

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

Saints from One Age to Another

April 3 is the feast day of Saint Nicetas the Confessor. He was born in the 8th century in Bithynia (Asia Minor) to a family of dedicated Christians.

His parents were devoted to one another. Nicetas' mother died when he was only a few days old. After that his father decided to enter a monastery, leaving his son to be raised by his grandmother. So even though his father was alive, Nicetas didn't have the chance to grow up with him at home.

One of the readings for this day is Genesis 49:33 to 50:26. These verses tell part of the story of Joseph, the favorite son of his father Jacob. Joseph also was deprived of the chance to be with his father. His jealous brothers sold him into slavery, and he wouldn't see Jacob again for many years. The absence of their fathers is one of several parallels between Nicetas and Joseph.

Nicetas' grandmother saw to it that he finished school, but after that he was determined to become a monk. He went to the monastery at Midikion, and spent the next years in prayer and spiritual effort. He made close friends and became an example of holiness to the other monks. Their admiration was so great that when their abbot Nicephorus died, Nicetas was the unanimous choice to be his successor.

Joseph's circumstances were very different from those in which Nicetas lived. But he too gained the respectful admiration of the people around him by being honorable and taking his work seriously. He was bought by an Egyptian named Potiphar, who recognized his ability and "put him in charge of all that he had."

Joseph refused the efforts of Potiphar's wife "day after day" to seduce him, refusing to betray his master and to "do this great

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

wickedness, and sin against God." The result was that she made false accusations against him, and he was put in jail. But even there, he was so admired that the keeper committed all the prisoners to his care.

Saint Nicetas was also unjustly imprisoned, and persecuted for refusing to betray his faith. He would not support the iconoclasts or the corrupt patriarch appointed by the emperor. In prison, like Joseph he encouraged and kept up the spirits of other prisoners.

God gave Saint Nicetas wonderful gifts. He healed physical and mental illnesses, and delivered people from danger through his prayers. When he died, people received healing by touching his body.

Joseph was not a miracle worker. But he was given the gift of forgiveness, and the gift of vision to see God's plan for Israel's future. Reunited with his brothers, Joseph told them that though they had meant to do evil to him, God "meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today."

Saint Nicetas and Saint Joseph show us, through their similar experiences, that God continues to unfold His plan down through the centuries. Now we are the ones who can use His gifts to carry it forward for those people still to come.

Congratulation

Congratulation to Michael Bzik, proud grandfather of **Lydia Sarah Bzik**, daughter of Christopher & Jennifer Bzik, who was born on March 9, 2015. May God grant all your family good health and happiness for Many Years!

Announcements

◆ The best way Orthodox Christians prepare for Christ's Holy Resurrection is by having **Private Confession** during Great Lent. It is heard after any Vespers service. You can also have your confession this coming Saturday before the Divine Liturgy starting at 8:30am. For other times please speak to Father Igor.

◆ Tonight **Deanery Mission Vespers** (4:00pm) will be at the Holy Transfiguration Church, 35 Sickletown Rd, Pearl River, NY

◆ On **Tuesday, Mar. 31 at 7:00pm** the **Sacrament of Holy Unction** will be served at the Holy Transfiguration Church in Pearl River, NY. Invite you family and friends. For more information please see a flyer.

◆ The **Gifts of Love** collection this Palm Sunday will be for St. Vladimir's Camp & Retreat Center in Ohio (stvladimirscampohio.com). The camp hosts two weeks of Ohio District Camp and the week-long National Junior Summer Sports Tournament (Junior Olympics). Last year marked the 50th Anniversary of the Ohio District Camping Program, so the collection will be given in honor of that milestone. Your donation will be greatly appreciated.

◆ The last **Joint Mission Pre-Sanctified Liturgy** will be this **Wednesday, Apr. 1, at 6:30pm** at the Holy Assumption Church in Clifton. St. Tikhon's Seminary Choir will sing responses.

◆ **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 29, 2015

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
St. Mary of Egypt

• **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

Epistle: Heb. 9:11-14

Gal. 3:23-29 (Saint)

Gospel: Mk. 10:32-45

Lk. 7:36-50 (Saint)

• **Panikhida** – in memory of **Volodimir Kseniuk**, on the 20th Anniversary of his Repose

• **Fellowship** – everyone is invited for Coffee Hour following the Divine Liturgy

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, APRIL 4 - LAZARUS SATURDAY

8:30am - Confessions

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

6:00pm - Great Vespers & Blessing of palms and willows.

SUNDAY, APRIL 5 - PALM SUNDAY

9:00am - Divine Liturgy & Blessing of palms and willows.