

# 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

## Saints in Secret

**The Holy Martyr Theodotus is commemorated on May 18. He was an innkeeper, and lived during the reign of the emperor Diocletian, whose persecution of Christians was the bloodiest of all, in the late third century.**

Theodotus' inn was a secret refuge for Christians fleeing arrest and probable torture and death. It also served as a kind of way station, from which Theodotus guided his secret guests to safe places in the mountains. Then he provided food and the other basic necessities. He also secretly retrieved the bodies of martyred Christians so he could bury them decently.

In the roll of martyred saints, Theodotus is associated with seven other martyrs, all young women: Tecusa, Alexandra, Claudia, Favina, Euphrasia, Matrona and Julia. They were tried and executed, and their bodies were thrown into a lake.

Saint Tecusa appeared to Theodotus in a vision, directing him to take her body from the water and bury it. Late at night, guided by an angel and with the help of a companion, Theodotus managed to find all seven bodies, and buried them.

But the companion turned out to be no friend. Theodotus was betrayed to the authorities, and suffered the horrible tortures reserved for those who would not deny Christ and revere the gods. As he was taken to be beheaded, other Christians standing by prayed, and wept for him. But he said calmly, "Don't weep, dear friends, but glorify Christ. With His help I am finishing my course and overcoming the enemy." Theodotus was martyred in 303.

The book "Dimitri's Cross" (Conciliar Press Ministries, Inc., 2008) is about a modern saint, Fr. Dimitri Klepinin. He worked closely with Mother Maria Skobtsova during the Nazi occupation of Paris, secretly saving many Jews by creating baptismal

## 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.

certificates for them, and sheltering endangered people in a house on the Rue Lourmel. He served as a priest in the house chapel. Someone betrayed them, and he and Mother Maria were arrested in 1943.

Fr. Dimitri's daughter, Helene Arjakovsky-Klepinine, has written this account of his life, and has collected letters he wrote to his wife from the Nazi prison camps in which he suffered and finally died. We see him as having from childhood extraordinary compassion for people and animals. A friend wrote that he had "that quality we call holiness...When he spoke with you it was as if a ray of light shone over your life."

After his arrest Fr. Dimitri was detained, but not forced to work, in a prison camp in France. He was able to serve the Liturgy and hear confessions. His wife managed to send liturgical items, Bibles, family photos and some food.

But when Fr. Dimitri was sent to the Buchenwald concentration camp in Germany, he soon died from the inhuman treatment and the exhaustion of forced labor.

Another prisoner wept at seeing Fr. Dimitri humiliated, beaten, and nearly starved. Fr. Dimitri gently told him, in words reminiscent of those uttered by Saint Theodotus, "Don't cry. Think about what Jesus suffered during His Passion."



## Announcements

◆ The **Board of Trustees** meeting will be this Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. All members are urged to attend.

◆ Add to your callendars: Next **General Confession** will be on Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> after the Vespers.

◆ Save the date: the 110<sup>th</sup> annual **Memorial Day Pilgrimage** at St. Tikhon's Monastery is scheduled for May 23-26, 2014. For more information please see a flyer posted at the bulletin board or go to [www.sttiknonsmonastery.org](http://www.sttiknonsmonastery.org)

◆ Save the date: Friday, June 13, 2014 at 6:30pm - there will be a **Beefsteak Dinner Fundraiser** at Holy Assumption Church in Clifton. All proceeds benefit FOCA Married Student Housing Project at St. Tikhon's Seminary. For tickets (\$45 Adults, \$20 Children under 16) please contact Allison Steffaro, 38 Beryl Street, South River, NJ 08882. Make checks payable to NJ District FOCA. For more information please see a flyer at the bulletin board.

◆ Save the date: Saturday, June 28, 9:30am - 4:00pm, at Ss. Peter and Paul Church, (76 Whitehead Ave., South River, NJ) there will be an **Annual Parish Council Conference** for the New Jersey Deanery. All Parish Council members and anyone interested are welcome to attend. Lunch will be provided and the event is free of charge. The theme for this year is "Parish Vitality Workshop" with Fr. John Reeves.

## Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Dorothy Fabian**, who celebrates her birthday on May 24. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!



May 18, 2014

5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF PASCHA  
Sunday of Paralytic

• 9:00am – Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Acts 11:19-26, 29-30

Gospel: Jn. 4:5-42

• **Panikhida** – in memory of the first Pastor of our parish, **V. Rev. Archpriest Peter Kohanik**, on the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his repose in the Lord. May his Memory be Eternal! Вечная Память!

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

## Schedule of Services

**SATURDAY, MAY 24**

5:30pm - Great Vespers

**SUNDAY, MAY 25**

9:00am - Divine Liturgy