

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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May 21, 2017

6th SUNDAY OF PASCHA

Blind Man

- **8:45am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Acts 16:16-34
Gospel: Jn. 9:1-38
- **Panikhida** - in memory of **Ed Fedush**, on the 40th Day of his repose
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

Schedule of Services

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

6:00pm - Great Vespers & Litya

THURSDAY, MAY 25 - ASCENSION

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, MAY 27

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, MAY 28

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Keeping the Life You Hate, or Loosing the Life You Love

On May 23rd and 24th we read the Gospel of John (12: 19-47) in which Jesus Christ describes the kind of life His followers should pursue.

His words need careful attention. He says, "He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life." At a superficial glance, a reader might almost think that what He is saying sounds unkind. It could seem that Jesus is saying that you'll have your life forever if you hate it, but if you love your life you'll lose it.

But this is why a reader should always look more deeply into the words of Scripture than many people do. These words are nothing less than a promise of the eternal joy of the Kingdom— but they place the decision of whether or not that will be our destiny squarely on us. Jesus tells us this by saying, "If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall my servant be also; if any one serves me, the Father will honor him."

So, what does it mean to hate one's life? It doesn't mean that we should despise or reject God's gift of being born and living as a person in this world. We are meant to live a full, rich earthly life. But if we limit ourselves to this life, never looking beyond it to eternal life with God, we will not be doing His will. To follow Christ means we must be ready to suffer for Him, because this fallen world will bring suffering. If we deliberately avoid suffering 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, Michael Bzik, Mary Fechisin, Andrew Fabian, Mary Hadginske, Barbara Kary, Helen Kurnewitz, Margaret Lawler, Kathleen Lazorzcyk, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

Christ, we will no longer be following Him, and we will not find our

way to the Kingdom. We will have loved our life in this world, and tried to preserve it, at the cost of the eternal life God wants to give us.

To hate our life means to see that it is brief and fleeting, while eternal life will never end. Loving that eternal life, we are willing to give up this earthly one. We can endure hardship and tribulation for Christ while we live it, because we know that by so doing we are following Him; we are on the way to the place where we will be with Him forever in joy.

Jesus also says, "Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? ' Father, save me from this hour'? No, for this purpose I have come to this hour." These words show that Jesus, like us, is fearful and apprehensive at the coming of death. He, too, loves the life in this world that God has given. But He is ready to do what He has called us to do. He will give up this life in certainty that He will be with His Father in eternal life. That life is His by nature. It is ours by adoption and immeasurable grace.

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Dorothy Fabian**, who celebrates her birthday this Wednesday, and **Richard Paul Rahnefeld**, this Saturday. May God grant both of you and all who celebrate their birthdays this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnogaya Leta!

Floral Offerings

Floral arrangements today are offered by Michael Bzik in memory of his parents John and Anna. May their Memory be Eternal!

Announcements

◆ Archimandrite Sergius and the Brotherhood of St. Tikhon's Monastery in South Canaan, PA invite everyone to attend any or all events for the **113th Annual Pilgrimage** beginning May 26. This year, the Hawaiian Myrrh Streaming Icon of the Theotokos will visit the monastery. A **PaTRAM Conductors and Singers Workshop** will be held in conjunction with the Pilgrimage. For more information please see flyers at the bulletin board. Also, there will be a 24-seat **bus leaving to St. Tikhon's** on **Monday, May 29** at **7AM** from Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church in Jersey City. The bus is scheduled to leave back from St. Tikhon's on the same day no later than 4PM. The round-trip ticket is \$50. If you are interested, please call Fr. Joseph Lickwar at 201-434-1986.

◆ Save the Date: The upcoming **Parish Council Conference** will take place on **Sunday, June 25**, from **2pm - 6pm** at Ss. Peter & Paul Church, 76 Whitehead Avenue, South River, NJ. Judge Ray Lanier will be the presenter. He will guide all through the changes, emphasize the reasons for and the importance of the Diocesan By-Laws, and will be available to answer all related questions on this topic. A flyer is forthcoming. All Board of Trustees' members, please plan to attend this conference.