

# 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**  
ORTHODOX CHURCH in AMERICA

## Words That Tie Us All Together

**During the week of March 9 we read from Genesis and the Letter to the Hebrews.**

These passages, written in times so distant from each other, show us nevertheless that we are all together as sons and daughters of the same God – the people of the Old Testament, and we the people of the New Testament or New Covenant.

One verse that reflects this is Hebrews 11: 26, part of the reading (11: 24-26, 32-12: 2) for March 9th. The preceding verses briefly tell Moses' personal history: he was a "beautiful child" and his parents hid him to escape the Egyptian Pharaoh's edict that every male child born to the Hebrew slaves was to be killed, drowned in the Nile. But when he grew up, "by faith" he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, who had saved him from the river and raised him. He chose to share the sufferings of the Hebrews, having discovered that he was one of them. Then verse 26 tells us: "He considered abuse suffered for the Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he looked to the reward."

What does it mean that the writer of Hebrews speaks of Moses suffering "for the Christ" when Moses lived long before Christ came, and certainly did not know Him? Moses had not heard Christ speak the message of salvation, so how could he be looking "to the reward?"

The answer is that the writer of Hebrews, like all Christians, knows that Moses and the faithful people of the Old Testament were part of Christ's flock, even though in their lifetimes He had not yet become Man and lived in the world. Later verses in the same reading give us more names from the Old Testament, and

## 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 Lazorzcyk, Emil Mikulik, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Anatoly & Anna Rozanovich, Nadia Sojka, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

refer to them as a "cloud of witnesses" for us, urging us to run the race set before us so that we, with them, may be made perfect. We are tied to these earlier people by the promise they share with us, though they did not actually hear the promise from the lips of the Son of God.

The reading for March 15 (Hebrews 3: 12-16) is a warning to believers not to "fall away from the living God." They are to help one another, exhorting each other every day so that none of them will be "hardened by the deceitfulness of sin." We are tied together not only by the shared promise, but by our responsibility to each other, making sure that each one of us can "hold our first confidence firm to the end."

This emphasis on mutual help and support tells us the answer to one of the Bible's best-known questions, which is part of a reading for March 11th. In Genesis 4: 9 Cain answers God by asking about his brother Abel, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

For members of God's family, from Moses' time up to our own, the answer must be "yes."

**A brother said to Abba Anthony [St. Anthony the Great], 'Pray for me.' The old man said to him, 'I will have no mercy upon you, nor will God have any, if you yourself do not make an effort and if you do not pray to God.**

## Schedule of Services

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**SATURDAY, MARCH 15 - MEMORIAL SATURDAY**  
5:30pm - Great Vespers

**SUNDAY, MARCH 16 - SUNDAY OF ST. GREGORY PALAMAS**  
9:00am - Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

## Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to **Rose Marie Petrow**, who celebrated her birthday on March 2, **Amy LeBorgne** – March 11, **Scott Cahayla** – March 13, and **Robert M. Czech** – March 14. May God grant all of you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!

## Announcements

◆ Please note that as we started the daylight saving time today, we will return back to our **Saturday Vespers** schedule at **5:30pm**, starting this **Saturday, March 15**

◆ Schedule of the **Deanery Mission Vespers**:

**Today** at 4:00pm - Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Jersey City  
**Mar. 16, 6:00pm** - St. Gregory Palamas, Glen Gardner  
**Mar. 23, 4:00pm** - Christ the Saviour Church, Paramus  
**Mar. 30, 4:00pm** - Holy Assumption Church, Clifton  
**Apr. 6, 4:00pm** - Holy Apostles Church, Saddle Brook  
For more information please see a flyer posted on the bulletin board.

◆ **Joint Mission Pre-Sanctified Liturgies** during this Great Lent will be as follows:

**Mar. 12, 6:30pm** - our parish will host the service  
**Mar. 19, 6:30pm** - Holy Apostles Church in Saddle Brook  
**Apr. 2, 9:00am** - Ss. Peter & Paul Church in Passaic.

◆ Our Diocese will host an overnight **Lenten Youth Retreat** at Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church in Wayne NJ for students grades 7-12 on **Friday-Saturday, 4-5 April 2014**. The theme for the Lenten Youth Retreat is: "Miracles in our Midst." Orthodox and non-Orthodox students are invited to attend. This is a great opportunity for Orthodox young people to invite a friend.



March 9, 2014

### FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Sunday of Orthodoxy

The Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste

- **8:50am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy of St. Basil  
Epistle: Heb. 11:24-26, 32-12:2  
Heb. 12:1-10 (Martyrs)  
Gospel: Jn. 1:43-51  
Mt. 20:1-16 (Martyrs)

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

## Schedule of Services

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12**

6:30pm - Joint Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

**FRIDAY, MARCH 14**

6:30pm - Akathist to the Divine Passion with Trisagion Memorial Service

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