

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

A Courageous Cinderella and a Fool for Christ

On May 10 the Church honors the Holy Mother Isidora, who lived in the sixth century.

Isidora spent most of her life in the monastery of Tabenna in Egypt. She chose to serve God in an extreme way, as a fool for Christ, living in complete self-denial and base servitude. In this way Isidora, like others who chose this way, made sure she would not be praised for her virtues, her constant prayer, or her service to God. When she ate thrown-away scraps and drank used dishwater, others treated her with contempt rather than honor. When she took on the most menial and unpleasant tasks she wasn't thanked; others considered that such an odd person might be expected to demean herself with those jobs.

A monk named Pitirim was told about Isidora in a blunt way. An angel directed him to find her, comparing her to Pitirim himself: "She serves others and bears their contempt every day. Her heart and thoughts are always with God. You have the ease of solitude with nobody to disturb you, yet your thoughts and your heart are constantly distracted."

Pitirim found Isidora, bowed before her, and revealed her holiness to the other nuns. But she fled from their praise, and they never saw her again.

The recent movie "Cinderella," directed by Kenneth Branagh, has a few interesting parallels to this saint's life. The young heroine, Ella, loses the parents with whom she shared a deep love and a happy life. Her dying mother gives her a standard to live by: "Have courage and be kind."

When her father remarries and then dies, Ella honors her mother's words, rather in the same way that saints live in a way

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.

that honors the commands of Christ. She cheerfully does the chores forced on her by a cruel stepmother and her daughters, who contemptuously call her Cinderella because she is constantly dirtied by ashes and soot. She doesn't seek revenge against their meanness, but takes comfort in the animals whose trusting companionship she wins, again like some well-known saints.

The patience to endure unjust suffering in life takes courage, even if some critics of the movie have wrongly said that this Cinderella is weak because she doesn't stand up to her stepmother. But the movie is realistic about how hard it is to maintain this courage. At one point, when her harsh life has become unbearable, she rides away on a horse to escape. She meets a young huntsman named Kit, not knowing that he is actually the prince who will change her life. It's noteworthy that she first meets him not in a dazzling ballgown, as in the animated 1950's Disney version, but in her servant's clothes. He falls in love with a lowly servant, just as Christ loves us in our lowly sinfulness.

Near the end of the movie, Cinderella confronts her stepmother, not to gloat in triumph at having won the prince's love, but to forgive this woman who has caused her such suffering. She knows that forgiveness is another act of courage and kindness – and of true strength.

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Jennifer Czech**, who celebrates her birthday on May 15. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!

Announcements

◆ **Mother's Day Greetings** to all mothers, grandmothers, great grandmothers & godmothers in our Parish. Let us honor our mothers by praying for them and show our love and respect. May God bless all mothers with good health, joy, peace for Many Years! Let us also not forget to pray for our departed mothers who have entered Eternal Life. Memory Eternal!

◆ This Saturday, May 16th, in conjunction with celebration of their Centennial Anniversary, St. John the Baptist Church in Little Falls (Signac) will have an Open House (11am - 4pm) with many activities. For more information please see a flyer at the bulletin board.

◆ **The 90th Anniversary of our parish** is coming up! Please reserve the weekend of **June 13-14, 2015**, when our beloved Hierarch Archbishop Michael will join us in celebrating this milestone. Great Vespers will be served on Saturday at 6:00pm. On Sunday, the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy will start at 9:00am, followed by a banquet at The Brownstone in Paterson, NJ at 1:00pm. Don't miss this wonderful occasion. For reservations, please contact Robert or Betty Czech by June 1. For more details please see a flyer at the bulletin board.

◆ Our Church is getting a **new set of Icons** that we don't have. 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.



May 10, 2015

5th SUNDAY OF PASCHA

Samaritan Woman

Apostle Simeon the Zealot

• 8:50am – Hours

• 9:00am – Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Acts 11:19-26, 29-30

Gospel: Jn. 4:5-42

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

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, MAY 16

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, MAY 17

9:00am - Divine Liturgy