

# 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

## The Continuing Conflicts in Corinth

On November 25th the Church remembers Saint Clement of Rome, who is one of the Apostolic Fathers.

That title is given to a group of men who taught and defended the faith in the first centuries of Christianity, when problems and wrong teachings abounded. Saint Clement is the first of these Fathers, and his "Letter to the Corinthians" is one of the earliest existing Christian documents outside the New Testament.

The details of Clement's life are not well-known. He "saw the blessed Apostles and conversed with them, and had still ringing in his ears the preaching of the Apostles and had their tradition before his eyes..." as Saint Irenaeus writes. Most historians agree that he is the person Paul refers to in Philippians 4:3 as "Clement, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life".

He was the third successor of Saint Peter as Bishop of Rome, and served from about 92 to 101 A.D. Those years were not easy, because Clement attracted people to the Christian faith, rousing the fear and hatred of still-powerful pagans.

But Clement's letter to the Corinthians, written a decade before his episcopal consecration, was not a response to problems with pagans. It was an effort to bring peace to the deeply divided members of the Church at Corinth.

Already, years earlier, Saint Paul had addressed serious problems in Corinth. Greed, lust and mutual disrespect were threatening the stability of the Church there. Paul's letters had to confront these things, and also defend his apostolic authority, which was being questioned and denigrated.

The disunity in Corinth continued. Clement sent his letter because one younger faction had conspired to depose the older leaders. Gently but gravely, he reminded them of their Christian

## 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, John Kary, Helen Kurnewitz, Margaret Lawler, Kathleen Lazorczyk, Emil Mikulik, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Anatoly & Anna Rozanovich, Nadia Sojka, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

duty to love and respect one another.

The letter's opening greeting is from "the Church of God which sojourns in Rome to the Church of God which sojourns in Corinth." This reminds us that then, as now, the Church has seen herself as a "sojourner" and not a permanent resident in this earthly realm.

Another part of the letter shows that the Church faced difficulties from many directions. Clement writes that "owing to the sudden and repeated calamities and misfortunes which have befallen us we must acknowledge that we are somewhat tardy in turning our attention to the matter is dispute among you, beloved..." The "calamities and misfortunes" may be imperial persecutions, or the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in the year 79, which caused a devastating fire in Rome.

Clement doesn't hold back in admonishing Corinth's Christians. He deplores "that abominable and unholy sedition, alien and foreign to the elect of God, which a few rash and self-willed persons have enflamed to such madness..."

Yet he also urges them to turn to God, confident that He will not be angry over our sins forever. Clement writes that Scripture tells us to "take shelter in your rooms for a little while, until My wrath subsides. Then I will remember the good days, and will raise you from your graves."



## Announcements

◆ We are in **Nativity Fast**. 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.

◆ After examining the revenue and the cost of the candles that we sell in the church, (some were priced lower than they actually cost), it was decided at the previous trustees' meeting to change candle prices as follows: 7 day vigils - \$3, votives - \$0.50, large beeswax - \$2, and small beeswax - \$1. These prices will go into effect on **November 30**. We appreciate your support and understanding.

◆ Save the date: **Friday, December 5** – Annual St. Nicholas Day Fish Dinner at the Holy Assumption Church in Clifton. For tickets please see Peggy Kovalycsik.

◆ 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 in the school building next door

## Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to **Mirek Szestawicky**, who celebrates his birthdays Nov. 28, and **Daniel Beckmann**, Nov. 30. May God grant both of you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!



November 23, 2014

24<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- **8:50am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy & Molieben of Thanksgiving

Epistle: Eph. 2:14-22  
Gal. 5:22-6:2 (Saints)

Gospel: Lk. 12:16-21  
Mt. 11:27-30 (Saints)

- **Panikhida** – in memory of **Juzef Matuk**, on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of his repose, offered by Halina Harasim.
- **Fellowship** – everyone is invited for Coffee Hour following the service.

## Schedule of Services

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29**  
6:00pm - Vespers

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30** - HOLY AP. ANDREW  
9:00am - Divine Liturgy