

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

Standing Up to Those in Power

On August 2nd we remember two men who, in different times and places and in very different ways, bravely confronted those in power. They are the Righteous Gamaliel and St. Basil, fool for Christ.

We meet Gamaliel in the Book of Acts (5: 34-39). He was a Pharisee, and was Saint Paul's teacher. Paul emphasizes the high quality of his education in the Jewish faith by saying he was "brought up...at the feet of Gamaliel" (22:3). That would impress everyone, for Gamaliel was "held in honor by all the people" (5:34).

And Gamaliel himself was impressive in his deliberate, sensible way of thinking. When others were so enraged at the preaching of Peter and the other apostles that they wanted to kill them, Gamaliel stood against his fellow members of the body of spiritual elders, the powerful Sanhedrin. He recognized that the teaching of the apostles might be "of God" and warned the elders that if it is, they would "not be able to overthrow them."

The elders took his advice, and freed the apostles (who would bravely disregard their order to refrain from further preaching in Jesus' name.) Gamaliel's cool, reflective manner was effective, but it is very different from that of another man who confronted power: Basil, the holy fool.

Many people, at least the Orthodox and those who have visited Moscow, know that the beautiful church in the Kremlin is named Saint Basil's Cathedral. But some aren't aware that it is not named for Saint Basil the Great, the fourth-century Church father. The "Basil" it is named for, was born in the 15th century, to a poor family who lived near Moscow.



August 2, 2015

9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 1Cor. 3:9-17
Gospel: Mt. 14:22-34
- **Panikhida** – in memory of **Helen Bonk**, on the 40th day of her repose, offered by Beckmann family.
- **Fellowship** – everyone is invited for Coffee Hour following the service.

Schedule of Services

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

6:00pm - Vespers & Blessing of Fruits

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6 – TRANSFIGURATION

9:00am - Liturgy & Blessing of Fruits

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

1:30pm - 3:00pm - Parish Confessions

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

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

After spending some time in the family work of shoemaking, he went to the big city, and lived primitively, wearing little clothing and utterly ignoring the rules of "polite society." He challenged those who cheated others or failed to help the poor, and confronted people openly with their sins.

But everything he did was for others' salvation, as when he entered low, stinking taverns to minister lovingly to enslaved by drunkenness. While some people derided and abused him, many others recognized what he was doing and revered him.

Among these admirers was the Tsar himself, the ruler known as Ivan the Terrible. Saint Basil was able to scold the Tsar for letting his mind wander in church without making him angry; in fact, Ivan was greatly in awe of this man who could read his thoughts.

Once during Great Lent, Basil offered the Tsar some meat. Ivan was shocked, and refused, saying that of course he did not eat flesh during the Fast. Basil replied that it mattered little whether he actually ate flesh, since he had killed so many people. In this way he urged Ivan to repent; his challenge to Ivan was a brave act of love. That kind of bravery – standing for truth against powerful forces – is the reason why these two men are remembered by the Church on this day.

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Andrew Fabian**, who celebrates his birthday this Wednesday. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!

Congratulation

Congratulations and best wishes to **Steve & Stacy Baron Anderson** on the birth of their daughter Brielle, born July 24. May God grant good health and Many Years to all of you and to proud grandparents **Steven & Helen Baron**.

Announcements

◆ **Dormition Fast** started this Saturday, Aug. 1 and will last until August 15. For two weeks we keep fasting in honor of the Falling Asleep of the Most Holy Theotokos. **Parish Confessions** for this fast are scheduled for this coming Saturday, Aug. 8 from 1:30pm - 3:00pm. Please arrive by 2:30pm.

◆ Save the date: **Annual Diocesan Youth Day** at Six Flags Great Adventure is scheduled for Thursday, August 20, 2015. For more information and how to register, please see a flyer at the bulletin board.

◆ **Enjoy your vacation** but remember to visit the Orthodox Church at your destination. To search for a local parish go to <http://orthodoxyinamerica.org> and enter your location in the search panel. Have a wonderful and safe rest of the summer!

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.