

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
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St Euphemia Gives the Answer

When 630 church leaders gathered at the Council of Chalcedon in the year 451, their meeting place was the cathedral dedicated to Saint Euphemia. When they struggled unsuccessfully to resolve a very serious disagreement they turned to her, in a surprising way, for the solution.

Euphemia was born in Chalcedon, to a senator and his wife. From her early years she was determined to dedicate her life to Christ in virginity rather than marrying and having children. The pagan governor of Chalcedon demanded that all citizens gather to worship and sacrifice to the gods. Christians refused, and came together secretly for worship and prayers. One day, Euphemia was discovered among a group of Christians worshipping in a house.

The soldiers in charge of arresting the Christians tried to flatter her, and to talk her into worshipping the pagan gods. "Don't throw your life away," they told her. "You are young and pretty. Is it such a serious matter to say a few prayers to the temple gods?"

Euphemia answered at once, "We are not fools. We know the difference between your lifeless statues and the true, living God we worship. Don't waste your time trying to convince us to change our minds!"

The soldiers saw that Euphemia gained courage from her fellow Christians. She was the youngest of the group. Perhaps, they thought, she would weaken without the others' support. She might then reveal the names of more Christians whom they could track down and arrest.

So they took Euphemia, alone, to be interrogated. She was cruelly tortured, and died in the arena where Christians often suffered during gladiatorial games. It was about the year 307.



July 10, 2016

3rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Ven. Anthony of the Kiev Caves,
Founder of Monasticism in Rus'

- 8:50am – Hours
- 9:00am – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Rom. 5:1-10
Gospel: Mt. 6:22-33
- Coffee Hour – everyone is invited for a fellowship following the service.

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, JULY 16
6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, JULY 17
8:30am - General confession
8:50am - Hours
9:00am - Divine Liturgy

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, Andrew Fabian, 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.

Her fellow Christians built a beautiful cathedral over her grave, and that was where the Council of Chalcedon met, 144 years later.

The meeting didn't go smoothly because the delegates were divided on a central issue. The monophysites said that if Christ is one Person, He must have only one nature. The Orthodox insisted that Christ is one Person having two perfectly united natures.

It was finally decided that each group would write a "confession of faith" telling what they believed, on a scroll. The two scrolls were sealed and placed in the tomb of the cathedral's patron, Saint Euphemia. A guard watched over the tomb for three days, while the delegates fasted and prayed.

When the tomb was opened, the scroll detailing the Orthodox position was in Euphemia's right hand, and the other scroll lay at her feet. Euphemia had given the answer: Christ is one Person in two unconfused, undivided and inseparable natures.

In Rovinj, Croatia you can climb to the highest point in the city, the top of the Tower of Saint Euphemia. A statue of the saint revolves on the tower. As it turns, the statue's right hand shows which way the wind is blowing, just as Saint Euphemia's right hand showed the way of belief so many centuries ago.

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Kathy Cahayla**, who celebrates her birthday today, **Peggy Kovalycsik**, tomorrow, and **Vladimir Nehrebecki**, this Friday. May God grant all of you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!



Announcements

◆ This Summer our Diocese will sponsor a seminar-workshop on outreach to African-Americans led by Deacon Turbo Qualls and Father Alexei Altschul of the Brotherhood of Saint Moses the Black. The seminar is this coming **Saturday, July 16, 2016 at Ss Peter & Paul Church in Manville NJ**; it includes lunch and concludes with Vespers. While designed primarily for clergy, lay ministry leaders and interested laymen are encouraged to attend. The conference is free of charge. A number of African-American laymen and pastors interested in journeying toward Holy Orthodoxy will also be in attendance. For more information please see a flyer at the bulletin board.

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.