

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

St. John Chrysostom and Frozen River

Today our Church commemorates Saint John Chrysostom, who urged Christians to treat the poor as brothers and sisters who not only need but are entitled to their love and care. He would certainly be appalled at seeing people sleeping on cardboard on the sidewalks of our cities.

The 2008 movie "Frozen River" features two women who are dangerously close to sidewalk-sleeping poverty. To make money, they turn to illegally smuggling people in the trunk of their car, bringing them across an unpatrolled corridor of the frozen St. Lawrence River from Canada into the US.

One of the women is a young widow with a small baby. Family members have taken over the child's care, against her wishes, and she hopes to gather enough money to show that she can care for the baby herself. The other woman is the middle-aged mother of two boys. Their father has abandoned the family and taken all their money, leaving her in fear of losing everything.

The movie paints a convincing picture of lives filled with constant worry and the desperation which can cause people to turn to illegal means of getting money. Would Chrysostom say that the two lawbreakers are entirely at fault, or would he insist that a society that allows people to be pushed so close to the edge is at least partly to blame?

There is a moment in the movie that shows how fear and worry can not only rob a person of peace, but can make that person oblivious to God's gifts. It involves the baby of a smuggled couple, and the way God generously rewards the two women for

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.

their act of simple human decency toward the baby's parents on Christmas Eve. The act of decency has taken time, and now it's well into the night. The younger woman, a Mohawk, recognizes God's gift as the work of "the Creator." But the older woman is so benumbed by exhaustion and agitation that her only response to God's generosity is, "All I know is K Mart is closed and I got nothing to put under the tree for my kids."

Once again, would Chrysostom criticize the woman, or would he see in this moment the tragic effect of a world that treats people coldly and makes them in turn become cold even toward God?

At the end of "Frozen River" this same woman who was indifferent to God's gift must make a difficult choice. She struggles, but finally chooses to do what will be costly to her but of great help to the younger woman. And what would Chrysostom say about this? He knew that it is a struggle to put the other person before ourselves; that's why he exhorted his flock so energetically. The woman's struggle to do the right thing, when she herself is in dire circumstances, is one he would have understood. Its outcome is one he might well have applauded.

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to **Matthew Kary**, who celebrates his birthday tomorrow; **Florence Junda**, this Friday, and **Juliana Kary**, this Saturday. May God grant all of you good health and happiness for Many Years!



Announcements

◆ Just a reminder: **Nativity Fast** starts this Tuesday and will last until the Feast of Nativity of Christ. This is the time when each member of our parish community is encouraged to prayerfully prepare for, and then participate in the Sacrament of private Confession and Holy Communion. **Parish Confessions** will be offered on **Saturday, Dec. 17**, right after the Healing service. If for any reason you cannot make it that day, you can have your Confession after any Vespers service or half-an-hour before the Divine Liturgy on Sundays, just let Fr. Igor know in advance.

◆ Save the date: **Saturday, December 17 at 1:00pm** in our church there will be a **Healing service** to the Mother of God in front of her icon "Queen of All". This service is open for everyone and is for the healing from any disease (this icon of Mother of God is especially known for the healings that occurred of those who suffered with cancer).

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.



November 13, 2016

21st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
St. John Chrysostom

- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistles: 2 Gal. 2:16-20;
Heb. 7:26-8:2 (Saint)
Gospels: Lk. 10:25-37;
Jn 10:9-16 (Saint)
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for a fellowship following the service.
- **11:30am** – Board of Trustees' Meeting

Schedule of Services

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15 -
NATIVITY (ST. PHILIP'S) FAST BEGINS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19
6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20
9:00am - Divine Liturgy & Molieben of Thanksgiving
12:30pm - Vespers with Litya