

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 Will We Notice

Today we read in Mark 2:1-12 about the paralytic brought to Christ by his friends. Jesus has returned to Capernaum "after some days." Just before this He had healed a leprous man, who ignored His command to say nothing to anyone. The man spread the news, so that Jesus "could no longer enter a town, but was out in the country."

Do we notice, in this passage, how completely Jesus Christ put Himself at the disposal of people? An exuberant chatterbox is able to keep the Lord from carrying out His plan, which had been to "go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also, for that is what I came out to do" (1:38).

When Jesus does come to Capernaum, people so crowd the house where He is preaching that there is absolutely no room to get in the door. But this doesn't stop four men who are determined to bring their friend, a paralytic, to the Lord. Since they can't enter by the door, they go up on the flat roof and break an opening in it, then let their friend's pallet down into the house.

The next verse tells us what Jesus notices: "When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'" The friends' faith is what is noteworthy for the Lord; it can bring about a miracle.

What would we notice if we were in the crowded house when a man on a pallet suddenly poked down through the roof? Would we, too, be impressed by the faith of the man's friends, and by their care for him? Would we admire their ingenuity in finding a novel way to get him close to the Lord? Would we rejoice at Jesus' generous, healing love?

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 & Dorothy Fabian, Mary Hadginske, Barbara Kary, Helen Kurnewitz, Kathleen Lazorczyk, Dennis Maixner, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky.

Or would we be more like the scribes sitting there, who apparently notice none of these things? They only notice that Jesus is claiming the power to forgive sins. They question in their hearts, considering this a blasphemous claim of a power that belongs only to God.

Jesus immediately challenges their unspoken questions, with the insight and perception they see so deeply and that often make His opponents so uncomfortable. He proclaims that "the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins." Then He tells the paralytic to take up his pallet and go home. The man does so, to the amazement of all the people.

Jesus doesn't explain what He means by calling Himself "Son of Man." Is He identifying with the human creatures He has come to save? Is He referring to the Old Testament messianic prophecy in Daniel 7:13-14? Commentators have said that He might be doing either, or both. Jesus wanted us to notice His words, and think about their meaning.

To notice, to pay attention to what He does for us — this is what can bring us closer to Christ, and to a life filled with His love.

Congratulation

Our best wishes to **Jonas James Czech**, who yesterday received Holy Sacraments of Baptism and Chrismation and today his first Communion. May God bless and preserve you, your parents, grandparents, and godparents for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Lydia Bzik**, who celebrates her birthday this Friday. May God grant all of you, and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!



Announcements

◆ **This Wednesday, March 7 at 6:30PM, His Eminence Archbishop Michael** will visit our parish to preside at the joint Pre-Sanctified Liturgy with our neighboring parishes. Lenten refreshments will be served following the service. We also ask for your help with the clean-up after the fellowship, since the school is in session the following day. Other Joint Pre-Sanctified Liturgies this year (6:30 PM):

Mar. 14, 7 PM - Christ the Saviour in Paramus, with His Eminence Archbishop Michael presiding;

Mar. 21 - Holy Apostles Church in Saddle Brook;

Mar. 28 - Holy Assumption Church in Clifton.

◆ **Deanery Mission Vespers** this year (4:00 PM):

Mar. 4 - Holy Spirit Church, 102 Rte. 284, Wantage, NJ

Mar. 11 - Holy Trinity Church, 120 Dover-Chester Rd, Randolph

Mar. 18 - Holy Assumption Church, Clifton

Mar. 25 - Holy Trinity Church, 830 Jefferson Ave, Rahway; *Celebrant and Homilist: Archbishop Michael*

Apr. 11 - Bright Wednesday, **7 PM** - Christ the Saviour Church, Paramus; *Celebrant and Homilist: Archbishop Michael*



March 4, 2018

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

St. Gregory Palamas

• **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

Epistles: Heb. 1:10-2:3; 7:26-8:2

Gospels: Mk. 2:1-12; Jn. 10:9-16

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

Schedule of Services

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

6:30pm - Joint Pre-Sanctified Liturgy with Archbishop Michael presiding

FRIDAY, MARCH 9

6:00pm - Akathist to Jesus Christ & Panikhida for the Departed

SAT., MARCH 10 - MEMORIAL SATURDAY

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, MARCH 11

9:00am - Divine Liturgy