

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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April 12, 2015

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

- **8:00am** – Paschal Matins & Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Acts 1:1-8
Gospel: Jn. 1:1-17
- **Blessing of Paschal Foods**
- **Breaking of the Fast** in the church hall - everyone is invited

Schedule of Services

- BRIGHT MONDAY, APRIL 13**
9:00am - Divine Liturgy
- BRIGHT TUESDAY, APRIL 14**
9:00am - Divine Liturgy
- BRIGHT SATURDAY, APRIL 18**
6:00pm - Great Vespers
- ST. THOMAS SUNDAY, APRIL 19**
9:00am - Divine Liturgy
1:30pm - Blessing of Graves

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

The Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ gives us salvation and eternal joy. But it is always beyond our human ability to "understand."

The first two days of Bright Week, April 13th and 14th, commemorate events that offer other examples of the limits of human understanding. In all these events God is working for us, but people fail, at least at first, to see what He is doing.

On the 14th we read the story of Christ's encounter with two apostles on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24: 12-35). These two apostles, who knew Him and are actually in His presence, not only don't recognize Him, but are sure that His death meant the end of all their hopes.

So Jesus must ask them, "Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?" He even calls them "foolish" and "slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken." God's plan was laid out in the Old Testament prophecies, yet even the apostles do not immediately see its fulfillment in Jesus Christ. Once these two who meet Him on the road see Him break bread, they come to understand.

On the 13th we read, in Acts 1: 12-17, the testimony of John the Baptist concerning Jesus Christ. The next day we read verses 21-26, and we see once again the failure of human understanding. John is peppered with questions: "Who are you?" "Are you Elijah?" "Why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?"

John tells them of the One whose sandal he is not worthy to untie, whose way he was sent to prepare. That role of preparation, of being the forerunner, is what God has planned for

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.

him. Soon after, some of John's followers will meet Christ, and they will understand.

Also on the 13th we remember Saint Thomais, a young Christian woman of Alexandria. Her husband was a fisherman, and often was away from home on his fishing boat. One night when her husband was absent, her father-in-law was overcome by passion and tried to force her to have sexual relations with him. She resisted, reminding him of God's Law. He became so enraged that he grabbed a knife and killed her.

Saint Daniel of Scetis, who was in Alexandria at the time, heard about this and told the monks to bring the young woman's body to the cemetery of a nearby monastery, to be buried with the departed monks. Again, a question revealing limited understanding was asked by some of the monks: How can a woman be buried among our departed fathers? Daniel replied: "She is my mother and your mother, because she died for her chastity."

In time, the monks came to understand. Those among them who were tormented by lustful passions were directed to pray at her grave, and received healing and relief.

What events will come into our lives as part of God's plan? Will we question them? Or perhaps we will be ready to accept the answer to all questions: Christ is Risen!

ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕСЕ!
ВОИСТИНУ ВОСКРЕСЕ!

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Valentina Szeslawicka**, who celebrates her birthday this Thursday. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!

Memorial Offerings

Two beautiful gold-plated lampadas (oil lamps) for the Iconostas in our Church were given in loving memory of **Anna Mae Beckmann** by her husband Fred, children Linda, Fred and Dan, and their families. Memory Eternal to the servant of God, Anna Mae.

Announcements

◆ Tomorrow, **Bright Monday** at the end of the Divine Liturgy we will be having procession around the Church, and children will be carrying the Icons. If you have small family icons that are fit for the children, please bring them to the Church for the procession.

◆ The **Blessing of Graves** at **East Ridgelawn Cemetery** will be held next **Sunday, April 19** (St. Thomas Sunday.) The blessing will start with Panikhida at the cemetery chapel at **1:30pm**. For St. Peter's and other cemeteries please make an appointment with Father Igor. If you have family members that are buried far away and you are not able to visit their graves, please give their names for commemoration at the time of blessing.

◆ **NJ Deanery Bright Wednesday Vespers** at Christ the Saviour Church in Paramus, NJ will be at **7:00pm** on **April 15**. His Grace Bishop Michael will be the main celebrant and homilist. Fellowship will follow. Everyone is welcome to attend.