

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

Just Too Generous

On September 9th the Church celebrates the memory of Saint Kieran of Clonmacnois in Ireland.

Born in 512 in County Roscommon, Kieran was the grandchild of a poet and historian. He liked to think about the meaning of life, and found joy in nature's beauty. His own family lived simply, and he spent much of his childhood herding the family cattle. This gave him a special love of animals and a willingness to be compassionate with all creatures, including other people.

During these same years he was tutored at home by Justus, the same pious Christian who had baptized him, encouraging him to pray and to turn his thoughts often to the wonders of God.

When he got older, Kieran was sent to complete his education at the monastery at Clonard, under the direction of the great Saint Finnian. Here he met fellow students such as Columba, the future enlightener of Scotland. Columba said of his classmate, "He was a lamp, blazing with the light of wisdom."

Having completed his studies with Saint Finnian, Kieran left Clonard and went to a monastery in the Aran Isles. Its abbot was another saint, Enda, who had a vision that he shared with his student. Enda saw a tall tree with a massive trunk. The tree spread its sheltering branches, heavy with fragrant fruit, over the whole land of Ireland. Some of the fruit was carried off by birds to places beyond the island country itself.

Saint Enda told Kieran, "You yourself are the tree in this vision." He said that all of Ireland would find shelter under Kieran's grace, and that many, in Ireland and places past its borders, would be nourished by his prayer and fasting. He directed Kieran to go to

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.

the center of the country and to build a church on the banks of a stream.

The monastery of Clonmacnois was established by Kieran and a few other monks on the banks of the River Shannon. This famous Christian center trained priests, scholars and missionaries for a thousand years, even though Kieran died of the plague in 544, just seven months after it opened.

In the time in between Saint Enda's directive and the establishment of Clonmacnois, Kieran visited a smaller island monastery. His stay was brief, because the monks soon asked him to leave. Perhaps they were jealous of his fame, but what they said was that he was giving so much to the poor that there wasn't enough left for them. Kieran was just too generous.

What is generosity? Mother Teresa wrote that if love is to be real it must cost, must hurt, must empty us of self. Saint Basil the Great urged Christians to give "splendidly" to the poor. He said that if you're the target of many beggars you should feel grateful and honored that you don't have to make a nuisance of yourself at other people's doors, but other people come and bother you at your own!

What would Saint Kieran say if we could ask him, "Is it possible to be just too generous?"



Announcements

◆ Helen Baron, our **food pantry** coordinator, extends a warm thank you for all your generous donations throughout the summer. Many Years! We've passed already Labor Day and that is a reminder to start thinking about Thanksgiving Baskets; and store specials between now and Thanksgiving will help.

◆ **The Passaic "O" Club** will be hosting the New Jersey District Convention of the F.O.C.A. on November 1st and 2nd. His Grace, Bishop Michael will join us for both days. A banquet will be held at The Brownstone Restaurant following Divine Liturgy. We would appreciate your support by purchasing a patron or booster or by taking an ad. If you would like more information, please contact Betty Czech.

◆ The **Annual Diocesan Assembly** will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, **November 11 & 12, 2014** at the Saints Peter and Paul Church, Endicott, New York. For more information please go to our Diocesan website www.nynjoca.org.

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Alyssa Mayer**, who celebrates her birthday this Friday. 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.



September 7, 2014

13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Forefeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos.
Sunday Before the Elevation of the Cross

- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Gal. 6:11-18; 1Cor.16:13-24
Gospel: Jn. 3:13-17; Mt. 21:33-42
- **Fellowship** – everyone is invited for Coffee Hour following the service.
- **Vespers with Litya** for the feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos immediately after the fellowship.

Schedule of Services

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 – NATIVITY OF THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

5:30pm - Great Vespers with Litya

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 – ELEVATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFEGIVING CROSS

9:00am - Divine Liturgy