

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

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REV. FR. IGOR KSENIUK, Rector



October 28, 2018

22nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- **8:45am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Gal. 6:11-18
Gospel: Lk. 8:26-39
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service. At the end, a video presentation from our Diocese to the 19th All-American Council will be shown.

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4

9:00am - Greeting of His Eminence Archbishop Michael and the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

Department of
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

The “Other” Saints Cosmas and Damian

On November 1, the Church celebrates the memory of a pair of unmercenary physicians, Saints Cosmas and Damian of Asia Minor.

There are two other pairs of unmercenary saints named Cosmas and Damian, one from Rome and the other from Arabia. The title of “unmercenary” means the same thing for all of them: that they refused payment for their healing work.

The two brothers from Asia Minor were raised by their mother Theodota, a Christian whose pagan husband died while her boys were still young. She taught them to be reverent toward God, and encouraged them to study hard to become skilled physicians. She, too, is a saint of the Church and is remembered with them.

As Cosmas and Damian grew into manhood, they became well-known for their care not only of people but of animals. In their view, all living creatures, being part of God's creation, were worthy of loving care and medical help when it was needed. The brothers knew that their abilities were God's gift, so they determined never to request any payment for what they did.

They applied this principle not only to friends and people they knew well but to any stranger who needed their assistance. The courteous attention they showed to every person reflected their mother's Christian teaching, and brings to mind the words of Saint Paul: “Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer every one” (Colossians 4: 5-6). Paul was encouraging his readers to be effective in spreading the Gospel by being gracious in speech 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, Barbara Kary, Helen Kurnewitz, Kathleen Lazarczyk, Dennis Maixner, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky.

behavior; Cosmas and Damian did so by representing Christ in their medical treatment, always accompanying it with prayer.

Having agreed to be “unmercenary” in their work, the two men were more strongly bonded even than many brothers are. But the bond was broken, in a sad and curious way, for a period of several years. A very sick woman, deeply grateful to the brothers for having cured her, offered Damian the small gift she could afford: three eggs. She insisted that he accept them “in the name of the Life-Creating Trinity.” Damian felt that he could not refuse.

Cosmas was shocked by what seemed to be a breach of their agreement not to accept payment, and he declared, on his deathbed, that his brother must not be buried beside him as they had planned. When Damian died shortly after he did, a big problem arose. Where should Damian be buried?

God intervened by giving the power of speech to an animal the two physicians had once treated. The animal assured everyone that Damian had accepted the gift only out of respect for the name of God, and therefore they should not hesitate to bury him next to Cosmas. Happy and relieved, the people did so, and the two brothers were united once again.

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Lauren Silvestre**, who celebrated her birthday last Thursday; **John Kary**, today; and **Elizabeth Hatsko**, this coming Tuesday. May God grant all of you, and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years!

Announcements

◆ Today **Sunday, October 28**, a second collection will be taken in support of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship's (OCF) **College Student Sunday**. The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA encourages all the faithful to be generous in your offering of support to this ministry on behalf of our treasured college students.

◆ Next weekend, His Eminence Archbishop Michael will be visiting our parish with his annual Archpastoral visitation. Services will begin at their usual times: Great Vespers – **Saturday, November 3**, at **6:00PM**, and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy - on **Sunday, November 4**, at **9:00AM** (“winter” time).

◆ Please do not forget that the **Daylight Saving Time** ends next Sunday, November 4th by turning clock backward 1 hour. Take that extra hour that morning to be **on time** for the Divine Liturgy.

◆ A new edition of the Diocesan publication, “**Jacob's Well**,” is available by the bulletin board. Be sure to pick up a copy. “Jacob's Well” is an informative and a good way to reach-out and share our faith with shut-ins, friends, and neighbors. To view the on-line edition please visit the 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.