

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 Monk Dostoyevsky Most Admired

On October 10 we remember Saint Ambrose of Optina, who lived from 1812 to 1891. The Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoevsky said that Saint Ambrose was the model for the character of Father Zossima in his novel "The Brothers Karamazov."

The Optina Monastery was frequented by pilgrims and seekers because it was well-known for the wisdom of its spiritual directors. Dostoevsky came to the monastery in profound sorrow after the death of his young son in 1878. His meeting with Father Ambrose deeply affected him. But the novelist was only one of countless people who received spiritual nurture from Father Ambrose' loving words of guidance.

Born into a priestly family, Alexander (his birth name) had a lively, outgoing nature and liked jokes and word play. He was bright, and did very well as a seminary student, but serious illness struck him just before graduation. He made a promise to God that if he recovered, he would become a monk.

Perhaps it was his lighthearted nature that made him completely seem to forget his promise for quite a while after he regained his health. But one evening, an especially enjoyable one filled with laughter and good company, Alexander was struck by the superficiality of his life. The very next morning, telling hardly anyone, he set out for Optina. It was October of 1839.

Alexander received monastic tonsure in 1842, and was given the name Ambrose in honor of Saint Ambrose of Milan. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1845, and served the Divine Liturgy with joy and reverence. Not long after, though, he again became



October 11, 2015

19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Commemoration of the Fathers of the
7th Ecumenical Council

- **8:50am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 2Cor. 11:31-12:9
Heb. 13:7-16(Fathers)
Gospel: Lk. 7:11-16
Jn. 17:1-13 (Fathers)
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for a fellowship following the service.

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

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.

ill, and in the years that followed his health continued to deteriorate.

In spite of this, however, he became the Elder of the monastery when the revered Father Macarius died in 1860 without naming a successor. By this time, Ambrose had become well-known throughout Russia as a spiritual guide, and so many people came to speak with him that they would wait in long lines. His schedule would have been fatiguing for a person in good health, but Father Ambrose was so ill that sometimes he had to receive people hour after hour while lying down, because he was too weak to get up. Yet he never turned people away, and always listened intently. Often he would tell people their own deepest thoughts, having seen into their hearts even before they had said a word.

In 1884, Father Ambrose founded the Shamordino Monastery for women near Optina. In 1891, visiting the monastery, he continued to receive those who wished to speak with him. But in the fall of that year, his health failed completely, and he died. His funeral, attended by crowds of people, was held at Optina, and he is buried there.

Father Ambrose left many good sayings. One which especially seems to reflect his thoughts about life is this: "We must live on earth just as a wheel turns, with only one point on the ground while the rest reaches out and upward."

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to **Elena Kibitelsky** whose birthday is tomorrow, **Anna Rozanovich** and **Ed Junda**, both this Thursday. May God grant all of you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!



Announcements

◆ The **Choir Appreciation Dinner** will be held on **Sunday, October 18** at **Dalto Ristorante Italiano** in Clifton. For more information see Maryann Stagen.

◆ Please help us to fill **Thanksgiving Baskets** for those in need. Turkeys, stuffing, gravy, and cans of vegetables, fruits, soup, and cranberry sauce are needed. Or, you may prefer to give a monetary donation, and we will shop for you. Please bring in your donations by Sunday, November 15, to give us enough time to put the baskets together and prepare them for distribution to our neighbors in need. It is important that we all be a part of this ministry, and show that we are true followers of Jesus Christ and follow His teachings.

◆ If you would like to share some **information**, like announcements, Anniversaries/Birthdays/events etc. **in the weekly bulletin**, please call the Rectory or email it by Tuesday of the week that you would like to have it printed to Fr.IgorKsn@gmail.com

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.