

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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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
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The Hard Life of a Prophet

On May 1st the Church honors the Prophet Jeremiah, a sensitive soul who was called by God to do things that would have been difficult even for a person less easily bruised.

God instructs His young prophet to warn Jerusalem of foreign invaders from the north. So Jeremiah addresses the people: "In vain you beautify yourself. Your lovers despise you; they seek your life. For I heard a cry as of a woman in travail, anguish as of one bringing forth her first child, the cry of the daughter of Zion gasping for breath, stretching out her hands, "Woe is me! I am fainting before murderers" (4:30-31).

In popular literature, prophets are sometimes depicted as mirthless killjoys who take pleasure in spoiling everyone's good times and bringing messages of doom. But this is not true of most of the prophets, and certainly not of Jeremiah. His message burdens his heart: "My anguish, my anguish! I writhe in pain! Oh, the walls of my heart! My heart is beating wildly; I cannot keep silent; for I hear the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war" (4:19).

Through Jeremiah, God accuses the people not only of turning from Him, but of embracing false, powerless gods: "...for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns, that can hold no water" (2:13). This is in painful contrast to the good things God has done for them: "When I fed them to the full, they committed adultery and trooped to the houses of harlots" (5:7b).

God is concerned with more than His people's wandering off



April 26, 2015

3rd SUNDAY OF PASCHA
Holy Myrrhbearing Women

- 8:50am – Hours
- 9:00am – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Acts 6:1-7
Gospel: Mk. 15:43-16:8
- Panikhida – in memory of brother **John** and sister-in-law **Mary Catherine Galley**, offered by Patricia Galley.
- Fellowship – everyone is invited for Coffee Hour following the Divine Liturgy

Schedule of Services

- SATURDAY, MAY 2**
6:00pm - Great Vespers
- SUNDAY, MAY 3**
9:00am - Divine Liturgy

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

to impotent gods. Through Jeremiah He accuses them of unkindness toward one another: "Like a basket full of birds, their houses are full of treachery; therefore they have become great and rich, they have grown fat and sleek. They know no bounds in deeds of wickedness; they judge not with justice the cause of the fatherless, to make it prosper, and they do not defend the rights of the needy" (5:27-28).

Jeremiah describes what happens to a culture in which people no longer care about each other: "Let everyone beware of his neighbor, and put no trust in any brother; for every brother is a supplanter, and every neighbor goes about as a slanderer. Everyone deceives his neighbor, and no one speaks the truth; they have taught their tongue to speak lies; they commit iniquity and are too weary to repent" (9:4-5).

Finally, he poetically contrasts God's intentions with what actually happened: "I thought how I would set you among my sons, and give you a pleasant land, a heritage most beautiful of all nations. And I thought you would call me, My Father, and would not turn from following me" (3:19).

Reluctant to deliver harsh messages, sensitive to mistreatment, Jeremiah still relied on God's word: "I am with you, to save you and deliver you" (15: 20b).

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Anna Mikola**, who celebrates her birthday this Friday. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnogaya Leta!



Announcements

◆ Save the date: The **90th Anniversary** of our parish is coming up! On **Sunday, June 14, 2015**, we are blessed to have Archbishop Michael join us in celebrating this milestone. Following a Hierarchal Divine Liturgy at 9:00am, we will have a banquet at The Brownstone in Paterson, NJ at 1:00 p.m. Don't miss this wonderful occasion. More details are coming up.

◆ Our parish is now on Facebook. Visit our page at [facebook.com/stjohnpassaic](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnpassaic) and LIKE it. A heartfelt thank you to Betty Czech for the great job done!

◆ Our Church will be getting a new set of Icons that we don't have yet. The set includes 25 Icons that are used for the Pre-Lenten Sundays, all Sundays of the Great Lent, Holy Week, Bright Week, and all Sundays from Pascha to Pentecost. Icons are 12" x 15", and will be placed in the center of the Church for corresponding days. The set also includes a kiot, a beautifully decorated wooden case with glass to hold the icons. All is made in the USA. If you would like to use this opportunity to have this set dedicated in honor or in memory of your loved ones (\$250 for the icons, and \$250 for the kiot), please speak to Fr. Igor or Betty Czech.

◆ The **Food Pantry** is always in need of food items. Please keep those less fortunate in mind and help us to feed those in need. A basket is in the vestibule of the church for your convenience. May God bless you abundantly for your generosity.