

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
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ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

A Man Who Gave Second Chances

On June 11 the Church remembers two of the Holy Apostles. One is Bartholomew, and the other is Barnabas, companion of Saint Paul.

Barnabas was born in Cyprus into a Jewish family of the tribe of Levi. His birth name was Joseph. He was a friend and classmate of Saint Paul, then called Saul. They both studied under Gamaliel, the prominent rabbi and teacher of the Jewish Law. Joseph saw and heard Jesus Christ, and came to believe in Him as the Savior of the world. He would eventually be chosen as one of the original seventy apostles because of his great zeal for the Gospel.

We first read about Barnabas in Acts 4: 36. Those verses describe the sacrifice the early Christians made, selling their property and offering the proceeds to serve the needs of all. But only Joseph, "who was surnamed by the apostles Barnabas," is specifically named, so he must have stood out. The name Barnabas means "son of encouragement" and it seems appropriate from the other things we know about him.

In Acts 9 we read about Saint Paul, now converted from a murderous enemy of the faith to a believer. He comes to Jerusalem, hoping to join the disciples. But "they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple." Again, Barnabas is named specifically, and is apparently the only one willing to give Paul a second chance. He convinces the others by telling them that "at Damascus he (Paul) had preached boldly in the name of the Lord" (9: 27).

Barnabas went to Antioch to observe the preaching to non-Jews in the community there. He was glad to see the grace of

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.

God working, and urged the people to "remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose" (11: 23). Then he brought Paul from Tarsus to Antioch, where they taught a "large company" together for about a year. This is where we read that "in Antioch the disciples were for the first time called Christians."

Paul and Barnabas continued their missionary work, accompanied by Barnabas' relative John Mark. But when they got to Perga, John Mark left them to return to Jerusalem. Later, Paul suggested to Barnabas that they return to the cities where they had preached, to "see how they are" (15: 36). Barnabas, again giving someone a second chance, proposed that they take John Mark with them. But Paul refused because of the earlier desertion, and the two parted ways. They were later reconciled, and it seems likely that Barnabas' kind nature was the key to healing the split.

On this same day we read Paul's words in Romans 5: 10 about reconciliation: "For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life." Paul must have been glad to have a partner like Barnabas, who always urged him toward reconciliation and the peace it brings.

Birthday Greetings

Happy 1st birthday to **Sofia Kseniuk**, June 12, and happy birthday to **Kerri Czech**, June 13. May God grant both of you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!



Announcements

◆ Tomorrow, Monday, June 8 is the beginning of the **Apostles' (Ss. Peter and Paul) Fast**.

◆ **The 90th Anniversary of our parish** is next weekend! On **June 13-14, 2015**, 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. We are looking forward to see you next weekend.

◆ Fr. Igor will be away for vacation from June 16 to July 9. In his absence, Archpriest Fr. John Nehrebecki will serve Saturday Vespers and the Divine Liturgies on Sundays. In case of emergency, please contact Fr. Stephen Evanina at 973-777-2906.

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.



June 7, 2015

1st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
All Saints

- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Heb. 11:33-12:2
Gospel: Mt. 10:32-33,37-38;
19:27-30
- **Panikhida** – in memory of grandfather **George Cereguas** and mother **Olga Koziel**, offered by Patricia Galley.
- **Fellowship** – everyone is invited for Coffee Hour following the service.

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

6:00pm - Great Vespers followed by Panikhida for all departed parishioners

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR PARISH

9:00am - Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
1:00pm - Banquet at "The Brownstone"