

# 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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Department of  
**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**  
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

## Two Outstanding Saints of Constantinople

**The Church celebrates this week two saints who lived and worked in the city of Constantinople. The first is John Chrysostom, and the second is the Emperor Justinian.**

Saint John Chrysostom did so many important things that he is one of the best-known people who ever lived in the great city. One action that stands out is his speaking against moral laxness. He insisted that priests and bishops, especially, hold themselves to a high standard of moral behavior, and urged them to serve as examples both to believers and to those outside the Church.

We might assume that his stance would be welcomed and supported by all the clergy. But there were those among them who had become accustomed to a life that didn't demand much of them in terms of moral living or hard work, and they deeply resented Chrysostom. He endured real hatred from those who had no desire to live up to the standards he set, and they watched with jealousy as he became a famous preacher and, more importantly, a spiritual shepherd loved and trusted by the people. He suffered from their envy and it finally led to his exile and death. But he never abandoned his struggle to live as a true follower of Christ.

Justinian was born in 482, about 75 years after Chrysostom's death. His unusually long reign, from 527 to 565, was as full of notable events as Chrysostom's life had been. He planned aggressive military campaigns to regain territory that had been lost, especially in North Africa and Italy. His effort was so successful that by the time he died in 565, the Empire extended further than it ever would under the rulers who followed him.

## 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, Dorothy Fabian, Barbara Kary, Helen Kurnewitz, Kathleen Lazorczyk, Dennis Maixner, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky.

Justinian wrote hymns, created a code of laws (the "Justinian Codex") to bring order to the life of the Empire, and lived as a serious Christian. He kept the fasts and observed the feasts, urging others to do the same, whether they were members of his court or simple citizens.

The rebuilding of the cathedral of Hagia Sophia was one of the great achievements of Justinian's reign. He undertook a massive program of construction throughout Constantinople, which was described in a treatise written by the court historian. The cathedral, being the central place of Christian worship in the Empire, was the most significant part of his effort.

Hagia Sophia is known for its design and grand scale, as well as its soaring dome. At least two of the architects Justinian selected had been trained in physics and mathematics, and they were able to create a structure that has impressed thousands of visitors since their work was completed in 537.

Though it is no longer a place of worship for Christians, Hagia Sophia is still a reminder of the shining days of Constantinople. The two saints John and Justinian, did much to make the city a place where God was honored and truly worshiped.

## Heartfelt Greetings

Happy wedding anniversary to **Nick and Peggy Kovalycsik**. Happy birthday to **Matthew Kary**, who celebrates his birthdays this Wednesday, and happy 1<sup>st</sup> birthday to **Jonas James Czech**, this Friday. May God grant all of you, and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years!



## Announcements

◆ The **Nativity Fast** starts this year on Thursday, November 15 and will last until the Feast of Nativity of Christ. As always, during this fasting time, each member of our parish community is encouraged to prayerfully and spiritually prepare for the celebration of this joyous feast. On **Saturday, December 15** at **2PM** there will be an **Akathist** (healing service) to the Mother of God in front of her icon "Queen of All", followed by **Parish Confessions**. Take this opportunity to rejuvenate your spiritual life as we prepare to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord. And remember that not variety, or quality, or quantity of foods that we prepare for the feast will make our celebration more joyous, but that our souls, cleansed in private Confession and sanctified in Holy Communion will be immensely more joyful when prepared properly.

## 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.



November 11, 2018

### 24<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- **8:45am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: Eph. 2:14-22  
Gospel: Lk. 10:25-37
- **Panikhida** – in memory of **Olga Olasin**, on the 40<sup>th</sup> day of her Repose, offered by Maryann Boverini; and for **all departed Veterans**.
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

## Schedule of Services

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17**  
6:00pm - Great Vespers  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18**  
9:00am - Divine Liturgy