

# 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

## Godly Grief and Worldly Grief

**On August 10<sup>th</sup> we read II Corinthians 7: 1-10, in which Saint Paul expresses his joy at being reconciled with the believers who belong to the church in Corinth.**

There had been a serious breach between Paul and the Corinthian Christians. When a member of the church leveled false accusations against him, some of the other members sided with the accuser, causing Paul great pain not only personally but also because of his concern for the salvation of anyone who would take part in slander.

Now, however, the accuser has repented and has been punished by the majority of the church's members in some way that isn't described. It was apparently not the most serious punishment they could have meted out, since other members wanted to impose a more severe penalty on him. But Paul has shown his loving and generous heart by advising the Corinthians now to "turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow" (2:6).

It has been an unpleasant period for Paul. He writes of being "afflicted at every turn – fighting without and fear within" (7:5). The "fighting" probably refers to difficult confrontations not only with pagans but with some in the Macedonian churches. The inner "fear" refers to his uncertainty about the Corinthians. He had written them a "stern letter" about the accusations against him, and is not sure how they have taken it. We see that, like many of us, Paul is not always sure he has done the right thing. He says, "For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it (though I did regret it), for I see that that letter grieved you..." (7: 8).



August 6, 2017

9<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

- **8:45am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: 2 Pet. 1:10-19  
Gospel: Mt. 17:1-9
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

## Schedule of Services

- SATURDAY, AUGUST 12**  
5:00pm - Parish Confessions  
6:00pm - Great Vespers
- SUNDAY, AUGUST 13**  
9:00am - Divine Liturgy

## 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.

Paul's momentary regret at having written the letter is overcome by his love and care for the Corinthians. He is relieved and glad that the church members want reconciliation, but rejoices even more that the letter did what he hoped it would: it "grieved" them in a way that led to repentance. Here Paul writes about the distinction between godly grief and worldly grief.

Godly grief leads us to realize we have sinned not just against other people, but against God. We put ourselves under judgment, we repent, and then we can turn from the sin we now hate and trust God to guide us and forgive us. This grief enables us, like the Corinthians, to be reconciled with everyone.

Worldly grief makes us regret our sin because it pains us – it brings us punishment, or upsets our life. We don't recognize that in sinning we are opposing and rejecting God, and so we work to escape the pain, but not to turn toward God.

Paul could hardly be more blunt about the difference between the two kinds of grief. Worldly grief leads, quite simply, to death. But godly grief, the kind he was so happy to see in the Corinthians, "produces a repentance that leads to salvation and brings no regret" (7: 10).

## Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Kathy Lazorzcyk**, who celebrates her birthday this Thursday, and **Gregory Kary**, this Saturday. May God grant both of you and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!



## Announcements

◆ **Dormition Fast** has begun on August 1<sup>st</sup> and will last until August 15<sup>th</sup>. For two weeks we keep fasting in honor of the Falling Asleep of the Most Holy Theotokos. **Parish Confessions** during this fast are scheduled for this coming Saturday, August 12 at 5pm. Fr. Igor will be also available to hear confessions following the Vespers.

◆ 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 this **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.

◆ Save the date: **Annual Diocesan Youth Day** at Six Flags Great Adventure is scheduled for **Thursday, August 24, 2017**. For more information and how to register, please see a flyer at the bulletin board or go to our Diocesan website [www.nynjoca.org](http://www.nynjoca.org)

◆ **Enjoy your vacation** but remember to visit the Orthodox Church at your destination. To search for a local parish go to [www.orthodoxyinamerica.org](http://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!