

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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ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

Gabriel the Archangel

July 13 marks the Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel, the leader of the heavenly hosts of angels. The Prologue from Ochrid reminds us that we can find him in many "appearances and marvels through the whole history of the salvation of mankind."

In the Old Testament, Gabriel appears to Daniel, proclaiming to the "greatly beloved" prophet, "I have now come to give you wisdom and understanding" (Daniel 9:22-23). He imparts to Daniel a vision of both future tribulations and the coming of an "anointed one." It is clear from this encounter that angels sometimes appear in human form, for Daniel refers to his visitor as "the man Gabriel." They also sometimes fly; Daniel says that Gabriel "came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacrifice."

The first chapter of the Gospel of Luke tells of two other appearances of Gabriel, both directly related to Our Lord. First the angel visits the aged priest Zechariah to tell him that he and his wife Elizabeth will not only no longer be childless, but shall have a son who "will turn many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God." To this wonderful news, the old man gives what is definitely the wrong response: "How shall I know this?"

We can imagine the archangel turning his powerful gaze on Zechariah as he says, "I am Gabriel, who stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you, and to bring you this good news." Zechariah is temporarily rendered unable to speak because of his disbelief. In the next verses, when Gabriel tells Mary she will bear the Son of the Most High, she is surprised, and questions him, but unlike Zechariah she believes and

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 Lazorczyk, Dennis Maixner, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky.

accepts his great news.

Both Mormons and Muslims teach things about Gabriel that Christianity absolutely rejects. Mormons claim that it was Noah "in his role as the archangel Gabriel" who visited Zechariah. For Muslims, it was Gabriel who revealed the Qur'an to Mohammed. Therefore, according to Islam, the archangel considered Jesus to be a prophet of Mohammed rather than the divine and only-begotten Son of God. But in that second chapter of Luke, Gabriel tells Mary that Jesus is "the Son of the Most High" of whose "kingdom there shall be no end." Jesus, Gabriel is clearly saying, is the Savior all the prophets were readying us for, not merely a prophet himself of a messiah yet to come.

As Christians we aren't encouraged to speculate about things that are "too great and too marvelous" for us, but the prophet Daniel gives us a wonderful vision of the angels, including Gabriel, worshipping around God's throne: "A stream of fire issued and came forth from before Him; a thousand thousands served Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him" (Daniel 7:9).

The Troparion for this day urges us to call on Gabriel: "Deliver us from harm, for you are the commander of the powers on high!"

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Kathy Cahayla**, who celebrates her birthday this Tuesday; and **Peggy Kovalycsik**, this Wednesday. May God grant both of you, and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!



Announcements

◆ 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

◆ **Enjoy your vacation** but remember to visit the Orthodox Church at your destination. To search for a local parish, go to orthodoxyinamerica.org and enter your location in the search panel. If you plan to receive Holy Communion, be sure that the priest knows who you are before the Divine Liturgy. It is always good form to approach the Chalice knowing that the priest is informed about you. Have a wonderful and safe summer!

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.



July 8, 2018

6th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Holy Great Martyr Procopius. Sitka
Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos

- **8:50am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Rm. 12:6-14
Gospel: Mt. 9:1-8
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

Schedule of Services

SUNDAY, JULY 15
9:00am - Divine Liturgy