

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

Department of
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
ORTHODOX CHURCH in AMERICA

Young Adults In, or Out of, the Church

A few years ago, a book called "Soul Searching" investigated the spiritual lives of teenagers. It found that religion can be important to teens, but it also determined that many of them adhere to what it called "moralistic therapeutic deism." This can be defined as a belief in a kind, loving God who is not connected to any particular faith tradition, and who is there largely to help in solving personal problems.

"Souls in Transition" is author Christian Smith's follow-up to the earlier book, and it gives valuable insights into the lives of those he terms "emerging adults" between the ages of 18 and 23. Emerging adults marry relatively late, may spend several years in higher education, and rarely stay for decades at the same job because of the unreliable global economy. Many are unaffiliated with any institution, and have no commitment to a worshipping community.

So which, if any, of these emerging adults might make or keep a commitment to faith? Smith answers that it is those who, as teenagers, had examples of older people who practiced their faith. There are other factors (such as prayer, reading of Scripture, multiple religious experiences and the absence of strong doubts in the teen years) but the example of practiced faith is the strongest indicator of future commitment. Teens who have had no such example are unlikely to develop their spiritual lives as emerging adults, and will probably follow the societal trend of indifference, and sometimes hostility, to faith.

Smith rejects the idea that parents (or adult caretakers) become less significant in their children's lives during the teen years. In fact, parents' perception that their children don't want them to promote or "impose" religious beliefs, and their resulting fear 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 Fehisin, Andrew & Dorothy Fabian, Mary Hadginske, Barbara Kary, Helen Kurnewitz, Kathleen Lazorzcyk, Dennis Maixner, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky.

doing so, leaves the teens "floating in a directionless murk to figure out completely on their own some of life's most basic questions concerning reality, truth, goodness, value, morality and identity." It isn't that these children don't want their parents' involvement, Smith says. It's rather that they want it on "renegotiated" terms that "take seriously their growing maturity and desired independence."

Not only teens, but also the emerging adults who are the subject of this book benefit from the counsel, mentoring and simple presence of caring older people. Smith calls on the churches in America to recognize the unsettled and often disconnected years of emerging adulthood as a fairly new phenomenon in our fast-changing culture. Churches should create ways to reach out to emerging adults, just as they have created ways to reach out to other groups such as the elderly and families with young children.

But it really begins in the teen years, and well before. Children need relationships with adult faith models. Smith, being interviewed about "Souls in Transition," put it this way: "The most important factor is parents. For better or worse, parents are tremendously important in shaping their children's faith trajectories. That's the story that came out in "Soul Searching." It's also the story that comes out here."

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Amy LeBorgne**, who celebrates her birthday today; **Scott Cahayla**, this Tuesday; and **Robert M. Czech**, this Wednesday. 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 14 at 7:00PM**, Christ the Saviour parish in Paramus will host joint Pre-Sanctified Liturgy with His Eminence Archbishop Michael presiding. Other Joint Pre-Sanctified Liturgies this Lent (6:30 PM):

Mar. 21 - Holy Apostles Church in Saddle Brook;

Mar. 28 - Holy Assumption Church in Clifton.

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

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

Mar. 18 - Holy Assumption Church, Clifton Randolph

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 11, 2018

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Veneration of the Cross

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

Epistle: Heb. 4:14-5:6

Gospel: Mk. 8:34-9:1

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

Schedule of Services

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

7:00pm - Joint Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
at Christ the Savior Church in Paramus

FRIDAY, MARCH 16

6:00pm - Akathist to the Holy Cross & Panikhida for the Departed

SAT., MARCH 17 - MEMORIAL SATURDAY

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, MARCH 18

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

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.