

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

Rigor and Gentleness

On November 24th we read I Timothy 5:22-6:11. This letter is one of a group of three (the others are II Timothy and Titus) called the Pastoral Epistles. They are meant to guide a young man in leading his flock, and to warn him about problems he will face in the Church.

In the first few verses of the passage we see uncompromising instruction followed immediately by compassionate concern. Timothy is admonished not to be hasty in the "laying on of hands", which may have to do with ordination or with the reinstatement into the Church's sacramental life of people who have repented of sin. In either case, it is a serious responsibility, calling for sound judgment and careful deliberation. The words are sober and forceful.

But in the very next verse, the words become almost motherly in tone: "No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments." This is an unabashedly personal, loving expression of care for another "worker in Christ's vineyard." The early followers of Our Lord understood the difficulties and demands of leadership, as well as the stress and anxiety it could cause. They were, with few exceptions, supportive of each other and ready to help, to advise, and to encourage.

Chapter 6 begins by addressing the relations between slaves and masters. It shows how particularly difficult life was for a slave who was a Christian and had a "believing master." The words warn slaves not to assume that they can behave casually toward their masters because those masters are their brothers in Christ. Slaves are told only to serve "all the better" because as believers their masters are God's beloved. This is a rigorous requirement

Intercessory Prayers

We pray for all our fellow parishioners, and we pray especially for those who are incapable of being with us in church. Please keep in your prayers our Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Genevieve Bobenko, Mary Fehisin, Nancy Filak, Mary Hadginske, Helen Kurnewitz, Margaret Lawler, Kathleen Lazorczyk, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Anatoly & Anna Rozanovich, Nadia Sojka, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

for the one in servitude, yet it gives slaves a high spiritual purpose: to serve with dedication and by so doing make sure that "the name of God and the teaching may not be defamed."

Verse 10 contains some well-known words: "The love of money is the root of all evil." This terse statement also sets a rigorous standard concerning the appropriate Christian attitude toward wealth. But the words that directly follow are not so well-known, and once again they reflect a gentle concern for those who have fallen into the trap of caring too much for money: "...it is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced their hearts with many pangs." This is not condemnation, but sincere compassion for people who are overwhelmed by something that is not good for them. If Christians are called to follow certain principles rigorously, it is because worldly temptations will cause them suffering if they do not.

The next verse ends the reading. It is another exhortation to young Christian leaders to be strong and to set a good example. They are encouraged to "aim at" six things. The six are righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, and, like a "cap" to all the rest, gentleness.

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to **Mirek Szeszawicki**, who celebrates his birthday this Saturday. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many Years!



Announcements

◆ **TIME CHANGE:** Please note that starting this Saturday, November 28 and until the Daylight Saving Time starts on March 13, 2016, **ALL VESPERS services will begin at 5:00pm.**

◆ The Sisterhood of St. Barbara of the Assumption Church in Clifton will be hosting **St. Nicholas Day Fish Dinner** on **Saturday, December 5th**. For tickets please call Olga Grib, 973-471-3678.

◆ Helen Baron, our Food Pantry Coordinator, thanks everyone for their help in supplying food for the Thanksgiving baskets, however, please continue your support. Please help us to help our neighbors in need. May God bless you for your generosity!

◆ 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

Our Deepest Sympathy

to family and friends of **Joseph Yaschur**, who passed away on November 17, 2015 at the age of 93. May he rest in peace in God's Heavenly Kingdom! Memory Eternal!



November 22, 2015

25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Afterfeast of the Entry
NATIVITY FAST

- **8:50am** – Hours
 - **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
- Epistle: Eph. 4:1-6
Gospel: Lk. 12:16-21
- **Molieben of Thanksgiving**
 - **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for a fellowship following the service.

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28
5:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29
9:00am - Divine Liturgy