheus, in his palace—an obvious sign of his double-mindedness. His advisors apparently became impatient with his hesitation, and on their own began to persecute the troublesome Christians in the empire. Tatiana was a victim of these persecutions, though she had many miraculous recoveries from torture before being beheaded, resolutely praying up to the moment of death for her persecutors. Perhaps if Alexander had been as decisive about the faith as Tatiana was, she would not have had to die at those persecutors' hands.

On January 16th is the Veneration of the Chains of the Holy Apostle Peter, who was also the victim of a double-minded ruler. This was Herod Agrippa, who, as we read in Acts 12: 1, laid violent hands on some members of the Church. He went on to kill James, one of the sons of Zebedee. And then, "...when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also." Peter had committed no crime; it was only that Herod didn't take seriously enough his responsibility to be a just ruler. He allowed a competing desire to please the Jews to overwhelm him, and so



January 12, 2014

**28th Sunday after Pentecost
Afterfeast of the Theophany
Sunday After the Theophany**

- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Eph. 4:7-13
Gospel: Mt. 4:12-17
- **Fellowship** – everyone is invited for
Coffee Hour following the Divine Liturgy

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18
4:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19
9:00am - Divine Liturgy

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, Genevive Bobenko, Pauline Bodnar, Nancy Filak, Dorothy Gentner, Mary Hadginske, Helen Kurnewitz, Margaret Lawler, Kathleen Lazarczyk, Emil Mikulik, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Anatoly & Anna Rozanovich, Nadine Sojka, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

the innocent Peter found himself imprisoned in chains.

The Book of Acts goes on to relate the coming of an angel who awakens Peter as he sleeps in his cell late at night. The angel commands him to get up quickly, get dressed, and put on his sandals. As he does so, the chains fall from his hands. He follows the angel past two guards to the prison's iron gate, which opens by itself and lets them pass freely out to the city. In gratitude for this saving miracle, the Church designates a day to venerate Peter's chains as a tangible sign of God's care.

Peter, of course, had his own moments of double-mindedness. His faith faltered when Christ enabled him to walk on the water, and as a result he began to sink. Challenged at a moment of danger on the night Jesus was arrested, he denied even knowing the Lord he had been with for years.

The Epistle of James reminds us that we can ask God for wisdom and He will give it to us "generously and without reproaching..." But we need to ask in faith, with no doubting. The person who asks "must not suppose that a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways, will receive anything from the Lord" (James 1:8).

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to **Joseph Pecoraro**, who celebrates his birthday tomorrow, January 13, **Eva Stashitsky** and **Barbara Kary** - both on January 18. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!



Announcements

◆ **Holy Water** that was blessed on the Feast of Theophany is available for the faithful to take home. After the Divine Liturgy today the font with Holy Water will be moved to its usual place at the back of the Church.

◆ The next **Board of Trustees'** meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 21** at 7:00 p.m. All members are urged to attend.

◆ The **New Jersey Deanery Appreciation Dinner** for the 2013 Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors of our Diocese, hosted by His Grace, Bishop Michael will be held at the Holy Assumption Church in Clifton on **Sunday, January 26** at 5:00pm. Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors Program (DDB), entitled "A VISION FOR OUR FUTURE", was initiated by His Grace bishop Michael. By participation in this program, we can help our diocese in three very important initiatives each year: 1) support for the new mission parishes; 2) scholarships for our seminary students; 3) assistance for an established parish that may be struggling in these difficult economic times. To learn more about this Vision and the DDB Program, visit the diocesan website at www.nynjoca.org and proceed to the section designated for the program.

◆ Our **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held on **Sunday, February 16** following the Divine Liturgy. A light luncheon will be available. Please plan to attend.