

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

For Times of Trouble

June 13 is the feast day of Saint Aquilina, who lived for only twelve years and came from Byblos, a town in Palestine.

Even as a little girl, Aquilina felt a profound closeness to Jesus Christ. By the time she was ten she preached powerfully, thrilling her friends with descriptions of the beauty and glory of the Kingdom, and speaking with conviction about Christ's miracles and His care for the destitute.

Aquilina's youth was no protection against arrest by those in power who viewed Christianity as a threat to proper veneration of the gods and the emperor. She was brought before the governor Volusianus. He is described, in traditional Christian sources, as "more like a beast than a man," so he must have been especially intimidating to this very young girl.

Knowing that she would face extremes of pain at the hands of a hater of Christ, Aquilina prayed for strength and support in this time of trouble. She refused to be silent about her love for Christ, and for this she was tortured so brutally that she collapsed. Volusianus believed she was dead, and ordered her body to be discarded in a field without ceremony.

But Aquilina continued to pray, asking that she be allowed to have a martyr's death. An angel appeared to her, and a heavenly voice told her that it would be as she wished. She rose, and walked to the governor's palace. There she appeared, a kind of ghostly figure, before Volusianus as he lay in bed.

The terrified governor immediately ordered that she be beheaded. The next day, before losing her life, the twelve-year-old Aquilina peacefully surrendered her spirit to God.

The "Akathist to Almighty God for Help in Trouble" (printed in an attractive, readable format by St. Paisius Orthodox Monastery, with the permission of Priest Gregory Williams of the St. John of



June 8, 2014

8TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA PENTECOST – FEAST OF THE HOLY TRINITY

- **8:50am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy & Vespers with kneeling prayers
Epistle: Acts 2:1-11
Gospel: Jn. 7:37-52, 8:12
- **Fellowship** – everyone is invited for Coffee Hour following the service.

Schedule of Services

MONDAY, JUNE 9 - DAY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
9:00am - Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, JUNE 14
No Vespers today

SUNDAY, JUNE 15
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, 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.

Kronstadt Press) is an excellent prayer resource for our own times of trouble.

The verses acknowledge that we are sinful creatures, but also remind us that our Creator has exalted us in many ways. For example, the gift of human speech is compared with God's Creation in this way: "O Lord, my Lord, by whose Word the heavens have been established, make me steadfast in the confession of Thy holy name."

Another comparison asks God to grant the kind of courage that saints like Aquilina showed: "O Lord, my Lord, who didst fill the martyrs with boldness when they stood before the tribunals, grant me boldly to stand against sin, the world and the devil."

Father Demetrios Carellas, in an introduction, suggests using the Akathist in personal prayer. He recommends reading it frequently, first as "maintenance medication" against the passions we encounter daily. In addition, familiarity with the words will enable us to "build up a stockpile of 'spiritual ammunition,' from which we can receive additional courage when we are faced with a major crisis or definite demonic attack."

We can be thankful for saints like Aquilina, and also for prayers like this Akathist that help us try to emulate them.



Announcements

◆ Please note: this week of Holy Pentecost there is a general dispensation from fasting.

◆ Mark your calendars: a **Healing Service** will be held on **Saturday, June 14** at Holy Resurrection Church in Wayne, NJ. The Miraculous Myrrh-Streaming Icon of St. Anna will be present for the service which will begin with Vespers at 5:00pm, followed by the Healing Service at 6:00pm. **On that day Vespers will not be served in our parish** so that you may attend these services in Wayne. Refreshments and fellowship will follow the service. All are welcome!

◆ 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 **Kerri Czech**, who celebrates her birthday on June 13th. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!

Welcome Visitors

We welcome all visitors to our Divine Liturgy. It is our joy to have you with us today. If this is your first visit to our parish, we welcome you and invite you to return as often as you are able. While Holy Communion may only be received by prepared Orthodox Christians, our non-Orthodox guests are welcome to join us in venerating the Cross, receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, and for fellowship in our Church Hall after the service.