

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

We Have Our Marching Orders

On July 19 the Church remembers Dius, a saint born in fourth-century Antioch to a Christian family.

Even in his youth Dius was strongly attracted to most stringent practices of the faith. He ate little, and sometimes went without any food at all. He prayed constantly, not only for people and situations he knew but for the whole world, and kept silent vigils. These efforts made him spiritually strong, and it was not long before his strength would be tested.

While still a young man, Dius heard the command of the Lord to leave his home and go to Constantinople. But his life was not to be in the city; rather he settled in a remote place outside it, in an area so wild that many people would not even go there.

Like Saint Anthony and others who served God in isolated places where they did not have the company and support of other people, Dius was assailed by evil spirits. They showed him hideous phantoms and tried to drive him away from his

chosen home. But he was able to fight against them, and before long the thing the spirits feared most came to pass. People heard about this man of prayer, and began to brave the wilderness to seek him. They received spiritual counsel, healing and prayers, and through him many were brought closer to God.

The Christian emperor Theodosius the Younger also heard about Dius, and visited him with the Patriarch of Constantinople. They directed that a monastery should be built on the site of Dius' wilderness home, with the emperor providing the funds. Dius was ordained, and during the following years men joined

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

him, the monastery grew, and he served as its abbot. Loved by the monks and revered as a miracle-worker, Saint Dius presided until he was an old man.

Seriously ill and presumed to be dying, the elderly Saint Dius was surrounded by those preparing for his funeral service when he suddenly sat up on his sleeping cot and said, "The Lord has granted me fifteen more years of life." He used those years to continue as a healer and helper of the needy and homeless. When he died, he was buried in the monastery he had founded.

Few of us will receive our "marching orders" in such a dramatic way as being called to rise from our death beds to continue our work. Yet we, too, are given instructions in Psalm 51 (50), well-known because it is part of several worship services. In this psalm we ask the Lord to prepare us to serve Him by teaching, purging, washing, restoring and upholding us. Thus prepared, we will be ready to "march" and do His work: "Then I will teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners will return to thee." In a similar way, we ask Him to open our lips so that our mouths can "show forth thy praise."

These familiar verses remind us that we have our orders, and much work to do.

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Helen Baron**, who celebrates her birthday this Saturday. May God grant you and all those celebrating a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!



Announcements

◆ Save the date: **2017 Church School Conference** for New York City and New Jersey Deaneries will take place at Christ the Saviour Church in Paramus, NJ on **Saturday, August 12** from 10AM - 3PM. The theme is "Raising Our Young People As a Generation of Disciples and Leaders". Conference Leader: V. Rev. Dr. Joseph Purpura, Chairman of the Department of Youth and Parish Ministries of the Antiochian Archdiocese. The conference is open to teachers and parents as well. For more information please see a flyer at the bulletin board.

◆ **Enjoy your vacation** but remember to visit the Orthodox Church at your destination. To search for a local parish go to www.orthodoxyinamerica.org and enter your location in the search panel. If you plan to receive Holy Communion, be sure that the priest knows who you are before the Divine Liturgy. It is always good form to approach the Chalice knowing that the priest is informed about you. Have a wonderful and safe summer!

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.



July 16, 2017

6th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Holy Fathers of the first Six Ecumenical Councils, Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Great Prince Vladimir (July 15)

• **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy

Epistles: Rom. 12:6-14
Heb. 13:7-16 (Fathers)
Gal. 1:11-19 (Saint)

Gospels: Mt. 9:1-8
Jn. 17:1-13 (Fathers)
Jn. 10:1-9 (Saint)

• **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, JULY 22

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, JULY 23

9:00am - Divine Liturgy