

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

Warning: Jesus Never Said It Would Be Easy

In Luke 20:1-8 we read a series of warnings that Our Lord gave to His disciples and the Jewish leaders who were questioning Him.

Another warning, a very direct one about Jesus' own destiny, comes in Luke 18: 32-4. He tells His followers that the Son of Man will be "mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon; they will scourge Him and kill Him and on the third day He will rise." The disciples do not comprehend what He is telling them. We read that they "understood none of these things" and "did not grasp what was said."

In the Parable of the Vineyard (Luke 20: 9-17) the warnings are again about what will happen to Jesus, but they are also about those who refuse to honor Him. He tells a parable about the owner of a vineyard who has been far away for a long time. But they beat the servant he sends to get some of the vineyard's fruits. They do the same to a second and then a third servant.

The vineyard owner, we might think, would be angry enough by this time to send troops or some hired thugs to take what is his. But he doesn't do that. He asks himself, "What shall I do?" He then gives the tenants another chance, and sends his own son. Of course we know that the owner in the parable is God the Father, and the Son is Jesus Christ.

The parable continues: the tenants kill the son. And the following verses give the terrifying warning that God will "destroy those tenants, and give the vineyard to others." In other words,

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.

the apostles and their followers will be the Church's leaders, replacing the unfaithful Jewish leaders.

Verse 17 refers to Jesus Himself: "The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner." He, the One rejected by His people, is the chief cornerstone of the Church. The next verse warns that "everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; but when it falls on anyone it will crush him."

What do these severe words mean? They tell us that some will find Christ, with His message of forgiveness and humility, to be a "stumbling block" over which they will fall because they cannot accept it. Others will be broken by God's judgment of their rebellious disobedience. This is the stone that will fall on them.

So we have a choice to make, and Christ warns us that it will not be easy. We can reject Christ's life-changing message, but if we do it will become a stumbling block for us. We can rebel against God's authority, and risk the crushing stone of His judgment.

But we can also choose to become "living stones" in the structure of the Church, with Him as our cornerstone. This is His hope for us, and it is our best hope, too.

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Joseph Pecoraro**, who celebrates his birthday today; **Eva Stashitsky**, and **Barbara Kary**, both celebrating this Friday. May God grant all of you, and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!



Announcements

◆ The next **Trustees' Meeting** is scheduled for next Sunday, January 20. All members please plan to attend.

◆ **House blessings** are in progress and will continue throughout January - February. Please let Fr. Igor know if you were not included in the schedule this year but would like to have your house blessed.

◆ **Envelopes for 2019** are available in the candle room. Please pick up your set and continue supporting St. John's. Your church does rely on your support! May the Lord bless you hundredfold for your generosity!

◆ **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.

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.



January 13, 2019

33rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Afterfeast of the Theophany.
Sunday after the Theophany.

- **8:45am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Eph. 4:7-13
Gospel: Mt. 4:12-17
- **Panikhida** – in memory of **Margaret Gill**, offered by John Dornik & family.
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service.

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

9:00am - Divine Liturgy