

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

What Makes the Kids All Right

Today we remember Saint Sophia and her martyred daughters Faith, Hope and Love. They lived in Rome, and spoke openly about their Christian faith even in a time of severe persecutions.

The four family members were arrested and ordered to worship the goddess Artemis, but refused. Sophia, a widow, encouraged the girls (not yet in their teens) to stay strong and face whatever might come. The girls were tortured and killed. Sophia, in pain from torture, was allowed to bury their broken bodies. She prayed over the graves in deepest grief, then died, anticipating a reunion with her daughters in God's Kingdom.

Sophia had taught her family not to be afraid of proclaiming the faith. Their willingness to die rather than renounce Jesus Christ surely encouraged fellow believers to do the same. Their life and death were a reaching out to others.

In the recent movie "The Kids Are All Right" there is no reaching out; everything is turned inward. The story is of a lesbian couple, Nic and Jules, who have two teenage children, a boy and a girl, both by the same sperm donor.

When Nic questions the boy, Laser, about a friend she doesn't like, her words show that she is raising the son to look at everything in terms of personal benefit. She asks him what he "gets" from the friendship. She tells Laser that the friend is undesirable because he seems "untended." It doesn't occur to her that she and her family might reach out to him, and have a part in "tending" him..

Laser and his sister Joni secretly meet their biological father,

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.

Paul. They develop a relationship with him, and finally bring him home to meet Nic and Jules. It seems that Paul may belatedly have a place in their lives, but this possibility is ruined by his immoral behavior. Nic, who is terrified of losing her primary place in the children's lives as they get closer to Paul, seizes the chance to banish him from their lives. She angrily calls him an "interloper" as she slams the door of the family's house in his face, telling him never to come back.

To Nic, Paul is an interloper because he threatens her desire to shut the world out and enclose her family safely behind that door she slams on him. But he is also Joni and Laser's father, and she will never really be able to shut that fact out.

Saint Sophia didn't try to shut the world out. She taught her family members to face the world, and to be concerned for others' salvation as well as their own. She urged them not to fear suffering for Christ. That is the only way to raise truly Christian children: by readying them to put Christ first, not by trying to shut the world out or, certainly, by trying to deny biological truth. That is also the only way it's possible to feel that the kids really are all right.



Announcements

◆ The next **Board of Trustees' Meeting** is scheduled for this **Tuesday, September 19 at 7pm**. All members please plan to attend.

◆ This coming **Saturday, September 23** "The Tamburitans" will perform at Clifton High School. For tickets please call 973-460-0243. For more information please see a flyer at the bulletin board. Please note: due to this event, which is scheduled from 4pm to 6pm, **Vespers at our church will begin at 6:30pm**.

◆ Save the date: On **Friday, Sept. 29**, and **Saturday, Sept. 30 at 7:00pm** at the Holy Assumption Church in Clifton the youth of our Diocese will perform a musical "Joseph & His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat". For tickets (\$10 for adults and \$5 for children 10 and younger) call Barbara Baz at 315-491-6647. For more information please see a flyer at the bulletin board.

◆ Save the date: On **Saturday, October 7**, Holy Assumption Church in Clifton will have their Annual Beefsteak Dinner at 7pm. Cost: \$40 per adult. Reservations required by Monday, October 2, 2017. For more information please see a flyer at the bulletin board.

◆ The annual **Diocesan Assembly** this year will be at **Saints Peter & Paul Church in Endicott NY on 1-2 November 2017**. More information will be available soon at the diocesan website.

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.



September 17, 2017

14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday After the Elevation. Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross.

Martyr Sophia and her Three Daughters: Faith, Hope, and Love.

- 8:45am – Hours
- 9:00am – Divine Liturgy
Epistles: Gal. 2:16-20; 2Cor. 4:6-15
Gospels: Mk. 8:34-9:1; Mt. 22:35-46
- Coffee Hour – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

6:30pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

9:00am - Divine Liturgy