

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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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
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CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

April 25, Bright Friday this year, is the feast day of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark.

Mark's Gospel is generally considered to be the first one written. It is also thought to be the closest and most accurate record of the "oral Gospel"—the preaching of the apostles. The second-century writer Papias called Mark "the interpreter of Peter."

Mark offers many details that reflect a familiarity with the eyewitness experiences of Peter and the other apostles. For example, in the account of Jesus' stilling of the storm, only Mark notes that he was asleep "on the cushions" in the stern of the boat (4:38).

Similarly, in his first chapter Mark tells about a morning when Jesus went out alone to pray. Simon and the others "pursue" Him, and when they find Him they say, "Everyone is searching for you" (1:37). The excited, urgent tone seems to reflect the experience of someone who was there. Luke's account of the same event (4: 42-44) is less lively, and reads like a story passed on through many hearers, rather than a person's account of an event he took part in or witnessed.

Mark, Matthew and Luke all relate the story of Christ bringing a child into the group of disciples and telling them that "whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it" as both Mark (10: 15) and Luke (18: 17) have it. But only Mark notes that Jesus, after putting the child in the midst of them, also takes the child in His arms. It's the kind of gesture that would have stayed in the memory of someone who had seen it, and it fits with Mark's unique use of the word "indignant" to describe



April 20, 2014

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

- **8:00am** – Paschal Matins & Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Acts 1:1-8
Gospel: Jn. 1:1-17
- **Blessing of Paschal Foods**
- **Breaking of the Fast** in the church hall - everyone is invited

Schedule of Services

BRIGHT MONDAY, APRIL 21

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

BRIGHT TUESDAY, APRIL 22

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

BRIGHT SATURDAY, APRIL 26

5:30pm - Great Vespers

ST. THOMAS SUNDAY, APRIL 27

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

1:30pm - Blessing of Graves

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.

Jesus' telling the disciples to let the children come to Him, and not to hinder them (10:14).

Mark's Gospel is a fast-moving narrative in which events follow each other quickly. In 1: 10 he writes of Jesus' baptism that "when He came up out of the water, immediately He saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove." The word "immediately" occurs five times in the next thirteen verses.

Action is Mark's byword. He writes that when Jesus' mother and brothers came to see Him, "they sent to Him and called Him" (3: 31b). In Luke's version the family members are more passive; somebody simply tells Jesus, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, desiring to see you" (8:20). Though all three Gospels describe the healing of a blind man (or, in Matthew, two blind men), Mark alone provides the man's name, Bartimaeus. Only Mark describes his energetic response to the Lord's call: "...throwing off his mantle, he sprang up and came to Jesus" (10: 50).

The last verse of Mark's Gospel, like the rest of it, is about action. He writes that the apostles "went forth and preached everywhere" (16: 20a). It's a good reminder that we, too, can go forth and preach about the Resurrection we have just celebrated. And we should probably start immediately.

ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕСЕ! ВОИСТИНУ ВОСКРЕСЕ!



Announcements

◆ The **Blessing of Graves** at **East Ridgelawn Cemetery** will be held on **Sunday, April 27** (St. Thomas Sunday) The blessing will start with Panikhida at the cemetery chapel at **1:30pm**. For St. Peter's and other cemeteries please make an appointment with Father Igor. If you have family members that are buried far away and you are not able to visit their graves, please give their names for commemoration to Father at the time of blessing.

◆ Save the date: on **Bright Wednesday, Apr. 23** at **7:00pm** there will be **NJ Deanery Vespers** at Christ the Saviour Church in Paramus, NJ. His Grace Bishop Michael will be the main celebrant and homilist. Fellowship will follow. Everyone is welcome.

◆ The **Food Pantry** is always in need of food items. Please keep those less fortunate in mind and help us to feed those in need. A basket is in the vestibule of the church for your convenience. St. Peter's Heaven informed us that now they are exceptionally low on cans of tuna fish, mashed potatoes and macaroni & cheese. May God bless you abundantly for your generosity.

◆ **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.