

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 the Little Things

On March 1st the Orthodox Church commemorates Saint David, the patron saint of Wales. He was born in about 487, on the southwestern coast of the country.

His birth is traditionally believed to be the result of rape. His mother Nonita, who is also honored by the Church, was the daughter of a local chieftain, and often in the company of nobles and princes. One prince found her irresistibly attractive, and forcibly seduced her. She is said to have given birth to David in a raging storm, perhaps reflecting the violent nature of his conception.

David was raised in the Welsh Church, and educated by clergy. His teachers were urgently aware of the need to take Christianity to the farther reaches of Wales and England. They recognized David's outstanding ability to speak with eloquence about the faith, and to engage the minds and hearts of people listening to him. This was why, in later years, he would be a convincing opponent of the Pelagian heresy. But as a student he was already seen as an excellent candidate to do missionary work, a ministry he undertook soon after his formal education was completed.

Saint David's missionary travels ranged over Wales, western England, and Brittany. He founded several monasteries in southern Wales. They were noted for the extreme austerity of their practices, modeled on David's understanding of the life of the early desert monastics.

A description of the monks' daily lives was recorded by an eleventh-century writer named Rhygyvarch (spelled in various ways), who based his life of David on "many old manuscripts" in the saint's monastery at Menevia. It is the only extensive record of David's life that we have. Rhygyvarch writes that after a full

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 Lazorczyk, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Anatoly & Anna Rozanovich, Nadia Sojka, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

day of work plowing and planting, done without the aid of oxen or any animals, the monks stood in chapel for several hours of prayer, ending with chanted Psalms: "When the chanting of the Psalms is done...they worship on bended knees until the stars are seen in heaven bringing the day to a close. The father [David] alone, after having gone out, pours forth a prayer in secret to God for the state of the Church."

The monks' meals were simple, and accompanied only by water:

"Not dishes of various tastes lie before them or too dainty provisions, but having fed on bread and herbs seasoned with salt, they may assuage ardent thirst with a temperate sort of drink. On that occasion they provide for the sick and those advanced in age, and even those wearied with a long journey, some refreshments of a more appealing sort, for one must not weigh out to all in equal measure."

David's last words to the monks gathered around his deathbed included these: "Do the little things." These words are a reminder of the words of Christ Himself, read two Sundays ago. Jesus' surprised listeners asked Him when they seen Him in need or distress, and ministered to Him. He answered, "As you did it to the least of these, you did it to Me" (Matthew 25:40).

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to **Sonya Finno** who celebrates her birthday this Tuesday. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!



Announcements

◆ **Daylight Saving Time** this year starts this coming Sunday, March 8. Please do not forget to turn your clocks forward one hour.

◆ Please note: due to weather conditions, our **Annual Parish Meeting** was moved to next Sunday, March 8th after the Divine Liturgy. Please plan to attend.

◆ Schedule of the **Deanery Mission Vespers** (services start at 4:00pm):

Mar. 8 - St. Gregory Palamas Church, Glen Gardner, NJ

Mar. 15 - Holy Resurrection Church, Wayne, NJ

Mar. 22 - St. John the Baptist Church, Alpha, NJ

Mar. 29 - Holy Transfiguration Church, Pearl River, NY

Wed. April 15, Bright Wednesday, **7:00pm** - Christ the Saviour Church, Paramus, NJ.

For more information please see a flyer posted on the bulletin board.

◆ **Joint Mission Pre-Sanctified Liturgies** during this Great Lent will be as follows:

Mar. 4, 6:30pm - Holy Apostles Church in Saddle Brook

Mar. 11, 9:00am - Ss. Peter & Paul Church in Passaic.

Mar. 18, 6:30pm - our parish will host the service.

Apr. 1, 6:30pm - Holy Assumption Church in Clifton.

◆ **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.



March 1, 2015

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT Sunday of Orthodoxy

- **8:50am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy of St. Basil
Epistle: Heb. 11:24-26, 32-12:2
Gospel: Jn. 1:43-51
- **Fellowship** – everyone is invited for Coffee Hour following the Divine Liturgy
- **5:00pm** – **Deanery Mission Vespers**

Schedule of Services

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

6:00pm - Akathist to the Divine Passion & Panikhida for the Departed

SATURDAY, MARCH 7 - MEMORIAL SATURDAY

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, MARCH 8 - ST. GREGORY PALAMAS

9:00am - Divine Liturgy followed by Annual Parish Meeting