

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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REV. FR. IGOR KSENIUK, Rector

Department of
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
ORTHODOX CHURCH in AMERICA

The Sign that is Given

On June 23 we honor the "Vladimir Icon of the Mother of God" which is sometimes referred to as "tenderness" because of the loving, intimate way it portrays Christ and His Mother.

In Matthew 12:38-45 we read about some scribes and Pharisees who say to Jesus, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." Their attitude is apparent in the way they address Him, because their way is different from that of the disciples, and of many who believe in Him. When the disciples become desperately afraid in the storm-tossed boat on the sea, they awaken Him by saying, "Save, Lord, we are perishing" (8: 25). When He heals two blind men who are following and crying after Him, they answer His question, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" by saying, "Yes, Lord" (9: 28).

But the scribes and Pharisees only call Him "Teacher" and not "Lord." In so doing they make it clear that they do not accept Him as the Messiah. All they want is to challenge and possibly disparage Him, rather than learning or becoming followers.

Jesus is well aware of their motivation. He has already shown them many signs and wonders; it is insulting and ridiculous for them to ask for one now, as if He still has to prove Himself to them. So He calls them an evil and adulterous generation.

The word "adulterous" refers to Israel's unfaithfulness in disobeying and rejecting God. He adds that the only sign they will receive is the sign of Jonah, and tells them that just as Jonah was in the belly of the whale for three days and three nights, the Son of Man will be "in the heart of the earth" for three days and three nights. (Jesus' comparison of the Jonah story to His death

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, 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.

and burial is the basis for our reading of the Book of Jonah on Holy Saturday—it is one of the Old Testament prophecies of His overcoming of death through the Resurrection.)

Next, Jesus compares the scribes and Pharisees unfavorably to people who are not learned Jews as they are. The inhabitants of Ninevah repented at Jonah's preaching, He reminds them, and "something greater than Jonah is here." When the queen of the South (the Queen of Sheba, described in I Kings 10: 1-13) heard about the wisdom of Solomon, she "came from the ends of the earth" to hear Solomon's words, and "something greater than Solomon is here." Those people understood, yet the scribes and Pharisees who know the Scripture refuse to understand that the One who fulfills it is standing before them.

But the sign is given. The Resurrection will happen, and it begins with the Incarnation that the Vladimir Icon of the Mother of God so beautifully shows us. The Theotokos understands, as the Ninevites and the Queen of Sheba before her did. She knows very well that "something greater than" Jonah or Solomon, or anyone else, is here.

Father's Day Greetings

Our heartfelt greetings to all fathers, grand-fathers, great grandfathers, godfathers, and uncles of our Parish. Let us honor our fathers by praying for them and show our love and respect. May God bless all fathers with good health, joy, peace for Many Years! Let us also not forget to pray for our departed fathers who have entered Eternal Life. Memory Eternal!

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Xenia Kary**, and **Fred Beckmann**, both celebrating this Tuesday; and **Mary Ann Dolak**, 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

◆ Save the date: the upcoming **Parish Council Conference** with a theme "Bringing New Life Into Established Parishes" will take place on **Saturday, June 30**, from **10AM - 3PM** at Christ the Saviour Church, 365 Paramus Rd, Paramus, NJ. The Very Rev. Thomas Soroka will lead the conference. All Trustees please plan to attend this event. For more information please see a flyer at the bulletin board.

◆ Save the date: **2018 Church School Workshop** for our Diocese is planned for **Saturday, August 25** at Christ the Saviour Church, in Paramus from **10AM - 2PM**. For more information and to register please see a flyer at the bulletin board or visit our Diocesan website: nynjoca.org



June 17, 2018

3rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- **8:45am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Rm. 5:1-10
Gospel: Mt. 6:22-33
- **Panikhida** - in memory of **Mary Fechisin**, offered by Margaret, Nick & Shelby Massaro
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, JUNE 23

6:00pm - Great Vespers with Litya

SUNDAY, JUNE 24 - NATIVITY OF

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

9:00am - Divine Liturgy