

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

170 Lexington Avenue, Passaic, New Jersey, 07055
www.stjohnspassaic.org

REV. FR. IGOR KSENIUK, Rector

973-473-1928 (Phone/Fax)
646-387-5494 (cell)
fr.igorksn@gmail.com

Department of
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

Wait On The Lord

Some popular stand-up comedians have recently taken to upbraiding the God of the Old Testament. He is, they complain in their routines, ruthless. He is unpredictable. He is – especially in the case of Moses – distinctly unfair. One comic recently declared, as he strode across the stage with his microphone and cigarette, that it wasn't right that Moses should be kept from entering the Promised Land. After all, he had done many good and courageous things for God.

The Feast of the Transfiguration this week gives us a chance to reflect on this comic's declaration. On the day before the Feast we remember a woman who also can encourage us to think about God's "fairness." She is Saint Nonna, the mother of Saint Gregory the Theologian and a woman who knew the efficacy of heartfelt prayer.

Nonna, a dedicated Christian, was married to a pagan man. Her husband's lack of belief was a source of pain for many years, but she kept praying for his enlightenment. Though it took a long time, Nonna's husband did become a Christian, and eventually was made bishop of the city of Nazianzus. Nonna was a female deacon. One of the duties of deaconesses was to help and guide Christian women married to pagans. So she may well have been a strong support to other women in her same circumstances. In addition, of course, she was the influential mother of one of the Church's greatest saints.

But Nonna had to wait on the Lord. Her husband's conversion came only after long years of faithful prayer. She had to trust God, and believe that He would choose the right time to turn her husband to the faith.



July 31, 2016

6th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Forefeast of the Procession of the Honorable and Lifegiving Cross of the Lord

- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Rom. 12:6-14
Gospel: Mt. 9:1-8
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for a fellowship following the service.

Schedule of Services

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5
6:00pm - Great Vespers with Litya & Blessing of Fruits (call Rectory to confirm)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6 - TRANSFIGURATION
9:00am - Liturgy & Blessing of Fruits
6:00pm - Great Vespers (call Rectory to confirm)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7
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 you 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.

We Christians have a similar trust in God's intention for His beloved prophet Moses. For us, unlike the comedians who complain of the unfair way God treated him, Moses' story does not end with the Lord's words in Deuteronomy 34:4, when He tells Moses, "I have let you see it [the Promised Land] with your eyes, but you shall not go over there." At the Feast of the Transfiguration, we will see him again.

Not only will we see Moses, but he will be standing with the Lord in His glory, representing the Law and all those who have died. Moses will show us the eternal life that God intends for all of us.

Nonna in her lifetime never doubted that the Lord would answer her prayers for her husband. Moses wasn't allowed to enter the Promised Land, but he was given the great gift of standing before the whole universe in the Lord's transfigured presence. When we are tempted to wonder about God's providence, or His "fairness", we can look to the pious example of Nonna. We can study the icon that shows us the mountaintop appearance of Moses long after his earthly death. They remind us of what it means to wait on the Lord.

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Nicholas Bzik**, who celebrates his birthday this Tuesday, and to **Andrew Fabian**, this Friday. May God grant both of you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!

Congratulation

Congratulation and best wishes to **Kristin Cahayla-Hoffmann & Jason Hoffmann** on the birth of their son **Joshua**, born July 23. May God grant good health, happiness, and Many Years to all of you and to proud grandparents **Gregory & Kathy Cahayla**.



Announcements

◆ **Dormition Fast** begins tomorrow, August 1, and will last until August 15. For two weeks we keep fasting in honor of the Falling Asleep of the Most Holy Theotokos. **Parish Confessions** for this fast are scheduled for Saturday, August 13, 2016 at 5pm.

◆ Please note that due to a continuing problem with the air-conditioning system in our church, and if the hot weather continues, please call rectory or check our website to confirm if Vespers services on Friday and Saturday will be served. Divine Liturgies in the morning will be as usual starting at 9:00am. The problem is being worked as fast as can be, and, if the company is to be believed, the unit is scheduled to be fixed on August 8.

◆ Save the date: **2016 Annual Dept. of Christian Education Conference** will be held in our Deanery on Saturday, August 20 at Mother of God Mission in Princeton, NJ. All interested are welcome. For more information please see a flyer at the bulletin board.

◆ Save the date: **Annual Diocesan Youth Day** at Six Flags Great Adventure is scheduled for Thursday, August 25, 2016. For more information and how to register (**by August 15**) please see a flyer at the bulletin board.