

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

170 Lexington Avenue, Passaic, New Jersey, 07055

www.stjohnspassaic.org

REV. FR. IGOR KSENIUK, Rector

973-473-1928 (office)

646-387-5494 (cell)

fr.igorksn@gmail.com

Department of
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

Becoming Little Children

The Church honors the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke on October 18th.

In Luke's Gospel we read that as people bring their little ones to Jesus so that He may touch them, the disciples "sternly" order the people to stop. But Jesus says, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs."

Then He adds words that make us stop and think: "Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."

How do we become those "little children" to whom the Kingdom is promised? As Joachim Jeremias writes in his "New Testament Theology", the Gospel tells us that it means taking some new attitudes toward things that were well-known in Jesus' time.

First, Jesus models a way of praying that isn't restricted to the communal liturgical prayer, offered at three prescribed times of day. Jesus prays alone, sometimes through a whole night, as in Luke 6:12.

In addition, the prayer He teaches His disciples, known to us as the Lord's Prayer, is an Aramaic prayer, not a Hebrew one. Aramaic is His mother tongue. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus Christ continues to respect and take part in the thrice-daily liturgical prayer, in Hebrew, known to all pious Jews. But here He is giving to those who want to become "little children" the example of something else: offering personal prayer at any time of day, in their own language.

In this same prayer, Jesus instructs the disciples to address God as Abba, or Father. This is a new and huge privilege. Saint Paul emphasizes the point in Romans 8:15-16: "When we cry,

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.

'Abba! Father! ' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God...' To become "little children" we must accept this privilege and put ourselves in God's hands, trusting Him as our loving Father.

When we do so, some things will change. For example, in John 9:2 we see the common belief that physical disability is a punishment for sin. When the disciples see a man blind from birth, they ask the Lord who sinned—the man or his parents. Jesus answers by giving a new reason for disability: "that God's works might be revealed in him." And in the Beatitudes, He tells His disciples to rejoice when they are reviled, persecuted and falsely accused. The Father who loves them has authority over everything, so they need not fear this kind of evil and injustice.

Even the length of our prayers can change. In Matthew 6: 7, the other place in the New Testament where Jesus gives His disciples the Lord's Prayer, He begins by telling them not to "heap up empty phrases" in the belief that they will be "heard because of their many words." Those who are God's "little children" can trust that He knows their needs and hears a short prayer.

Luke 12:32 gives us this assurance: "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom."



Announcements

◆ The next **Trustees' Meeting** will be on Tuesday, **October 21** at 7pm.

◆ The next **"O" Club meeting** will be on Sunday, **October 19**, after the coffee hour. All members are urged to attend this last meeting before the Convention.

◆ Save the date: **Sat.- Sun. November 1st & 2nd**: His grace Bishop Michael will be visiting our parish with **Archpastoral visitation**, and he will also be a guest and a main speaker at the New Jersey **District Convention of the F.O.C.A.**, hosted by our "O" Club the same weekend at our church hall. Please plan to attend services on both days, and support our "O" Club by purchasing a patron or booster or by taking an ad in the convention adbook. If you would like more information, please see Bob or Betty Czech or any "O" Club member.

◆ Save the date: **Sat. November 8, 2014 - Annual Beefsteak Dinner** at the Assumption Church in Clifton, NJ. For reservations (due by Sun. November 2nd) call Barbara Polk at 973-473-3773

◆ A **luncheon** for members of the **"O" Club** and the **Women's Club** will be held on **Sunday, November 9**, at "Al Cavaliere" in Clifton.

◆ The **Annual Diocesan Assembly** will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, **November 11 & 12, 2014** at St. Peter and Paul Church in Endicott, New York. More information on our Diocesan website nynjoca.org.

Heartfelt Greetings

Happy Birthday to **Elena Kibitelsky** whose birthday is today, and **Anna Rozanovich**, whose birthday is this Wednesday. Happy Wedding Anniversary today to **Matthew** and **Juliana Kary**. May God grant all of you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!



October 12, 2014

17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Holy Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council

• **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy

Epistles: 2Cor. 9:6-11

Heb. 13:7-16 (Fathers)

Gospels: Lk. 7:11-16

Jn. 17:1-13 (Fathers)

• **Fellowship** – everyone is invited for Coffee Hour following the service.

Schedule of Services

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

4:00pm - Reception into Orthodoxy of Peter Weiner.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

5:30pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

9:00am - Divine Liturgy