

# 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

Department of  
**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**  
ORTHODOX CHURCH in AMERICA

## Two Miracles

**Mark 5:1-20 recounts one of the most dramatic of Jesus' healing miracles. On September, 6, the Church remembers the miracle of the Archangel Michael at Colossae.**

The story of the Archangel's miracle begins with the gratitude of a pagan father. This man's daughter, previously mute, was enabled to speak when she drank waters from a healing spring located near the city of Hierapolis. The father, desperate to find a cure for his daughter, had taken her to the spring after being told to do so by the Archangel Michael in a dream.

Overwhelmed with thankfulness, the father and his family members were all baptized. Then the father oversaw the building of a church dedicated to the Archangel. As the miracle became widely known, people with illnesses and disabilities began coming to the spring for healing. Some were Christians, some were pagans and idol worshippers, and it made no difference—the spring's waters were effective for everyone.

Many pagans who found healing at the spring followed the example of the mute girl's father, accepting baptism into the Christian faith. They were encouraged by the example of a believer named Archippus, who lived at the church and served as its sacristan for decades. His unassuming manner, combined with sincere faith, made Christianity attractive to people who met him.

But some pagans feared the growing influence of the church that so strongly symbolized Christ's healing power, and decided to destroy it. They diverted a powerful mountain stream so that it would begin rushing toward the church and inundate it.

Saint Michael intervened by opening a fissure in the mountain, so that the stream's water plunged into it, bypassing the church.



September 2, 2018

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

- **8:45am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: 2Cor. 1:21-2:4  
Gospel: Mt. 22:1-14
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

## Schedule of Services

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

6:00pm - Great Vespers with Litya

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

#### NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

6:00pm - Great Vespers, followed by General Confession

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

## 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.

Since that time the place of the miracle has been called "Chonae" which means "plunging."

The account of the healing miracle in Mark's Gospel presents us with a man most people would hope to avoid. He lives "among the tombs" and is so violent that "he had often been bound with fetters and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the fetters he broke in pieces; and no one had the strength to subdue him." He is clearly miserable, for he "was always crying out, and bruising himself with stones."

Such a man panics people; the only way they can think of to deal with him is with more and more chains. Jesus, by contrast, deals with him calmly, fearlessly and lovingly. Instead of binding the man, Jesus frees him; He drives the demons out of him, and before long the people see that he is "clothed and in his right mind."

The healing doesn't make people happy; in fact they are "afraid" and ask Jesus to go away. Perhaps even something as terrible as demon possession had become familiar, and frightened them less than having to see God's love and power right before them in the Person of Christ.

Might we, confronted with God in person, also hope He would just go away?



## Announcements

◆ Save the date: on Saturday, September 15, 2018 there will be a **Liturgical Music Workshop**, hosted by Holy Trinity Church in Rahway, NJ. This workshop will provide tools necessary for beginning singers and conductors with limited experience. The instructor is Dr. David Drilllock, the Chairperson of the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations of the OCA. For more information please see a flyer at the bulletin board.

◆ The **Annual Diocesan Assembly** is scheduled to be convened on Tuesday, October 30 and Wednesday, October 31, 2018 at the Orthodox Church of the Holy Annunciation, 70 Van Zile Road, Brick, NJ 08724. The guest speaker is Archimandrite Sergius, Abbot of St. Tikhon's Monastery. The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy is on Tuesday, October 30 at 9:00am. Registration is from 8:00am to 8:45am and during lunch. The Assembly will begin at 1:00pm. The schedule for Wednesday will be published when it becomes available.

◆ Our **Food Pantry Coordinator**, Helen Baron, would like to thank you all for your contributions throughout the summer. God grant you all Many Years! Thanksgiving is just around the corner! Many stores have special fall sales that are worth looking into for non-perishable foods (canned or packaged) to help fill our baskets for our less fortunate neighbors.

## 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.