

# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST 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

## Do Not Rely on Your Own Insight

**The title words are from Proverbs 3:5b, which is read on February 26.**

*That verse begins: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart," and the following verses continue: "In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones."*

*On this same day, the readings from Genesis that began on the first day of Great Lent continue, as they will until Palm Sunday. This day's verses include some of the most beautiful and fundamental in Genesis, telling us how Adam and Eve were created to be together.*

*Genesis 2:17 gives the story of God forming Adam from the dust of the ground and "breathing into his nostrils the breath of life" and then planting the Garden of Eden with every tree that is "pleasant to the sight and good for food." The garden is watered by four rivers.*

*God puts Adam in the garden to till and keep it, and gives him the commandment to enjoy everything except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Almost as soon as He has done this, God declares that "it is not good that the man should be alone."*

*God presents all the beasts of the field and birds of the air to Adam, who has the privilege of naming them. But among all of these there isn't found "a helper fit for him." So finally God takes Adam's own ribs while he sleeps, and fashions Eve. Adam pronounces her to be that fit helper, "bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh."*

## 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, Nancy Filak, Mary Hadginske, Helen Kurnewitz, Margaret Lawler, Kathleen Lazarczyk, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Anatoly & Anna Rozanovich, Nadia Sojka, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

*All this beauty and true companionship, so perfectly planned by God, still depends on the free will that God has also given to His creatures. In the very next day's reading, Adam and Eve will, as we know, undo all the good things God planned for them. How we wish they could have heeded those words from Proverbs: "Do not rely on your own insight; be not wise in your own eyes," and "Trust in the Lord with all your heart."*

*In the Greek Orthodox Church's calendar on this day, another woman who needed to trust the Lord is commemorated. She is Photini, the Samaritan Woman who meets Christ at Jacob's Well. She has many questions, but she also has patience and she doesn't rush ahead to act on her "own insight." Once she understands that Christ is the promised Messiah, she humbly becomes one of His servants as an evangelist, and does great work in spreading the Gospel.*

*What about Adam and Eve? We know that the icon of the Resurrection will greet us at the Lenten journey's end. There on the icon they will be, the first two people, no longer outcasts from Paradise. Christ is stretching out His hand to take them to the Kingdom.*

## Schedule of Services

- MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23**  
6:00pm - Great Compline & Canon of St. Andrew - part 1
- TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24**  
6:00pm - Great Compline & Canon of St. Andrew - part 2
- WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25**  
6:00pm - Great Compline & Canon of St. Andrew - part 3
- THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26**  
6:00pm - Great Compline & Canon of St. Andrew - part 4
- SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28 - ST THEODORE TYRO (THE RECRUIT)**  
9:00am - Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Kolivo  
6:00pm - Great Vespers
- SUNDAY, MARCH 1 - SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY**  
9:00am - Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great  
5:00pm - Deanery Mission Vespers



## Announcements

- ◆ Please note: due to weather conditions, our **Annual Parish Meeting** was moved to Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. Please plan to attend.
- ◆ The **Sunday of Orthodoxy Deanery Vespers** on **March 1<sup>st</sup>** of this year will be hosted by our parish. His Grace, Bishop Michael has also invited His Eminence, Metropolitan Joseph of the Antiochian Archdiocese to be the homilist. Invitation has also been extended to clergy and faithful of various jurisdictions. The responses will be sung by a Pan-Orthodox choir. We are looking forward to sharing this day, the first Sunday of the Great Lent, as brothers and sisters in Christ. Lenten refreshments will be served following the Vespers. We are also asking for your help to clean-up the gym area after the fellowship, so it can be used by the school on the following Monday morning.



February 22, 2015

### SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE

**The Expulsion of Adam from Paradise  
Forgiveness Sunday**

**1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Finding of the Honorable Head  
of St. John the Baptist**  
(transferred from February 24)

- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: Rom. 13:11-14:4  
2 Cor. 4:6-15 (St. John)  
Gospel: Mt. 6:14-21  
Mt. 11:2-15 (St. John)

- **Panikhida** – in memory of **Anna Mae Beckmann**, on the 40<sup>th</sup> day of Repose, offered by her family.
- **Maslenitsa** – everyone is invited for this pre-lenten celebration.
- **Forgiveness Vespers** with the Rite of Forgiveness. The service will start after Maslenitsa.

**BEGINNING OF LENT – STRICT FAST**