

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

Christ is Born! Let Us Glorify Him!

The Patroness and Protectress of Paris

Saint Genevieve of Paris, commemorated on January 3, lived during the mid-fifth century.

This was the very time when Attila the Hun was threatening to conquer France. In his years of power, Attila built an empire stretching from Russia to the Rhine River, and from the Danube River to the Baltic Sea. So when he brought his soldiers thundering into France with the intention of taking Paris, many inhabitants were in an understandable state of panic and ready to flee. One resident, however, had a different idea, and that was Genevieve. She was from a family of peasants in Nanterre, and knew from childhood that she wanted to be a nun. She entered monastic life at the age of fifteen.

When her parents died she had come to live with her godmother in Paris, and became well-known for her charity and prayerfulness. She kept a strict vegetarian diet and didn't allow herself any extra physical comforts such as a soft bed or lotions to smooth her skin. The pleasures of the world didn't appeal to her, and her trust in God made her courageous and able to face anything. So when word of Attila's approach spread through the city, Genevieve didn't even think of running away. Instead, she stood at the city walls and urged people to pray, leading them in the effort for hours.

At first, some city leaders were furious with her for exposing the people to terrible danger by urging them to stay. But in the end, Attila turned back from Paris and took his armies in another

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

direction. This wonderful event, in the year 451, was the inspiration for Saint Genevieve being seen as the protectress of the city.

But this wasn't the only time Genevieve would play a role in saving the people of Paris. In the year 464, the city was attacked by Childeric, a Frankish king. He set up a siege and blockaded the ports, threatening the city with starvation. Genevieve was able to arrange for a boat to get through, bringing grain to the city so that the people could have bread. For this reason, some icons show her holding a loaf of bread.

Other icons show Saint Genevieve with a lighted candle — a reminder of another miraculous event in her life. One windy night, she and her nuns were on their way to church, going along muddy paths in the dark. Suddenly, a strong gust of wind blew out the candles they were carrying. The nuns were ready to turn back to the monastery — but not Abbess Genevieve. She was determined to get them all to church, and prayed for God's help. As she did so, the candles came alight again, and did not go out even though the nuns could still feel the strong wind.

They were able to get safely to church and home again. Perhaps even more important, they saw again their abbess' trust in God, which could overcome strong wind and fierce warriors.

Schedule of Services

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2019 – CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST. ST. BASIL THE GREAT.

9:00am - Divine Liturgy, Molieben for the beginning of Civil New Year & Blessing of Vasilopita.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5

6:00pm - Vigil and Blessing of Waters

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6 – THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Stephen Fabian**, who celebrates his birthday this Thursday; **Helen Kurnewitz**, whose 100th Birthday is this Friday. May God grant both of you, and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!

Announcements

◆ Today, after the Divine Liturgy please join us for our first annual **Cookie Fest**. \$1 entitles you to 5 delicious, beautiful, home baked cookies. For a small happy donation to the Passaic "O" Club, any cookies left over will be placed in bags for you to take home for a joyous feast in the comfort of your home.

◆ **House blessings** will start on the Feast of Theophany, next Sunday, January 6, 2019. A proposed schedule was included in "The Enlightener". Please let Fr. Igor know of any changes you would like to make.

◆ Just a reminder to the members of Passaic "O" Club: **F.O.C.A. dues** are due in January. Please see Betty Ann Fechisin.

◆ **Wall Calendars for 2019** are available in the narthex. Please take one per household. Many thanks to the Bizub-Quinlan Funeral Home for sponsoring 2019 calendars.

HAVE A BLESSED, HAPPY, AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!



December 30, 2018

31st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday After the Nativity

Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James, the Brother of the Lord.

- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Gal. 1:11-19
Gospel: Mt. 2:13-23
- **Panikhida** – in memory of: **Anatol Rozanovich**, offered by Anna Rozanovich; and **George Gocz**, on the 40th day of his Repose, offered by John and Barbara Kary.
- **Coffee Hour & Cookie Fest**

Schedule of Services

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

6:00pm - Great Vespers with Litya

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