

# 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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## CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

May 8<sup>th</sup> is the day we commemorate **Saint Arsenius the Great**, a revered example of monasticism and also a teacher who knew how to inspire and encourage.

Born to a cultured Roman family in 354, Arsenius received an excellent education. He chose not to follow the worldly paths open to him, and was ordained a deacon. Quiet and retiring, he was content to serve in that capacity in one of Rome's churches.

But Emperor Theodosius knew of his learning, high moral character, and prayerful life. The Emperor felt he had found the perfect man to serve as tutor to his two sons, and summoned Arsenius to the imperial court.

Arsenius did his best with the two high-spirited boys. But for such a lover of silence, with no wish to be singled out or even noticed, court life was a painful burden rather than an honor. The court constantly bustled with activity and chatter. People frequently noticed him—he had, after all, been chosen to educate young men who might one day be rulers. .

It all became too much, and he decided to heed the interior voice that kept urging him to go and find silence and solitude. He changed from his court dress into simple clothes, made his way to the coast and boarded a ship sailing for Egypt.

Once there, Arsenius headed for the desert with its famous monasteries. He joined one, after proving himself to the elders, and spent the rest of his life in a remote desert cell where he wove baskets and prayed, joining others only for the Divine Liturgy at the monastery church.



May 6, 2018

5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF PASCHA  
Samaritan Woman

- 8:45am – Hours
- 9:00am – Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: Acts 11:19-26, 29-30  
Gospel: Jn. 4:5-42
- Panikhida in memory of **Mary Fechisin**, offered by daughter Betty Ann Fechisin
- Coffee Hour – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

## Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, MAY 12

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, MAY 13

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

## 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 you prayers our Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Genevieve Bobenko, Michael Bzik, Andrew & Dorothy Fabian, Mary Hadginske, Barbara Kary, Helen Kurnewitz, Kathleen Lazarczyk, Dennis Maixner, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky.

Yet this man who so loved to be alone with God also had a generous willingness to teach the many who heard of his great spiritual labors and came to him for counsel. "The Prologue from Ochrid" gives us the story of a monk who came to Arsenius with a serious problem: when he read Scripture, he didn't feel the power of the words, and he felt no sweetness in his heart.

Arsenius didn't dismiss the monk with a curt, "Try harder!" Instead he used a memorable image as a way of encouraging the man to keep reading, even if the words didn't touch his heart. A snake charmer, he said, doesn't understand the words he is saying, but the snake understands and is tamed by them. Similarly, if you keep the words of Scripture on your lips, the demons who understand and hate those words of the Holy Spirit will flee. At the same time—and here he wisely promised his monk-student a satisfying result—the Holy Spirit who inspired those words will also understand, and will be quick to help you.

We can remember Saint Arsenius for this example of good teaching, but he has also left another lesson that can apply to many of us: "I have often regretted the things I have said, but I have never regretted my silence."

## Heartfelt Greetings

Happy wedding anniversary to **Robert & Emily Czech** (May 4); happy birthday to **Elena Nehrebecki**, who celebrates her birthday this Tuesday. May God grant all of you, and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!

## Announcements

◆ Diocese of NY & NJ is announcing the **1<sup>st</sup> Annual Bible Bowl**. It is a quiz competition for teams of young people and adults. This year, all questions will come from the Gospel of Saint Mark as found in the Orthodox Study Bible. Teams are already forming in Yonkers NY, Syracuse NY, Princeton NJ, East Meadow NY, Clifton NJ, Endicott NY, Manville NJ, Saddlebrook NJ, and Ballston Spa NY. **The competition will be held in Yonkers NY on SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2018.** For details and registration please visit our Diocesan website: [www.nynjoca.org](http://www.nynjoca.org)

◆ **Saint Andrew's Camp** (Jewell NY) is organizing a cleanup and work weekend for any and all volunteers that can assist. Projects this year include installing new flooring for the girls' and boys' dorms, general cleanup, and other projects. The dates are **May 19-20, 2018**. Come for as long as you are able! Accommodations are available at the camp. If you are interested, please contact Tim Macko at [georgetimothymacko@gmail.com](mailto:georgetimothymacko@gmail.com)

## Welcome Visitors

We welcome all visitors to the Paschal Divine Liturgy this morning. 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.