

# 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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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION  
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

## Joy of All Who Sorrow

**October 24 is the day of commemoration of an icon given the name "Joy of All Who Sorrow." The center of the icon shows the Mother of God with her arms outstretched to the people who surround her. They are those who suffer with various illnesses, worries, and pain of the heart or the body. They reach toward her, asking her prayers and intercession.**

This is one of the icons in which the Theotokos is shown full length and standing, rather than holding her Son. He appears above her head, enthroned as the King of heaven and earth. In His left hand He holds the Book of the Gospels, and with His right He blesses the people — young, old, poor, rich — who are reaching out to His Mother. Flowers of Paradise, and angels on either side of the Theotokos, remind us that both the heavenly and earthly realms are part of the scene.

Many stories of miracles and healings are associated with the icon. One of the best-known events took place in Saint Petersburg, Russia in 1888. Severe thunderstorms had struck the city and the surrounding area. A bolt of lightning struck the chapel in which the icon was housed. The bolt was so powerful that it set the interior walls on fire, burned most of the icons, and shattered the collection box. Only the icon of the Mother of God, the Joy of All Who Sorrow, was not ruined or even affected. An ear-shattering clap of thunder knocked the icon to the floor, and some copper coins which had been in the collection box became permanently fused to it. But the image on the icon was intact.

The news that this single icon had been spared the destruction of the chapel and its contents spread through Saint Petersburg,

## 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.

and by evening crowds of people had gathered to venerate it. It was not long before people began coming from all over Russia, and as they prayed before it, many were healed of diseases and injuries.

It is easy to "put ourselves into" this icon, in which the Theotokos inclines her head slightly to one side, so as to listen attentively to us as we ask her to pray for us. One of the hymns expresses our request to her in this way: "Enlighten our hearts with devout purpose and raise your prayer to your Son for the salvation of our souls." She is the Mother who sees us, listens to us, understands, has compassion, and willingly asks her Son Jesus Christ to have mercy.

## 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.

## Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Matushka Anna Kseniuk** and Happy 4<sup>th</sup> birthday to **Helena Czech**, both sharing their birthdays today; **Lauren Sivestre**, this Wednesday; and **John Kary**, this Saturday. May God grant all of you and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!

## Announcements

◆ In the aftermath of recent Hurricanes, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) is offering assistance on the ground to those affected by the storms. **A special collection will be taken again today** to assist IOCC with their relief efforts. May God bless you richly for the holy work that you undertake in His Name. A letter with request from His Eminence Archbishop Michael as well as a flyer from IOCC regarding their assistance are posted on the bulletin board.

◆ Save the date: **66<sup>th</sup> Annual NJ District FOCA Convention** with an Octoberfest theme will be held this Sat. October 28, at Ss. Peter & Paul Church in South River. A flyer of the event is posted on the bulletin board.

◆ Next Sunday during coffee hour there will be a **short organizational meeting** of all children, parents, and possible teachers who are interested in re-opening of our **Church School**. All interested are welcome.

◆ A **Pot Luck Luncheon** for all our parishioners and their families, hosted by the "O" Club is postponed to some time earlier next year. Stay tuned.

◆ **Your help is needed:** in church we pray, besides others, for our parishioners who are incapable of being with us. If you would like to "adopt" one of those home-bound parishioner who are on the Prayer List in this bulletin and mail/deliver them weekly bulletins with readings, as well as monthly newsletters, please see Fr. Igor. Also, if you missed a Sunday in Church, you can pick up the bulletin in a box by the bulletin board.



October 22, 2017

20<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
"Kazan" Icon of the Theotokos

- 8:45pm – Hours
- 9:00am – Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: Gal. 1:11-19  
Gospel: Lk. 16:19-31
- Coffee Hour – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

## Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28  
6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29  
9:00am - Divine Liturgy