

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

Saying No When it Counts

On April 4th the Church celebrates the memory of Saint Isidore, Bishop of Seville, Spain.

Isidore was born into a prominent family in Carthagena, Spain in the sixth century. Not only were he and his relatives members of the nobility; they were also pious Christians. His sister Florentina and his brothers Fulgentius and Leander (both bishops) are all saints. Isidore wrote that Leander was one of his greatest teachers. In this his experience was similar to that of Gregory of Nyssa, whose siblings also are saints of the Church. Gregory benefited from their teaching, too, and gratefully described the good influence and instruction of his sister Macrina and his brother Basil.

But Isidore, as a young boy, had a serious problem that the studious Gregory never encountered. Isidore did poorly in school, and hated studying. He resented the hard work it required and the harsh methods some teachers (including his brother Leander) used. He was so disheartened by his lack of success as a student that he ran away from school.

After several hours of walking, he sat down to rest by a roadside spring. Isidore noticed a large stone that had been hollowed out by the constant dripping of water. Even though each drip was very small, over time the drips had added up to a force that was stronger than the hard stone. Isidore thought about the stone for a long time, and decided to take what he saw as a lesson about his studies. If he applied himself, and said "no" to his own tendency to avoid rigorous effort, he could little by little overcome the "stone" of ignorance.

He returned to school, and vowed to become a serious student. Using his natural abilities, which were very strong when

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

he applied them, he worked hard, endured Leander's discipline, and became one of the most knowledgeable young men of his time.

Isidore's learning would become very important in later years, during which he served the Church first as a priest and then as Bishop of Seville, following Leander in that position. He became skilled at telling people about Jesus Christ in ways they could understand. Because of this, he was able to bring many who followed the Arian heresy back to the true faith, and greatly weakened the influence of Arianism all over Spain. Wanting others to be able to do the same, he encouraged the widespread establishment of seminaries and schools.

Like most true scholars, Isidore didn't confine himself to a narrow focus, but studied a broad range of topics. His book "Etymologies" has been described as a compendium or collection of "all human knowledge" of his time. In it he wrote these words about music: "And without music there can be no perfect knowledge, for there is nothing without it. For even the universe itself is said to have been put together with a certain harmony of sounds, and the very heavens revolve under the guidance of harmony."

Birthday Greetings

Our best wishes to **David Baron**, who celebrates his Birthday this Wednesday, and **Maxim Kseniuk**, this Friday. May God grant each of you and all those celebrating a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Многая Лета!

Congratulation

Congratulation and best wishes to **Jessica** and **Greg Petrow** on the birth of their son **Grayson Edward**, born March 27. May God grant good health, happiness, and Many Years to all of you and to proud grandparents **Kathy** and **George Petrow**.

Announcements

- ◆ A heartfelt thank you to all of you who in any possible way helped with the Deanery Mission Vespers, that our parish hosted last Sunday evening. May God bless you abundantly for you support and dedication.
- ◆ **Deanery Mission Vespers** tonight (5PM) will be at the Holy Spirit Church, 102 Rte. 284, Wantage, NJ.
- ◆ This **Tuesday, April 4** at **7:00pm** the **Sacrament of Holy Unction** will be served at the Holy Transfiguration Church in Pearl River, NY. Invite you family and friends. For more information see a flyer at the bulletin board.
- ◆ This **Wednesday, April 5** will be the last Presanctified Liturgy during this Lent, followed by a potluck dinner. Please feel free to bring a dish to share if you wish.
- ◆ On **Palm Sunday** (next Sunday), the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA) will once again be collecting funds for their "**Gifts of Love**" program. The funds collected this year will be used to help repair the St. Nicholas Chapel in Kanai, Alaska, which is part of the Holy Assumption Russian Orthodox Complex located there. The church is one of the oldest in Alaska, completed in 1896. The entire complex – church, chapel, rectory, and cemetery – was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1970. Your help in restoring the Chapel will be greatly appreciated. Many Years!



April 2, 2017

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
St. Mary of Egypt

- **8:45am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy of St. Basil
Epistle: Heb. 9:11-14
Gospel: Mk. 10:32-45
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for a fellowship following the service.

Schedule of Services

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

6:00pm - Confessions
6:30pm - Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

SATURDAY, APRIL 8 - LAZARUS SATURDAY

9:00am - Divine Liturgy
6:00pm - Great Vespers & Blessing of Palms & Willows

SUNDAY, APRIL 9 - PALM SUNDAY

9:00am - Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Palms & Willows