

# 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

## Godly Grief and Worldly Grief

**On August 12<sup>th</sup> we read II Corinthians 7:1-10, in which Saint Paul expresses his joy at being reconciled with the believers who belong to the church in Corinth.**

There had been a serious breach between Paul and the Corinthian Christians. When a member of the church leveled false accusations against him, some of the other members sided with the accuser, causing Paul great pain not only personally but also because of his concern for the salvation of anyone who would take part in slander.

Now, however, the accuser has repented and has been punished by the majority of the church's members in some way that isn't described. It was apparently not the most serious punishment they could have meted out, since other members wanted to impose a more severe penalty on him. But Paul has shown his loving and generous heart by advising the Corinthians now to "turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow" (2:6).

It has been an unpleasant period for Paul. He writes of being "afflicted at every turn—fighting without and fear within" (7:5). The "fighting" probably refers to difficult confrontations not only with pagans but with some in the Macedonian churches. The inner "fear" refers to his uncertainty about the Corinthians. He had written them a "stern letter" about the accusations against him, and is not sure how they have taken it. We see that, like many of us, Paul is not always sure he has done the right thing. He says, "For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it (though I did regret it), for I see that that letter grieved you..." (7:8).

## 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.

*Paul's momentary regret at having written the letter is overcome by his love and care for the Corinthians. He is relieved and glad that the church members want reconciliation, but rejoices even more that the letter did what he hoped it would: it "grieved" them in a way that led to repentance. Here Paul writes about the distinction between godly grief and worldly grief.*

*Godly grief leads us to realize we have sinned not just against other people, but against God. We put ourselves under judgment, we repent, and then we can turn from the sin we now hate and trust God to guide us and forgive us. This grief enables us, like the Corinthians, to be reconciled with everyone.*

*Worldly grief makes us regret our sin because it pains us—it brings us punishment, or upsets our life. We don't recognize that in sinning we are opposing and rejecting God, and so we work to escape the pain, but not to turn toward God.*

*Paul could hardly be more blunt about the difference between the two kinds of grief. Worldly grief leads, quite simply, to death. But godly grief, the kind he was so happy to see in the Corinthians, "produces a repentance that leads to salvation and brings no regret" (7:10).*

## Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Kathy Lazorczyk**, who celebrates her birthday tomorrow, **Gregory Kary**, this Wednesday, **Patricia Galley**, this Friday, and **Marilyn Stagen**, this Saturday. May God grant all of you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!

## Announcements

◆ **Dormition Fast** started this Saturday, August 1 and will last until this Saturday, August 15, which is the Feast of Dormition of the Most-Holy Theotokos. For two weeks we keep fasting in honor of the Falling Asleep of the Mother of God. If you did not have a chance to have your private confession yet, please speak to Father Igor, or have it after any Vespers service. Flowers and herbs for the Feast of Dormition will be blessed at the Great Vespers on August 14, as well as at the end of the Divine Liturgy on the day of the Feast.

◆ 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.



August 9, 2015

**10<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**Afterfeast of Transfiguration**  
**Ven. Herman of Alaska**

- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: 1Cor. 4:9-16  
Gal. 5:22-6:2 (Saint)  
Gospel: Mt. 17:14-23  
Lk. 6:17-23 (Saint)
- **Coffee Hour** following the service.

## Schedule of Services

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

6:00pm - Great Vespers with Litya and Blessing of Flowers and Herbs

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 15 – DORMITION OF THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS

9:00am - Divine Liturgy and Blessing of Flowers and Herbs

6:00pm - Great Vespers

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

9:00am - Divine Liturgy