

# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

170 Lexington Avenue, Passaic, New Jersey, 07055  
www.stjohnspassaic.org

REV. FR. IGOR KSENIUK, Rector

973-473-1928 (Phone/Fax)  
646-387-5494 (cell)  
fr.igorksn@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION  
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

## Hell Cannot Hold Him Nor Can a Beg

**On November 21<sup>st</sup> we celebrate the feast of the Entry of the Most-Holy Theotokos into the Temple. The coming of Jesus Christ into the world is so important that everything surrounding it, including the event this feast commemorates, is also important.**

For years before Jesus' birth, His Mother was prepared for her role. While she was still very young, her parents and neighbors took her to the Temple, singing holy songs and carrying candles. She walked up the steps of the Temple and was met by the high priest. She entered the Holy of Holies with him as a sign of her special destiny. Normally nobody entered that place except the high priest, once a year. Then Mary grew up and matured spiritually among holy people, until God was ready to send His Son to us and to have her give Him birth.

We celebrate and revere the people and events surrounding the Incarnation because we believe it alone tells the truth about God. Only Christians teach that God's Divine Son came among us to offer us life through His death and resurrection. That is why we can't go along with those who say that every religion is basically the same, and leads to God.

Among those who say this is Rick Steves, the well-known travel writer and TV personality. Though Steves is a committed and community-serving Lutheran, he apparently shares the idea that all religions are equal and the same.

He describes with admiration a man he met in a remote Turkish village. The man had an embroidered bag hanging in a place of

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

honor on a wall of his small house. The bag, he told Steves, contained a copy of the Qu'ran as well as a Bible and a copy of the Talmud. Though a devout Muslim himself, the man felt that he honored all three faiths by keeping their holy Scriptures together in one bag.

This man is an example, Steves writes, of the way we should all be. How appropriate, how good a symbol of unity it would be if we could all have bags with the various holy Scriptures in them.

But this day's feast reminds us that Christians cannot settle for such a tidy solution to the problem of spiritual disunity among human beings. We are not "people of the Book" because we worship a God who did infinitely more than give us a sacred Scripture. He was born from the long-prepared Mary as a Man, and when grown He burst the walls of hell asunder. If hell could not contain Him, certainly a bag can't do it.

Our own Scriptures tell us that Jesus Christ came to save everyone, not just those who call themselves His followers. We must love and respect those of other faiths, and need to work at finding common ground with them. But we also have to show them the Man who died on the cross for them — the Man who just won't fit in that bag.

## Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Juliana Kary**, who celebrates her birthday today. May God grant you and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaya Lita!

## Congratulation

Congratulation and best wishes to **Peter** and **Kerri Czech** on the birth of their son **Jonas James**, born November 16. May God grant good health, happiness, and Many Years to all your family and to proud grandparents **Bob** and **Betty Czech**.

## Announcements

◆ The **Nativity Fast** has started this passed Wednesday, November 15 and will last until the Feast of Nativity of Christ. As always, during this fasting time, each member of our parish community is encouraged to prayerfully and spiritually prepare for the celebration of this joyous feast. On **Saturday, December 16 at 2PM** there will be an **Akathist** (healing service) to the Mother of God in front of her icon "Queen of All", followed by **Parish Confessions**. Take this opportunity to rejuvenate your spiritual life as we prepare to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord. And remember that not variety, or quality, or quantity of foods that we prepare for the feast will make our celebration more joyous, but that our souls, cleansed in private Confession and sanctified in Holy Communion will be immensely more joyful when prepared properly.

## Memory Eternal

Today, Sunday, November 19, is the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Repose of His **Eminence Archbishop PETER** (L'Huillier) who served as the Bishop of our Diocese for 26 years. His Eminence retired from active ministry in 2005 and fell asleep in the Lord in 2007. May his Memory be Eternal! Vechnaya Pamiat!



November 19, 2017

### 24<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- **8:45am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: Eph. 2:14-22  
Gospel: Lk. 12:16-21
- **Molieben of Thanksgiving**
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

## Schedule of Services

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20

6:00pm - Great Vespers

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21 – ENTRANCE

OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

6:00pm - Great Vespers

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

9:00am - Divine Liturgy