

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

Paul and his beloved Philippians

On Monday of this week we read the final verses of Saint Paul's letter to the Christians of Philippi (4: 10-23). Paul felt special affection for these people, whose church was the first he established in Europe, and who generously supported his ministry. He wrote the letter while awaiting trial in a Roman prison, yet joy and gratitude shine through his words.

The first few verses of this passage make it clear that the Philippians had been struggling financially and therefore had been unable to help Paul for some time. He acknowledges this by saying, "You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity." He gives God the glory for improving their circumstances and thus enabling them to send Epaphroditus with a gift for him.

Next Paul gives us insight into his life as an apostle. He gave up a great deal to preach Christ – and he does not regret it. He describes his state of mind and soul: "...I have learned, in whatever condition I am, to be content. I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and want."

Paul's words reflect the ideas of the Greek philosophers called Stoics, well-known in his day. They taught that a person must be guided by inner strength, not being affected by anything that happens outwardly. They claimed that in each person there is a "force" that can resist and conquer outward pressures. This view carries over to the Star Wars movies, with characters saying to each other, "May the Force be with you."

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

"But here Paul differs radically from the Stoics. For him there is no strong force in people. On our own we are only too susceptible to the world's evil. He depends entirely on God, and so his next words are, "I can do all things in Him who strengthens me."

Having expressed total reliance on God, Paul graciously makes sure the Philippians don't take that to mean that their gift is unimportant. He writes, "Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble." He assures them that God will repay their generosity; He "will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Jesus Christ."

Paul ends with a general greeting, rather than a list of salutations to specific people like those that appear in several other epistles. Probably he didn't wish to single out favorites among his beloved Philippians. He reminds them that "all the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household." Some Christians, evidently, served in Nero's (Caesar's) government. But more important is the reference to "all the saints." Paul is reminding the Philippians that they are part of one Church. Its members are scattered far and wide, but they all adore one Lord, and they all care for each other, just as Paul and the people of Philippi so clearly do.

Heartfelt Greetings

Happy Wedding Anniversary to **Nick and Peggy Kovalycsik**, who celebrate it this Tuesday. May God grant you many more wonderful years together, and may He bless you with good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!

Floral Offerings

Beautiful Fall flowers for the Feast of the Archangel Michael were given by Eva Stashitsky, in memory of her husband Michael, and by Maryann Stagen in memory of her grandfather John Korinda. Memory Eternal!

Announcements

◆ Saint Tikhon's Seminary will host a **Fall Vocations Retreat** on Friday and Saturday, November 11-12, 2016. The theme will be "St. John Chrysostom: Champion of the Priesthood." During the retreat, participants will have the opportunity to join with the seminary community and monastery brotherhood in prayer, tour the monastery and seminary grounds, hear talks and join in discussions about ministry and St. John Chrysostom, and meet the seminary's Dean, faculty, and students. Both women and men are encouraged to attend. There is no cost to participate in the retreat, which begins at 6:00 PM on Friday, November 11 and ends at 4:00 PM on Saturday, November 12. To register or to obtain more information, please contact the seminary at 570-561-1818, ext 101 or info@stots.edu.

◆ 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 next **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!



November 6, 2016

20th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- **8:50am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Gal. 1:11-19
Gospel: Lk. 8:41-56
- **Panikhida** – in memory of the Departed Veterans of our parish
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for a fellowship following the service.

Schedule of Services

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8 -
SYNAXIS OF THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL
& ALL BODILESS POWERS

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

6:00pm - Great Vespers followed by general confession

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

9:00am - Divine Liturgy