

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

Three Brave Women

On August 3rd the Church honors three women saints. The first was a contemporary of Jesus Christ, and the other two lived much later.

The first of these women saints is Salome, not the girl who danced for Herod, but one of the myrrhbearing women who went to the tomb of Christ on the morning of the Resurrection. The second is the unnamed sister of nine Georgian brothers, who lived in the seventeenth century. The third is her mother, also unnamed.

Mark 16:1 tells us that Salome was one of three women who took spices and oils to Jesus' tomb, planning to anoint His body in the customary Jewish way. She is traditionally identified as the mother of the disciples James and John, whose father was Zebedee. In Matthew 25:56 we read that "the mother of Zebedee's sons" was looking on from afar, with two other women, as Jesus hung on the cross.

Showing dedication to Christ publicly by going to His tomb was a brave act. That's clear from the fact that the male disciples were afraid to do the same thing, and hid away instead.

The myrrhbearing women themselves weren't free of fear. They knew of public scorn for Jesus, who had died so ignominiously after promising so much. They were well aware that hostile, armed soldiers were guarding His tomb. But they were determined, and had a depth of love for Christ that soldiers could not threaten.

The two Georgian women, mother and daughter, also faced soldiers, but in more immediate and dangerous circumstances. The full name of the group of saints to which they belong is "9000 Martyrs of Merabda with the Nine Kherkheulidze Brothers with their Mother and Sister." The nine brothers belonged to the



August 3, 2014

8th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- 8:50am – Hours
- 9:00am – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 1Cor. 1:10-18
Gospel: Mt. 14:14-22
- Fellowship – everyone is invited for Coffee Hour following the service.

Schedule of Services

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5

6:00pm - Great Vespers with Litya and Blessing of Fruits

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6 –

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

9:00am - Liturgy and Blessing of Fruits

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

1:30 - 3:00pm - Parish Confessions
5:30pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

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.

Georgian army.

The Georgians had managed to defeat the Persian troops of Shah Abbas in the spring of 1625. Their victory had not only done much to unite the country of Georgia, but had encouraged other peoples ruled and oppressed by the Persians; resistance began to spring up in various places.

An infuriated Shah Abbas sent 50,000 of his toughest troops to engage the 20,000 Georgian fighters camped at Merabda. Before the battle, the Georgians received Holy Communion, and the bishops who administered it joined them in the field to fight. The day-long encounter, in sweltering heat, overwhelmed the Georgians. When the last of the Kherkheulidze brothers, who were banner carriers, was killed, their sister ran out to raise the banner herself. When she also fell, her mother picked up and waved the banner till she too was killed. They all died for the faith and for their motherland.

On this day we read I Corinthians 1:18: "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." Whether facing scorn and hostility like Salome, or actual death in battle like the Georgians, three brave women show us the strength that faith in God's power can have.



Announcements

◆ The **Feast of Transfiguration** is this Wednesday, August 6. For your convenience fruits will be blessed at the end of Great Vespers on Tuesday, as well as at the end of the Divine Liturgy on the day of the Feast.

◆ **Dormition Fast** started Friday, August 1 and will last until August 15. For two weeks we keep fasting in honor of the Falling Asleep of the Most Holy Theotokos. While the details of the dietary prescriptions are indicated on the parish wall calendar, the very important spiritual part of this fast among others is to spiritually prepare and to have a private Confession during this time.

◆ **Parish Confessions** are scheduled for this Saturday, August 9 from 1:30pm to 3:00pm. Confessions can also be done after any Vespers service, or before the Divine Liturgy by appointment.

◆ Save the date: **Annual Diocesan Youth Day** at Six Flags Great Adventure is scheduled for Thursday, August 21, 2014. For more information please go to our Diocesan website www.nynjoca.org.

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Andrew Fabian**, who celebrates his birthday this Tuesday. 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 after the service in our Church Hall next door.