

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

Busybodies Need Not Apply

On December 1st we remember the prophet Nahum. He wrote triumphantly about the destruction, in the year 612 BC, of the city of Ninevah. With its great city fallen, the Assyrian Empire's long and brutal oppression of its neighbors would come to an end.

Much of Nahum's prophecy taunts the Assyrians, telling them that their overthrow is well-deserved. His closing words are, "There is no assuaging your hurt, your wound is grievous. All who hear the news of you clap their hands over you. For upon whom has not come your unceasing evil?"

Nahum also seems to tell the Assyrians that laziness contributed to their downfall: "Your shepherds are asleep, O king of Assyria; your nobles slumber" (3:18a.). This theme of dangerous laziness comes up again in New Testament readings from Thursday and Friday of the last week: 2 Thess. 2:13-3:18.

In the first chapter of this second letter to the Thessalonians, Saint Paul offers his thanks that God "chose you from the beginning to be saved, through sanctification" (2: 13). Many of those he is addressing are new converts, so he urges them to hold fast to the teaching they have received by his preaching or his letters. There are those among them, he cautions, who do not have faith. But he reassures them that despite these faithless people, "God is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from evil" (3: 3).

Paul had preached in Thessalonica's synagogue, as he did in every place he stopped, for several weeks. Working with Timothy and Silas, he had attracted many Jewish converts. There were also Gentiles who had joined the Jewish faith, but were convinced

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

by his preaching to become Christians.

This created a serious problem; some resentful Jewish leaders maligned Paul and accused him of all sorts of moral and ethical failings. The new converts felt surrounded by hostile opponents.

Another problem was that some of the new Christians had been misled into believing that the Day of the Lord had already come. Therefore, there was no need to prepare for it, and no need to do any work. Paul strives tells the Thessalonians they must "keep away from any brother who is living in idleness and not in accord with the tradition you received from us" (3:6). He also describes the example of his own life: "...with toil and labor we worked night and day" (3:8).

He refers to these idlers as "mere busybodies." They are so lazy that rather than find something productive to do, they spend their time interfering with others' work. Paul has no patience with these people. He commands that everyone should work and earn an honest living. He urges those who are working as they should to keep away from those who refuse to do so.

Yet Paul truly wants every one of God's beloved to be saved. So he tells the Thessalonians not to treat an idle busybody as an enemy, "but to warn him as a brother" (3:15)

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Mirek Szestawicky**, who celebrates his birthday this Tuesday, and **Daniel Beckmann**, this Thursday. May God grant both of you and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaya Lita!

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.

◆ 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!

◆ **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 always pick up bulletins from previous weeks in a box by the bulletin board.



November 26, 2017

25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- **8:45am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Eph. 4:1-6
Gospel: Lk. 13:10-17
- **Panikhida** – in memory of **Joseph Korin** on the 1st Anniversary of his Repose, offered by his wife, **Kathryn Korin**.
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2
6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3
9:00am - Divine Liturgy