

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

A Public Saint and a Private Saint

Gregory of Nyssa was a saint who probably preferred solitary thought, study and prayer to public preaching and lecturing. Yet he was called to both public and private activity in his life.

Born in 335 in Caesarea, Cappadocia, Gregory was one member of a family that produced an extraordinary number of saints. He grew up thinking, hearing and speaking about theology and was profoundly influenced by his older brother Basil, known to us as Basil the Great, and by their friend Gregory of Nazianzus.

With his solid theological background, Gregory was ready as an adult to write about deep and complex Church teachings in ways that people could understand. This became especially important when the doctrine of the Trinity was questioned and argued about. Gregory explained that God is One in three undivided Persons who always work together. Part of what he said has been expressed in this way: "Every operation which extends from God to the Creation...has its origin from the Father, and proceeds through the Son, and is perfected in the Holy Spirit." He also said, "Whatever comes to pass does so by the action of the Three. But what comes to pass is one thing, not three things."

In addition to defending and explaining the faith in public, Gregory was, despite his reluctance, appointed Bishop of Nyssa by his brother Basil in the year 372. Basil knew his younger sibling was not altogether suited to such a public administrative role, but he needed someone he could depend on.

As a bishop, Gregory had to deal with the false teachings of the Arians, who constantly challenged him. Seeking to damage his reputation, they accused him of financial mismanagement and got

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.

him removed from his episcopal see, and even banished for a time. Though the false charges were dropped, the experience of such publicly-expressed hostility was hurtful and embarrassing.

He was able to come back to his diocese a few years later, and because the necessity was so great, he continued to defend the faith against the Arians in public. He attended the Ecumenical Council of Constantinople in 381, and preached on special occasions. But he turned down the opportunity to become bishop of the important area of Sebaste.

Gregory needed his private time to produce his great theological works. In addition to his writings on the Trinity, he completed Basil's sermons on the six days of creation (unfinished at Basil's death in 379) and gave the world a thorough outline of theology, the "Address on Religious Instruction." There were many other works as well, including mystical writings like the "Life of Moses" which compares the Hebrews' wilderness journey to Mount Sinai to the human soul's journey through this difficult life to a vision of God.

Gregory did not choose public life, and it didn't bring him success. Yet its challenges spurred him to use his private hours for the creation of theological works that were, and still are, basic to the understanding of the Orthodox faith.

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to our President of the Board of Trustees **Robert Czech**, who celebrates his birthday this Tuesday; and **Helen Rahnefeld**, 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

◆ Father Igor, Matushka Anna, Maxim, and Sofia wholeheartedly thank everyone for the generous and beautiful gifts, lovely cards, and warm wishes during this Nativity season. May the Lord bless all of you and all your loved ones abundantly with all His earthly and heavenly blessings throughout this New 2019 Year!

◆ **House blessings** start today. A proposed schedule was included in January issue of "The Enlightener". Please let Fr. Igor know of any changes you would like to make, or if you were not included in the schedule but would like to have your house blessed this year.

◆ Thank you to all of you who in any possible way participated in preparation, beautification and clean-up of the services and social events in our parish during this Nativity season. May the blessing of the Lord be upon you for Many blessed Years!

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

◆ **Winter weather alert:** in case of necessity to cancel or delay any particular service in the church due to weather conditions, the information about cancellation will be posted on the parish website as well as on our Facebook page at least 1 hour before the scheduled time. If the weather is bad and you are not sure if the service will be served, please call rectory to verify.



January 6, 2019

32nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
THE HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD
AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Tit. 2:11-14; 3:4-7
Gospel: Mt. 3:13-17
- **Molieben** – in honor of 100th Birthday of Helen Kurnewitz.
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service.

Schedule of Services

**MONDAY, JANUARY 7 - SYNAXIS OF
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

6:00pm - Great Vespers followed by
General Confession

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

9:00am - Divine Liturgy