

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

Getting Our Facts Straight

Saint Mark the Ascetic was revered for his gentleness and for his ability to write with clarity about the "facts" of the Christian faith.

There is not much information about Saint Mark's life, but he lived in the fifth century and knew many of the great Church leaders of that time, including Saint John Chrysostom, who was probably his teacher and mentor. At the age of forty he was tonsured a monk, and spent the next several decades as a hermit in the desert of the northwestern Nile Delta in Egypt.

He prayed with the Scriptures so closely that he learned them by heart. But, studious as he was, he did not ignore the living creatures around him. He paid attention to what was happening to them.

That is why he once noticed that the offspring of a hyena was blind, and wept for it. Because of his compassion the young animal's sight was restored. The mother hyena, in gratitude, brought him a sheepskin. While appreciating the mother's gift, he made it clear to her that she was never to kill the sheep of the poor people who lived in the neighboring villages.

Saint Mark produced many writings, and in these we see his concern that people should have true knowledge, real facts, about the Christian life. So among his words are these: "Even though knowledge is true, it is still not firmly established if unaccompanied by works. For when we have totally neglected to practice something, our knowledge of it will gradually disappear." He is stating a basic fact: Just as God acted for us by becoming man

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

and overcoming death, He wants us to have an active faith, not just an intellectual one.

In our own time, many people claim to state the facts about Christianity with certainty, but they are completely wrong. In an issue of the New Yorker Magazine, Adam Gopnik, who is not a Christian, repeats a fairly common misrepresentation of Christianity. He writes that the Church's teaching is that "the omnipotent ruler of the universe could satisfy his sense of justice only by sending his son here to be tortured to death..." This is the example of someone who only writes about but does not act or live the Christian life, and therefore doesn't get his facts straight.

Gopnik's description of the reason why Jesus Christ became Man completely ignores the true, factual reason why He did so: to save us, His creatures. As Christians, we have a duty to insist that people who write about our faith get their facts straight.

This is why saints like Mark the Ascetic are so valuable. He not only wrote about the Christian faith but lived it. His words are true because they were "accompanied by works." I John 3: 18 tells us to do the same: "Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in deed and in truth."

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Sonya Finno**, who celebrates her birthday today; and **Lydia Bzik**, this Saturday. May God grant both of you, and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!



Announcements

◆ **The Trustees' Meeting** will be today, following the Divine Liturgy and coffee hour. All members please plan to attend.

◆ Next Sunday, March 10, is the **Cheesefare Sunday**. It is the last day when we are allowed to have dairy products and eggs before Pascha. After the Divine Liturgy everyone is invited for Malsenitsa in our church hall, followed by the Forgiveness Vespers in the Church. Let us together celebrate the beginning of our Lenten journey.

◆ **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.

Deepest Sympathy

Our condolences and sincere sympathy are extended to Helen Baron and all her family on the death of her husband, **Steven Baron Jr.** on February 26, 2019. May his Memory be Eternal!



March 3, 2019

40th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**Sunday of the Last Judgment
Meatfare Sunday**

- **8:45am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 1Cor. 8:8-9:2
Gospel: Mt. 25:31-46
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service.
- **Trustees' Meeting**

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, MAR. 9 - MEMORIAL SATURDAY

6:00pm - Great Vespers, followed by
General Confession

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

9:00am - Divine Liturgy, followed by
Maslenitsa and Forgiveness Vespers