

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

Be Sure Not to Do the Wrong Work

November 8 is a day when the Church commemorates angels — not only the Archangel Michael, who is named, but "all the other bodiless powers" as well.

Among these other celestial beings is the Archangel Jehudiel, who like the others has a special role in God's plan. Jehudiel is known as the angel of work. In particular, he watches over those who work for God's glory, encouraging them, strengthening them and giving them wisdom.

On this same day and the previous day, we read Colossians 2:13 to 3:3. In these verses Saint Paul writes about angels, but he is not describing the kind of benevolent care that Jehudiel and the others have for us. He is concerned that some people misunderstand what angels are, and give them a kind of respect that should be offered only to God.

Paul's worry is that false teachers are exerting great influence over the Colossian Christians. These teachers seem outwardly to be following the Gospel's warnings against self-indulgence, by "promoting rigor of devotion and self-abasement and severity to the body" (2:23). But such teaching is empty and even harmful, Paul says, because it doesn't come from Christ. It is the result of someone being "puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind" (2:18) and pretending to have some kind of supernatural knowledge. It only has the "appearance of wisdom."

"What's wrong with you, Colossians?" Paul seems to be asking. He reminds them that when they learned to worship Jesus Christ as the true God, they were freed from the old, oppressive belief that "elemental spirits" ruled their lives and must be placated.

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.

Why, he asks, are they now willing to listen to these teachers who ask them to return to the worship of angels? Why do they agree to submit to unnecessary regulations: "Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch" (2:21)?

All the regulations imposed by these teachers are a lot of work. Their followers must know what things to avoid, what things to do regularly, and what are the best ways to keep from being "disqualified" by their teachers. Paul encourages the Colossians to forget all that, because it is the wrong work. He suggests that they do some other things: Hold fast to Christ who is the Head, and seek and set their minds on the things that are above rather than those that are on earth (2:19, 3:1-2). Yes, these things are also work, but they are the right kind, because they lead to salvation. They are the kind of work that the Archangel Jehudiel can support and assist.

People who believe that angels rule the universe are misguided, Paul firmly says. It's true that we cannot understand everything about life or the world, because our "life is hid with Christ in God" (2:3). But Christ is our life, and when He appears and is manifested in glory, "then you also will appear with Him in glory" (3:4).

Heartfelt Greetings

Happy birthday to **Daria Kibitelsky**, who celebrates her birthday today; happy wedding anniversary to **Nick & Peggy Kovalycsik**, this Wednesday. May God grant all of you and all who celebrate a birthday or anniversary this week good health and happiness for Many Years!

Announcements

◆ This year, during Christmas season, we are adopting a family of a seminarian from St. Tikhon's Seminary. There is a gift bag in the vestibule with a name tag / gift ideas that you can choose from, if you would like to participate. Gifts must be brought in no later than Sunday, December 3, wrapped & tagged. Thank you and may God bless you for your generosity!

◆ The following list of items are needed this year to prepare our **Thanksgiving Baskets** for our neighbors in need: turkeys, cans of soup, gravy, stuffing, cans of vegetables, fruits, and cranberry sauce. If you would prefer to send a donation and have us shop for you, that would be grateful also. We would appreciate your donations by Sunday, November 5. We are even fewer in number than we were last year, so it is most important that we all be a part of this ministry, and show that we are true followers of Jesus Christ and follow His teaching: "Love thy neighbor as thyself." For more information please contact Helen Baron, our Food Pantry coordinator.

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.



November 5, 2017

22nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Synaxis of the Holy Unmercenaries

• 9:00am – Divine Liturgy

Epistles: 1Cor. 12:27-13:8

Gal. 6:11-18

Gospels: Mt. 10:1, 5-8

Lk. 8:41-56

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

Schedule of Services

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

6:00pm - Great Vespers with Litya

WED. NOVEMBER 8 - ARCH MICHAEL

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

9:00am - Divine Liturgy & Panikhida for Veterans