

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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CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

PRAYER: Basic of Our Christian Life

"Would that you were hot or cold!" we read in Revelation 3: 16. Zeal – ardent dedication – is a good quality for Christians to have. We are meant to be zealous and "on fire" for Christ, rather than lukewarm and half-hearted. Today we remember one of the twelve apostles, Simon, called "the Zealot" because he was so dedicated to preaching the Gospel that he traveled to Africa, and later accepted martyrdom.

Like Simon, the apostle Peter did great things. We read today how he carried on the work of Christ, who healed the paralytic at the pool of Bethesda, by raising the paralyzed Aeneas, and then bringing back from the dead Tabitha (Dorcas in Greek), who was a model of generous service.

Prayer is the basis of our efforts to emulate Simon the Zealot, Peter, Tabitha, and many others. A resource to help our teens build their own prayer life, and to be zealous for God, is always welcome, and a recent book is such a resource.

Hear Me: A Prayerbook for Orthodox Teens, compiled and edited by Annalisa Boyd, has only 87 pages, but they offer thought-provoking and enlightening guidance. The first part of the book contains daily prayers for morning, midday and evening. They are not so lengthy as to be overwhelming, but are long enough to require concentration and effort.

The daily prayers include, along with Orthodox texts, prayers of Saint Patrick and Saint Augustine. These will remind our teens that many Western saints, whose names may be familiar to them, appear in the Orthodox calendar. There is also an invitation to add personal "prayers, praises and requests" and space for filling in names of people to be prayed for.

The next part of the book, "Declaration of Dependence", gives

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 Fechisin, Edward Fedush, Mary Hadginske, Helen Kurnewitz, Margaret Lawler, Kathleen Lazorzcyk, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Nadia Sojka, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

readers something to think about for each of the Ten Commandments, as a way of preparing for Confession. For example, the first Commandment that "You shall have no other gods before Me" is followed by these words: "Many of us have gods in our lives that we don't even know about: money, popularity, fashion, possessions." Then there is a series of questions to consider. The author might have done more, in her treatment of the fourth Commandment, to define "Sabbath" in the Orthodox understanding.

The book lists seven deadly sins as "poisons" with a list of synonyms for each one. Teen readers will probably understand better what "anger" is when they see the words tantrum, impatience, blowing up and violence associated with it. As "weapons" against anger and other sins, virtues with their own synonyms are listed next. The book gives guidance in praying with Scripture, and suggests asking for the intercession of particular saints in problems that teens might face.

There are also suggestions for talking to others about Orthodoxy (gently but with zeal) and a final section offering brief but thoughtful and compassionate discussions of common teen issues. "Hear Me" is available from Conciliar Press Ministries at <http://www.conciliarpress.com> or 1(800)967-7377.

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Dorothy Fabian**, who celebrates her birthday this Tuesday, and to **Richard Paul Rahnefeld**, this Friday. May God grant both of you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!



Announcements

◆ Next **Sunday, May 29**, there will be a special collection to benefit **St. Andrew's Camp** in Jewel, NY. The camp offers a unique and exceptional summer experience in a sleep-over environment where the Orthodox faith, fun, and fellowship are nurtured for children and teens. There are 2 cabins (a large "dorm" and a smaller cabin) to house the boys; in both of these buildings new equipment is needed. The cost of these renovations will be \$15,000 and they have to be completed before the camping season begins. Your support of this good cause will be greatly appreciated.

◆ The **Food Pantry** is always in need of food items. Please keep those less fortunate in mind and help us to feed those in need. A basket is in the vestibule of the church for your convenience. May God bless you abundantly for your generosity.

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.



May 22, 2016

4th SUNDAY OF PASCHA
Sunday of Paralytic

- 8:50am – Hours
- 9:00am – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Acts 9:32-43
Gospel: Jn. 5:1-15
- **Panikhida** - in memory of **Archpriest Peter Kohanik**, on the 47th Anniversary of his repose
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for a fellowship following the service.

Schedule of Services

- SATURDAY, MAY 28**
6:00pm - Great Vespers
- SUNDAY, MAY 29**
9:00am - Divine Liturgy