

# 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

## Like a Thief in the Night

**Most of us are familiar with the prayer, "The Father is my hope, the Son is my refuge, the Holy Spirit is my protection." On November 4<sup>th</sup> we remember Saint Joannicius, who created the prayer as a refrain after singing Psalm verses.**

Born into extreme poverty in a Bithynian village in the year 752, Joannicius had to spend much of his youth tending and guarding the family's only valuable possession: their herd of cattle. But from the time he was very young he had a strong desire to pray in solitude, and seems to have been blessed to do so. Often he would make the sign of the cross over the herd and retreat for hours to a secluded place to pray. Never once were the cattle bothered by predators; not one animal was ever stolen or found far from the rest, having wandered off.

Like many other young men of his time, Joannicius was drafted into the Emperor's army. Husky and strong, he proved to be a valiant soldier despite his love of solitude and peace, and served for several years. But even though he was well-liked and was respected for his courage, he longed for the life of quiet prayer he had always loved. After leaving military service, he went to a monastery near Mount Olympus and became practiced in the monastic way of living. Finally he went to a more secluded place in the wilderness, and after many years spent alone and in great spiritual effort, he was tonsured a monk.

But Saint Joannicius did not ignore, or retreat from, the troubles of the Church. Living as he did during the turbulent iconoclastic controversy, he at first supported those who denied

## 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, Mary Fehisin, Nancy Filak, Mary Hadginske, Helen Kurnewitz, Margaret Lawler, Kathleen Lazarczyk, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Anatoly & Anna Rozanovich, Nadia Sojka, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

that icons should be honored. But once he saw that the Church's Tradition includes reverence toward the holy images, he humbly admitted that he had been wrong. He became a champion of icon veneration.

During his years of ascetical labors, Joannicius was granted many spiritual gifts. He was a wonderworker who healed many people, foretold events, and was able to tame wild beasts. Sources tell us that he could make himself invisible to people if by doing so he could help someone in need. Once he led a group of captives out of prison right in front of their guards.

On this day we read I Thessalonians 5:1-8. In this passage Saint Paul assures believers that the Lord will come again, and that they will be with Him forever. But he also tells them that they have no need to know the "times and the seasons" of the Lord's coming. It is noteworthy that Joannicius, blessed with so many insights, never speculated about the specific time when Jesus Christ would come again. For him it was enough to know that the Lord will, in Paul's words, come "like a thief in the night." There is nothing in that to fear because we "belong to the day" and are destined by God not for wrath, but for salvation.

## Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to **Daria Kibitelsky**, who celebrates her birthday this Thursday. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!

## Floral Offerings

Beautiful Fall flowers for the Feast of St. Demetrius were given by **Maryann Stagen** in memory of Wedding Anniversary of her parents, **Mary and John Stagen**.

## Announcements

- ◆ The Assumption Church in Clifton will be celebrating its **80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** next weekend, **November 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>**. For details please see a flyer at the bulletin board.
- ◆ The **Annual Diocesan Assembly** will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, **November 10 & 11, 2015** at **Saints Peter and Paul Church, South River, NJ**. As a special guest, His Eminence has invited His Beatitude, Tikhon, Archbishop of Washington and Metropolitan of All America and Canada to the Assembly. For more information visit our Diocesan website [nynjoca.org](http://nynjoca.org).
- ◆ On **November 12<sup>th</sup>**, the very first public concert of the **Chamber Choir of St. Tikhon's Monastery** will take place in New York City. The event will be held at the Church of St. John Nepomucene, 411 East 66<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door or may be ordered online at the choir's website, [www.MonasteryChamberChoir.com](http://www.MonasteryChamberChoir.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.



November 1, 2015

### 22<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Holy Wonderworkers and Unmercenaries  
Cosmas and Damian

- **8:50am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: Gal. 6:11-18  
Gospel: Lk. 8:26-39
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for a fellowship following the service.

## Schedule of Services

### SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7

6:00pm - Great Vespers with Litya,  
General Confession

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8 – ARCHANGEL

#### MICHAEL & ALL BODILESS POWERS

9:00am - Divine Liturgy