

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

The Hour Has Come

On May 19 we read the Gospel of John 12: 19-36. In these verses Jesus announces, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified." He goes on to tell the listening crowd what those words mean.

Jesus has, the passage tells us, gathered a large following despite the efforts of His enemies. The Pharisees admit that they "can do nothing" because "the whole world has gone after Him."

Up to now, Jesus has said that His time has not yet come (7:6). But the moment to reveal His purpose has come. He speaks about it in a way that the crowd doesn't expect—there's nothing about resistance to Roman oppression or creating an earthly kingdom. He describes a grain of wheat as being able to bear fruit only if it falls into the earth and dies. Then He says something so significant that it is quoted in all four Gospels: "He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life."

This paradoxical statement is a warning to those who intend to be Jesus' followers. They must be ready for suffering in this world, and not be so attached to earthly life that they forget or reject the Kingdom they have been given. He calls us to "hate" our life in this world, meaning that we don't cling to it and concentrate on it as if were the whole of life. If we always remember where wholeness really is, we will have eternal life with Him. We will be honored by the Father Himself.

Jesus expresses, as He will again in the Garden of Gethsemane, the troubling of His soul as He faces the end of His

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.

life on earth. He knows that humiliation and suffering are coming. But He goes on, "And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify Thy name." At this, the crowd hears a voice like thunder coming from heaven and saying, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." That glorification will come in only one way, as Jesus then says:

"...I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." This lifting up from the earth refers to His death on the cross as well as His reunion with the Father in " the glory which I had with Thee before the world was made" (17: 5).

Though the heavenly voice has come, Jesus tells the people, "for your sake and not for Mine," they still don't understand. They ask, "We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains for ever. How can you say that the Son of man must be lifted up?"

Jesus does not remind them that the Old Testament ("the Law") prophesies the death of the Christ, the Messiah. He simply urges them to "walk while you have the light, lest the darkness overtake you." Simple, stark, and urgent words for every one of us to take to heart.



Announcements

◆ The next **Board of Trustees' Meeting** is this Tuesday, May 19th at 7pm.

◆ **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**, followed by **Panikhida for all departed parishioners**. On **Sunday**, the **Hierarchical 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.

◆ A **new set of Icons** that our church is getting has already been offered. 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 hand-made wooden case with glass to hold the icons. All is made in the USA. You still have chance to offer the kiot in honor or in memory of your loved ones (\$250). After the kiot is offered, the set will be blessed and dedicated on one of the Sundays at the end of the Divine Liturgy. For more information please speak to Fr. Igor or Betty Czech.

Welcome Visitors

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 in our Church Hall after the service.



May 17, 2015

6th SUNDAY OF PASCHA

Blind Man

- **8:50am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Acts 16:16-34
Gospel: Jn. 9:1-38
- **Fellowship** – everyone is invited for Coffee Hour following the Divine Liturgy

Schedule of Services

WED. MAY 20

6:00pm - Great Vespers with Litya

THUR. MAY 21 - ASCENSION OF THE LORD

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, MAY 23

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, MAY 24

9:00am - Divine Liturgy & Panikhida in memory of the departed soldiers and veterans of our parish.