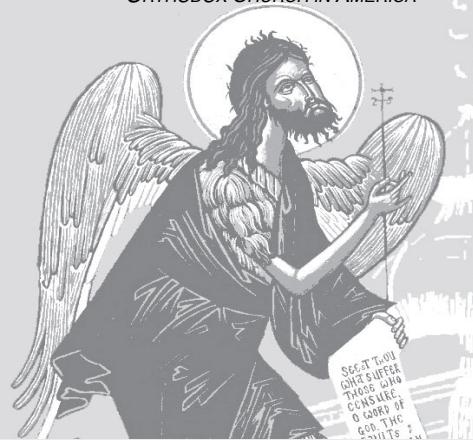


# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA



A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

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## No Pity and No Fear

**August 10 is the feast day of the Hieromartyr Sixtus, who became Bishop of Rome at a time when having that position meant almost certain death**

Sixtus was born in Athens, and served the Church in Spain before settling in Rome. Competent and well-liked, he was an obvious choice to become Bishop of Rome.

But in the third century the Church had to contend with an emperor, Valerian, who hated Christianity and feared the growing influence and social position of its followers. So strong was Valerian's opposition to the faith that any Christian matron who would not worship the gods was, by his decree, to be banished. Any Christian member of the imperial household who would not renounce the faith was to be enslaved and put to menial work on the imperial estates.

The Bishop of Rome, as the most visible and influential Christian, was the special object of Valerian's hatred. Several men who preceded Sixtus in the position had been martyred, and that is why an appointment as Rome's bishop was seen as a death sentence.

People must have felt pity for Sixtus, who by obeying his calling in the Church was put in such a terrible position. They weren't surprised when the pattern continued and he was arrested and later martyred.

But what about Sixtus himself? If he felt fear, he overcame it and comforted those around him. He didn't feel deserving of pity, because he looked forward to his eternal life with God.

The readings for this day and the next have something to say about both fear and pity. Matthew 14:22-34 is the story of Jesus

August 10, 2014  
9<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
Afterfeast of Transfiguration

- 9:00am – Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: 1Cor. 3:9-17  
Gospel: Mt. 14:22-34
- Fellowship – everyone is invited for Coffee Hour following the service.

## Schedule of Services

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 14

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

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 6 – DORMITION OF THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS

9:00am - Divine Liturgy and Blessing of Flowers and Herbs

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 16

5:30pm - Great Vespers

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

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 Lazorczyk, Emil Mikulik, MaryAnn Rabakozzi, Anatoly & Anna Rozanovich, Nadia Sojka, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.



## Announcements

♦ **Dormition Fast** started Friday, August 1 and will last until this Friday, August 15, which is the Feast of Dormition of the Most-Holy Theotokos. For two weeks we keep fasting in honor of the Falling Asleep of the Mother of God. If you did not have a chance to have your private confession yet, please speak to Father Igor, or have it after any Vespers service. Flowers and herbs for the Feast of Dormition will be blessed at the Vespers service as well as at the end of the Divine Liturgy on the day of the Feast.

♦ 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](http://www.nynjoca.org).

## Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Kathy Lazorczyk**, who celebrates her birthday today, **Gregory Kary**, this Tuesday, and **Marilyn Stagen**, this Friday. May God grant all of 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.