

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

Making Peace by Being Obedient

November 17th is the feast day of the abbess Hilda of Whitby. She was born in 614 in Northumbria, at that time a kingdom which included northern England and part of southeastern Scotland. She was the grandniece of King Edwin, and it was not until her whole family became Christian, in 627, that she was baptized.

Hilda loved being a Christian and spent hours reading Scripture, deeply moved by the compassion of Jesus Christ and by His call to service. After some years of effort to live the life she had discovered in the Bible, she decided to join her sister, who belonged to a monastery in France.

But another well-known Christian convinced her to change her plans. Saint Aidan was an Irish monk and bishop who traveled across the land to teach about Jesus Christ. He asked Hilda to stay in Northumbria and help him. Though sorry not to join her sister, she obediently did as he asked. For a few years she lived as a monastic with a small group of women on the banks of the River Wear.

Bishop Aidan then asked her to become abbess of a double monastery, with quarters for men and separate quarters for women, and a chapel in between. Bede in his "Ecclesiastical History" wrote about her work as abbess of this monastery in Hartlepool:

"Hilda, the servant of Christ, being set over that monastery, began immediately to reduce all things to a regular system, according as she had been instructed by learned men; for Bishop Aidan, and other religious men that knew her and loved her, frequently visited and diligently instructed her, because of her innate wisdom and inclination to the service of God." Ecclesiastical History, Book 4 – Chapter XXIII).



November 16, 2014

23rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Holy Apostle & Evangelist Matthew

- 8:50am – Hours
- 9:00am – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Eph. 2:4-10; 1Cor. 4:9-16
Gospel: Lk. 10:25-37; Mt. 9:9-13
- Fellowship – everyone is invited for
Coffee Hour following the service.

Schedule of Services

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

6:00pm - Great Vespers with Litya

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21 - ENTRY OF THE

MOTHER OF GOD INTO THE TEMPLE

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

6:00pm - Vespers

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

9:00am - Divine Liturgy & Molieben of
Thanksgiving

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: Genevieve Bobenko, Pauline Bodnar, Nancy Filak, Mary Hadginske, Helen Kurnewitz, Margaret Lawler, Kathleen Lazarczyk, Emil Mikulik, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Anatoly & Anna Rozanovich, Nadia Sojka, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

It was after several years at Hartlepool that Hilda took on a bigger task: she became abbess of another and larger double monastery, this time in Whitby. Under her leadership it became the most famous center of learning in England. As always, Hilda strongly emphasized the study of Scripture. She actively recruited women and men to be students, mentoring them with love and patience.

In 664, a momentous event – the Synod of Whitby – took place at the monastery. The Church in Northumbria had to decide between the customs brought by Celtic missionaries like Saint Aidan, and those practiced in other areas as a result of the work of missionaries from Rome. Saint Hilda was a Celt, but when the Synod decided in favor of Roman practice, she became a peacemaker, urging everyone to accept the decision rather than fight it. Her own example of serene obedience, despite her disappointment at the Synod's outcome, influenced the bishops, priests, and royal rulers who deeply respected her.

Saint Hilda was ill with a constant fever during the last years of her life, but she continued to teach and lead at the monastery. One student she nurtured was Caedmon, a simple cow herder who became England's first poet. Like many others, he regarded her as a spiritual mother and a true servant of God.



Announcements

◆ Just a reminder: from now on **all Vespers** services (both weekdays and weekends) will begin at **6:00pm**.

◆ The **Board of Trustees** will meet this **Tuesday, November 18** at 7:00pm.

◆ **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.

◆ We are in **Nativity Fast** that started yesterday. During this time each member of our parish community is encouraged to prayerfully prepare for, and then participate in the Sacrament of private Confession and Holy Communion. **Parish Confessions** will be offered on **Saturday, Dec. 20** from 1:30pm to 3:00pm. If for any reason you cannot make it that day, you can have your Confession after any Vespers service or half-an-hour before the Divine Liturgy on Sundays, just please let Father Igor know in advance.

◆ **Food Pantry** items are needed. Cans of soup, vegetables, fruits & cranberry sauce, stuffing & gravy, and turkeys will be needed to make up **Thanksgiving Baskets** for our neighbors in need. Or, if you prefer, you can give a monetary donation, and we will shop for you.

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to **Florence Junda**, who celebrates her birthdays Nov. 18, and **Juliana Kary**, Nov. 19. May God grant both of you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!