

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

Saint Hilarion the Great

On Friday of this week we remember a saint who began life possessing many of the delights the world can offer, and willingly gave them all up. He is Saint Hilarion, who became one of the foremost ascetics of Palestine.

Born to pagan parents in a town called Thabatha, south of Gaza, Hilarion had a happy and relatively carefree childhood. He read and played music, enjoyed sports and games, and idled away hours with his friends. There was little to suggest that he would deny himself the pleasures of life as he grew up.

Hilarion's parents wanted to give him a good education along with his other advantages. They sent him to Alexandria in Egypt--a sophisticated city known for its libraries, schools, and excellent teachers--to study. It was then, as a student, that his life changed forever, and in ways his parents couldn't have anticipated.

Alexandria offered many forms of entertainment. A person could go to the theater, attend the circus, or shout with the crowds at violent, bloody contests in the arena. But Hilarion was unimpressed and even repelled by these. He found himself drawn instead to the assemblies of Christians who met often to worship. These people became his friends and his guides in the spiritual life.

Like everyone in Alexandria, Hilarion had heard about the famous monk who made his home in the forbidding Egyptian desert and lived a wonderfully simple, prayerful life there. The monk's name was Anthony, and before long Hilarion set out to visit him.

The visit changed young Hilarion's life forever. He stayed with Anthony for two months, and carefully observed everything the older man did -- his constant prayer, his extremely austere diet,

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

the gentle way he dealt with other people while being so strict in his own habits. Hilarion decided to begin a life modeled on Anthony's, and returned to Palestine. His parents were dead, so he quickly settled his affairs. Saint Jerome, who wrote an account of his life, described his efforts:

"With no other covering for his limbs but a shirt of sackcloth, and a cloak of skins which the blessed Anthony had given him when he set out, and a blanket of the coarsest sort, he found pleasure in the vast and terrible wilderness with the sea on one side and the marshland on the other. His food was only fifteen dried figs after sunset."

Like Anthony, Hilarion endured frightening and hideous demonic attacks. He was compelled to move frequently so as not to attract adoring followers, and constantly fought the temptations of his flesh and his lustful thoughts. But over the years he became a healer, a counselor, and a worker of miracles. He founded monasteries all over Palestine, instituting strict rules in each one. Hilarion's love of ease in his youth gave way to a love of the "narrow road" of monasticism which can seem harsh, but which has been the path of salvation for many men and women.

ΕΙΣ ΠΟΛΛΑ ΈΤΗ ΔΕΣΠΟΤΑ!

We lovingly welcome our dear Vladika, His Eminence, **Archbishop Michael, Bishop of New York and the Diocese of New York and New Jersey**. We also warmly welcome all clergy, matushki, and all friends of our parish. Thank you for joining us in prayer this morning. May God grant all of you good health and joy for Many Years! Mnohaya Lita!

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to **Dennis Maixner**, who celebrates his birthday this Friday; **Helena Rosanna Czech**, and **Matushka Anna Kseniuk**, both this Saturday. May God grant all of you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaya Lita!



Announcements

◆ **Church Musician Appreciation Sunday** will be celebrated on Sunday October 30, 2016. Additional prayers will be added during the Divine Liturgy for all choir members of our wonderful choir. We will also pray for the deceased choir members of our parish who used to glorify God with their beautiful voices. The Choir Appreciation Dinner will be held at 2:00pm at **Buco Ristorante** in Clifton. For more information please see Maryann Stagen.

◆ Now is the time to think of the **Thanksgiving food baskets** for our needy neighbors. We need turkeys, stuffing, gravy, and cans of vegetables, fruits, soups, and cranberry sauce. Or, if you prefer, you may give a monetary donation, and we will shop for you. Please bring in your donations by **Sunday, November 13**, to give us enough time to put the baskets together and prepare them for distribution. May God bless you for your generosity!



October 16, 2016

17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Holy Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council

Annual Archpastoral Visitation
by His Eminence Archbishop Michael

- **9:00am** – Greeting of His Eminence Archbishop Michael and the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

Epistles: 2 Cor. 6:16-7:1

Heb. 13:7-16 (Fathers)

Gospels: Lk. 8:5-15

Jn. 17:1-13 (Fathers)

- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for a fellowship following the service.

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22 – MEMORIAL (ST. DEMETRIUS) SATURDAY

9:00am - Divine Liturgy & Panikhida

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23

9:00am - Divine Liturgy