

# 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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**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**  
ORTHODOX CHURCH in AMERICA

## Honoring the Weakest

**In Saint Paul's first Epistle to the Corinthians (12:12-26) he uses striking images to claim that each human being has the same worth and value in God's eyes.**

In these verses Paul is trying to show the Corinthians how dangerous the divisions in their church have become. He has already said that the various spiritual gifts are equally important, because they are "inspired by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as He wills" (v.11). Spiritual gifts are not bestowed as a result of the receiver's merit; they are really gifts, and like any true gift they are given out of love.

After discussing spiritual gifts, which are diverse, Paul finds a memorable way of drawing them all together. He speaks of the Church as the body of Christ in which all these gifts must work together, like the parts of the body, to make a functioning whole. Christ is the head and the authority, but all the parts have their particular use. No part is entitled to say to another, "I have no need of you."

Next, Saint Paul reminds the Corinthians that even those parts of the body that seem weakest are indispensable. Many Bible commentators note that Paul is here expressing concern that the Corinthians esteem some gifts – particularly the gift of speaking in tongues – more highly than others. He doesn't want those who feel they have "lesser" gifts to feel less worthy. Nor does he want those who have the more admired gifts to look down on those who do not have them.

Paul reinforces his point about these attitudes toward gifts by describing the way we use clothing. By covering the parts that are thought "less honorable" with clothing, we do them greater honor

## 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.

than the uncovered, more "presentable" parts. This is another way of saying that one kind of spiritual gift is no more estimable than another. Paul will expand on this in the following verses by simply grouping the gift of speaking in tongues with other gifts, giving it no special prominence. This is his way of teaching the Corinthians that they must honor each other, never ignoring or disdain the weaker members of the church.

The life of Saint Herman of Alaska, commemorated on August 9, reflects Saint Paul's teaching that the weak are to be honored. Saint Herman stood up for the weak, the Alaskan natives who were abused by the Russian fur traders. He honored the natives by teaching them, caring for their needs, and treating them as indispensable members of God's Church.

He knew that in many ways, the natives were indeed weaker – in education, money, worldly experience – than some people. But he understood that kind of weakness in the same way Saint Paul did, and an observer once described his view of the Alaskans with Jesus' words in Matthew 11:25. Addressing His Father, Jesus says, "You have hidden these things from the wise and understanding, and revealed them to babes."

## Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Andrew Fabian**, who celebrates his birthday today, and to **Kathy Lazarczyk**, this Friday. May God grant both of you, and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years!



## Announcements

◆ We are now in the **Dormition Fast** that will last until the feast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos on August 15. Please take this time as an opportunity to re-examine your spiritual life in relation to God, His Church, and our fellow human beings. The best outcome of such re-evaluation would be (and *should* be) a deep and sincere confession. General and private confessions will be offered this coming Saturday, August 11 immediately following Vespers.

◆ **Enjoy your vacation** and remember to visit the Orthodox Church at your destination. To search for a local parish, go to [orthodoxinamerica.org](http://orthodoxinamerica.org). If you plan to receive Holy Communion, be sure that the priest knows who you are *before* the 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.



August 5, 2018

10<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Forefeast of the Transfiguration

- 8:45am – Hours
- 9:00am – Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: 1Cor. 4:9-16  
Gospel: Mt. 17:14-23
- Coffee Hour – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service
- 12:30pm – Great Vespers with Litya & Blessing of Fruits

## Schedule of Services

MONDAY, AUG. 6 – TRANSFIGURATION

9:00am - Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Fruits

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11

6:00pm - Great Vespers, followed by general and private confessions

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12

9:00am - Divine Liturgy