

# 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!

## Following Jesus

Today we remember a woman who followed Jesus – the Samaritan Woman who met Christ while drawing water at Jacob's Well. She was surprised by His love and concern for her, since she was a Samaritan, with whom the Jews "had no dealings." She was further surprised by His knowledge of her crowded personal life.

But unlike some others, she was neither offended nor frightened by the depth of His insight, and so eventually she became His follower and strong witness. She is traditionally known by the name Photini. With her sons and sisters, she was arrested by the Emperor Nero and later suffered martyrdom, but not before she brought the cruel emperor's own daughter to the faith.

A few years ago, Newsweek Magazine, as well as other more academic publications, trumpeted the news of a "remarkable discovery" concerning another of Christ's female followers. The discovery was made by a feminist professor of Christian Studies at Brandeis University. By reading older versions of the Bible, this professor had found out that the person mentioned by Saint Paul in Romans 16:7 is a woman named Junia, not a man named Junius. According to the Newsweek article, her name had been "masculinized" over the centuries by Biblical translators "with their own agenda" – presumably a misogynistic agenda.

But Saint John Chrysostom, in the fourth century, wrote this about Junia: "Oh, how great is the devotion of this woman, that she should be counted worthy even to be called an apostle." The so-called discovery of Junia's identity as a female really reflects only incomplete knowledge and superficial research on the part of some modern scholars, not a brave uncovering of deliberately-

## 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 Lazarczyk, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Nadia Sojka, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

hidden truth.

Saint Paul writes about Junia with obvious admiration, calling her and her husband his "countrymen and fellow prisoners" and saying that they are "of note among the apostles." He also writes that they were both Christians before he was. One modern scholar who is reliable and respected, Ben Witherington, has speculated that Junia is the same person as Joanna, one of the Myrrh-Bearing Women. He believes it is possible that she broke with her first husband Chuza (King Herod's steward) and later married Andronicus. Then together they worked with Paul to spread the Gospel and teach.

But whether Junia is Joanna or a different person really makes little difference. She is honored this month as someone who, like the Samaritan Woman, believed in Jesus Christ deeply enough to be imprisoned for her faith. She is recognized as His apostle.

The Orthodox Church has never hidden or attempted to alter facts about Junia. As we have noted, Saint John Chrysostom singles her out for praise. And the reason she comes to our attention in the first place is that Saint Paul does the same. He appreciated any person – woman or man – who shared his dedication and readiness to suffer for Christ. Junia is a shining example of just such a person.

## Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Michael Bzik**, and to **Eileen Bowne**, who celebrate their birthdays this Friday. May God grant both of you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!



## Announcements

◆ Today we have 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 is 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 29, 2016

5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF PASCHA  
Samaritan Woman

- **8:50am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: Acts 11:19-26, 29-30  
Gospel: Jn. 4:5-42
- **Panikhida** - in memory of **Nancy Filak**, on the 40<sup>th</sup> day of her repose, offered by Mary Ann Dolak.
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for a fellowship following the service.

## Schedule of Services

- SATURDAY, JUNE 4**  
6:00pm - Great Vespers
- SUNDAY, JUNE 5**  
9:00am - Divine Liturgy