

# 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

## Distressed by Fame

**Today, November 2nd the Church remembers Saint Marcian the Hermit and Confessor of Cyrus (or Cyrhus) in Syria. He lived in the fourth century.**

As the child of a wealthy father who held several important government posts, Marcian lived the sumptuous life of the royal court from his earliest years. This gave him the benefit of an excellent education, but it also impressed on him the shallowness of court life. It seemed to Marcian that the more worldly possessions and successes people had, the unhappier they were. Why else would those in high positions constantly be seeking some novel pastime to fill their days? Why else would so many seem almost desperate in their quest for some kind of contentment?

Marcian didn't want a life full of ceremony and constant interaction with other people. What he did want was to be alone with God, and so he decided to "forget and be forgotten by" the world. Telling none of his friends, he left his old life behind and went to a secluded part of the Syrian desert, near the border of Arabia. There he built a small, narrow cell to live in.

We often read of desert monks who fasted for days at a time. Marcian chose a different way. He ate just enough every day to be sure he would have strength to carry on his simple life of prayer, reading, singing psalms and making small items to trade for bread.

Marcian's strongest desire was always to live with only God for company, but his life changed after some years of solitude. His holiness had become known, and two disciples approached him and begged to join him. Marcian, giving up his own preference, humbly accepted them, though he continued to live alone in his

## 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, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

cell. The two disciples, Eusebius and Agapetus, built a cell near his. They sang psalms with him, and gratefully listened to his answers to their spiritual questions. They said later that even when reading at night, Marcian never had to use a candle – there was a supernatural light providing illumination of his cell, just as his prayerful communication with God illuminated his soul.

Growing numbers of men wanted to become Marcian's disciples. He was finally persuaded to let a monastery be built near his cell, and appointed Eusebius abbot. Monks could then come to speak with him. But when some Syrian bishops suggested he be ordained a priest, he was so distressed, protesting his unworthiness, that they abandoned the idea.

As Marcian's life neared its end, his distress increased. His reputation for miracle-working holiness had encouraged some people to build chapels near his cell, hoping to be given his body to bury in them when he died. Fearing such "fame," he ordered his disciples to bury him secretly in a remote place.

Marcian didn't see fame as a measure of success. He was so close to Christ that he could say, in words we read on this day, that "it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me" (Galatians 2:20a).

## ΕΙΣ ΠΟΛΛΑ ΈΤΗ ΔΕΣΠΟΤΑ!

We lovingly welcome our dear Vladika, His Grace, **Bishop Michael, Bishop of New York and the Diocese of New York and New Jersey**. We also warmly welcome all clergy, matushki, and all participants of the NJ District Convention of the F.O.C.A. as well as all friends of our parish. Thank you for joining us in prayer this morning. May God grant all of you good health and joy for Many Years! Mnohaya Lita!



## Announcements

◆ Starting **Saturday, November 8**, all **Vespers** services (both weekdays and weekends) will begin at **6:00pm**.

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

◆ 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. For more information visit our Diocesan website [nynjoca.org](http://nynjoca.org).

◆ **At the last Trustees' meeting**, after examining the revenue and the profit from the candles that we sell in the church, and since half of them were priced lower than they actually cost, it was decided to make an update of prices. The new prices will start **November 30**, and will be as follows: 7 Day Vigils - \$3, Votives - \$0.50, large beeswax - \$2, and small beeswax - \$1. We appreciate your support and understanding.

## Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to **Daria Kibitelsky** who celebrates her birthdays this Wednesday. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaya Lita!



November 2, 2014

### 21<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

• **9:00am** – Greeting of His Grace Bishop Michael and the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Gal. 2:16-20

Gospel: Lk. 8:26-39

• **1:00pm** – Banquet for the NJ District Convention of the F.O.C.A at "The Brownstone".

## Schedule of Services

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

6:00pm - Great Vespers with Litiya

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8 – ARCH. MICHAEL

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

6:00pm - Vespers

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

9:00am - Divine Liturgy