

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

973-473-1928 (Phone/Fax)

646-387-5494 (cell)

fr.igorksn@gmail.com

Department of
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
ORTHODOX CHURCH in AMERICA

Movie Review: A Separation in Iran

The movie "A Separation" has won awards at film festivals all over the world. Though set in contemporary Iran, it powerfully depicts human conflicts and emotions common to people in all cultures, including our own.

The movie begins with a married couple speaking earnestly and sometimes angrily to an unseen judge. The wife, Simin, wants to leave Iran with her daughter so as to give the child a better life than she can have under what Simin calls "the circumstances." These are not defined; we can assume she means the conditions under which Iranian women live, since she herself dresses in jeans and a simple colored headscarf rather than the body-concealing chador that some other female characters wear. Because her husband refuses to emigrate, she is seeking a divorce.

The husband, Nader, has his reasons. He is devoted to his father, who has severe Alzheimer's and needs constant care. When he tells the judge this, his wife impatiently reminds him that his father is so ill that "he doesn't even know you are his son." He retorts, "But I know he is my father."

The judge dismisses the couple's "small problem." Simin, totally frustrated, decides to move in with her parents. As she jams everything she can into a suitcase, her daughter silently watches. Is her mother leaving for good, or temporarily?

Nader now has to find someone to watch his father. He hires Razieh, a young married woman who must bring along her small daughter. On her first workday, the old man wets his trousers, and the pious Razieh calls a religious hotline to ask whether it would be sinful for her to change him. She soon finds that the work and the worry of the job are too much for her.

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 Lazarczyk, Dennis Maixner, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky.

The next day, Razieh infuriates Nader by leaving his father alone for a time, tying him to the bed so he won't injure himself. Nader fires her and accuses her of stealing money. She insistently defends herself, and he finally pushes her out the door. Razieh's little daughter watches with wide, frightened eyes as Nader becomes more angry and Razieh more agitated.

The movie is filled with questions and mysteries. Did Nader push Razieh hard enough to make her lose her baby as she fell down the stairs? Did Nader know she was pregnant under her chador? Is Razieh's volatile, unemployed husband trying to get money wrongly by charging Nader with murder, having actually hurt his wife himself?

No character in the movie is blameless, except the two daughters. The adults all feel justified in what they do and say, but their certainty creates only sadness and confusion for each other and their children. Resolution seems impossible.

We read in Galatians 5:26: "Let us have no self-conceit, no provoking of one another, no envy of one another." These are good words for anyone living in the world so artfully presented in "A Separation" and for all of us who know the fallen human behavior it depicts.

Note: This movie may be available at many public libraries and through movie rental sites.

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Greg Cahayla**, who celebrates his birthday this Thursday; **Effie Stankovci**, and **Georgiana Stankiewicz**, both this Friday. May God grant all of you, and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years!

Floral Offerings

Beautiful flowers for the feast of St. Nicholas are offered by Maryann Stagen in memory of her father John, on the Anniversary of his Repose. Memory Eternal!

Announcements

◆ Next Sunday, December 9, there will be a **Trustees' Meeting** following the coffee hour. All members please plan to attend the meeting.

◆ On **Saturday, December 15 at 2:00 PM** 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.

◆ The response to our **appeal for gifts for the seminarian family** we are sponsoring this year for Christmas has been very inspirational. Father, the Passaic "O" Club, and the trustees of St. John's are all grateful for the loving response, and thank everyone for their participation. We wish you a blessed Christmas season and may the light of Christ's Holy Nativity guide you throughout the coming year!

◆ Our coordinator for the **Food Pantry**, Helen Baron, wants to thank everyone for their generous support in supplying food and money throughout the Thanksgiving season. Many grateful families and individuals, who otherwise would have had an empty table, sat down to a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner due to the help provided by those who care. Please continue your support and help restock the empty shelves especially now that we are approaching Christmas. Thank you.



December 2, 2018

27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Eph. 6:10-17
Gospel: Lk. 18:18-27
- **Panikhida** – in memory of **Vladimir & Elena Afanasyev, Vasiliy & Elena Oparin**, and newly departed **Susanna Kolisnichenko**, offered by Elena and Vladimir Nehrebecki.
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

Schedule of Services

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

6:00pm - Great Vespers & Litya

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6 – ST. NICHOLAS

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

9:00am - Divine Liturgy