

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

Two Icons Full of Love

The icon of the Dormition of the Theotokos shows the Mother of God lying on her deathbed. Jesus Christ, surrounded by angels, tenderly holds her luminous soul which in His glory He has taken to Himself. Her face is serene, and she is surrounded by the apostles.

"Dormition" means "falling asleep." Saint Paul writes in I Thessalonians 4:13: "I do not want you to be ignorant concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others do who have no hope."

The icon of the Dormition shows the reason for hope. Death cannot have the final word, because Christ is taking His mother to heaven. The apostles are sad, but not prostrate with grief, because they know the fulfilled promise of the Lord. The angels in the icon show that those heavenly beings will be there for us, too.

The hymns for the feast of the icon are also encouraging. The troparion and kontakion say that in her falling asleep, the Theotokos does not forsake the world but continues to pray for us. Just as Christ continues in His love for His mother, she is consistent in her loving concern for the world.

Mark 14:58 reads: "I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands." This is the source of the title of the icon "not made by hands." John's Gospel records that "the temple He was speaking of was His body. After His resurrection His disciples recalled what He had said, and they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken" (John 2:20-1).

There are a few stories of how the image came to be. The one traditionally accepted by many sources is related in the Prologue

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.

from Ochrid: Prince Abgar of Edessa in Syria heard of Christ's miracles and healings. He sent a messenger to Palestine imploring Christ to come and heal his leprosy.

Rather than leave Palestine, Christ gave Ananias a cloth on which He had wiped His face, leaving a perfect impression. When Abgar kissed it, most of the leprosy fell away, and later when he received baptism from the apostle Thaddeus he was completely healed.

Abgar put the cloth in a gold frame and placed it at the entrance of the city of Edessa for people to venerate. Above it he wrote, "O Christ our God, everyone trusting in You shall not be put to shame."

When a grandson of Abgar fell into idolatry, believers hid the image to keep it from destruction. Centuries later, with the city under Persian attack, the Theotokos told the Bishop of Edessa where to find the long-forgotten icon. He found it and processed around the city with it. The Persian army miraculously retreated.

Once again, the Theotokos did not forsake the world. Once again, the world was given a healing, loving image of Christ, Who is "the image of the invisible God" (Colossians 1:15), the One who heals and loves us all.

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Peter Czech**, 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!



Announcements

◆ **2018 Church School Workshop** for our Deanery is planned for this **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. Teachers and parents are welcome.

◆ The **Food Pantry** is always in need of food items. Please keep those less fortunate in mind and help us to feed those in need. A basket is in the vestibule of the church for your convenience. May God bless you abundantly for your generosity.

◆ **Enjoy your vacation** and remember to visit the Orthodox Church at your destination. To search for a local parish, go to orthodoxyinamerica.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 19, 2018

12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Afterfeast of the Dormition

- **8:45am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 1Cor. 15:1-11
Gospel: Mt. 19:16-26
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25
6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26
9:00am - Divine Liturgy