

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



June 24, 2018

4th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST NATIVITY OF THE HOLY GLORIOUS PROPHET, FORERUNNER AND BAPTIST JOHN

- 8:45am – Hours
- 9:00am – Divine Liturgy
Epistles: Rm. 6:18-23;
Rm. 13:11-14:4 (St. John)
Gospels: Mt. 8:5-13;
Lk. 1:5-25,57-68,76,80 (St.)
- Coffee Hour – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

Schedule of Services

SUNDAY, JULY 1
9:00am - Divine Liturgy

Department of
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
ORTHODOX CHURCH in AMERICA

Conversations with God

On June 27 we remember a saint who was given the precious and rare privilege of traveling, hearing and speaking with Jesus Christ as He lived on earth. She is Joanna, one of the Myrrh-Bearing Women who witnessed the empty tomb on Pascha morning. Joanna, as a contemporary and follower of the Messiah, truly had "conversations with God."

For Joanna, following Jesus was a risk. She was the wife of Chuza, steward to King Herod who was one of the Jesus' powerful enemies. She displayed courage in staying with the Lord, and her doing so shows us that those "conversations" with Him were filled with a truth she could not abandon or ignore, no matter how great the risk.

A fairly recent (1996) book called "Conversations with God" is said by its author, Neale Donald Walsch, to be the record of his own dialogue with God, in which his pen began to move on its own, and he found himself not so much writing as taking dictation.

Yet early in the book, Walsch "quotes" God as saying that words are the least effective communicator, open to misinterpretation, unreliable as a purveyor of Truth. If that's the case, why should we take this book, which is a long collection of words, as a reliable source of God's message to us? Why would God choose to communicate with Walsch

But "Conversations with God" has even deeper flaws than this. When Walsch asks God to reveal Himself (though Walsch ascribes no gender to God) the answer he gets is that God has "no form or shape you understand." This flatly contradicts the bedrock Christian teaching that God became Man in the

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.

Incarnation of Jesus Christ. In fact, Walsch makes his disdain for the Incarnate Lord very clear: "So who said Jesus was perfect?" God also assures Walsch that the two of them share the same essence, and possess the same qualities, including the ability to "create physical reality out of thin air." So much for the unique divinity of the Son who co-created us and came to save us.

Truth with a capital "T" comes up often in Walsch's writing, so we might expect God to offer a clear definition of it. But here's what we get: "My Truth is in the whisper of the wind, the babble of the brook, the crack of the thunder, the tap of the rain. My Truth — and your surest help in time of need — is as awesome as the night sky, and as simply, incontrovertibly, trustful as a baby's gurgle." Does this mean that Truth is "trustful" or, in other words, trusting? The statement makes no sense, especially when Truth is compared to a baby's gurgle.

A world in which this sort of book can become widely popular needs the Truth that Saint Joanna found and followed. We can ask her to guide seekers to the One who provides, and actually is, that Truth — the only One who merits a capital "T."

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **George Hook**, who celebrates his birthday this Wednesday. May God grant you, and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!

Congratulation

Congratulations to **Maxim Kseniuk** and **Daniel Kary** on their graduating from the 8th grade. May God grant you good health, wisdom, and great success in high school. As life takes you into another journey, our prayers go with you too! Many Years!

Announcements

◆ The upcoming **Parish Council Conference** with a theme "Bringing New Life Into Established Parishes" will take place this **Saturday, June 30**, from **10AM - 3PM** at Christ the Saviour Church in 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

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.