

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

The Wisdom of Jude

The Epistle or Letter of Jude is the second-last book of the New Testament. Consisting of a single chapter with 24 verses, this letter has a powerful impact for so brief a document. It was inspired by a crisis, and is not the kind of letter the author had intended to write before the crisis arose. Jude states that he had planned to write about "our common salvation."

In other words, the letter was to be a general description of the beliefs that all Christians hold. He says that he was "very eager" to send such a letter. So it must have been quite a crisis that compelled him to write in an altogether different way, urging his fellow believers to "contend for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints."

He then names the cause of the crisis: There are false teachers who have made their way, secretly, into the Church. These are not enemies from outside, putting forth theories about life and salvation that are different from those of the Church. These are people who are living, working and teaching among the believers and who "deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ."

Jude offers three examples of what happens to those who "pervert the grace of God" as these false teachers do. First he describes those who were saved out of the land of Egypt in Moses' time. That deliverance was no guarantee of eternal salvation for people if they did not continue in faithfulness; Jude writes that God "afterward destroyed those who did not believe."

Next he describes angels who rebelled against God. They fell from their lofty position and now await a fearful judgment in the "nether gloom."

The third example is Sodom and Gomorrah, where immorality

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

and unnatural lust led people to actions worthy of "a punishment of eternal fire."

Jude sees the false teachers' arrogant behavior as being just as dangerous as the rebellion and immorality he has described. He writes that the Archangel Michael, when disputing with the devil, didn't presume to pronounce a "reviling judgment" on him, but left it to God. Unlike the archangel, these men "dare to revile whatever they do not understand." At the Eucharistic feast, they carouse and look after themselves rather than being peaceful and showing consideration for everyone.

This letter contains harsh condemnations. But Jude has seen the terrible effects of rebellion against God among his own people, in the churches established by the apostles. He calls on church members to be loving, and to convince, save, or have mercy on anyone they encounter. But they must also take care for their own salvation through prayer, building on their foundation of faith, keeping themselves in God's love, and waiting patiently for Christ's mercy.

This path to salvation is open to anyone; those who rebel are freely choosing not to take it and they know the consequences. Jude uses strong language and powerful images to help his readers choose to stay on the path.

Schedule of Services

MONDAY, MARCH 11

6:00pm - Great Compline & Canon of St. Andrew - part 1

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

6:00pm - Great Compline & Canon of St. Andrew - part 2

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

6:00pm - Great Compline & Canon of St. Andrew - part 3

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

6:00pm - Great Compline & Canon of St. Andrew - part 4

SATURDAY, MARCH 16 - ST THEODORE TYRO (THE RECRUIT)

9:00am - Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Kolivo

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, MARCH 17 - SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

9:00am - Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

4:00pm - Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers at St. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church, 109 Grand Street, Jersey City, NJ

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Amy Kovalycsik LeBorgne**, who celebrates her birthday tomorrow; **Scott Cahayla**, this Wednesday; and **Robert M. Czech**, this Thursday. May God grant all of you, and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years!

Announcements

◆ The **Trustees' Meeting** last Sunday was postponed. A new date for the meeting will be announced as soon as it becomes available. Stay tuned.

◆ **Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers** will be next **Sunday, March 17**, at 4:00 PM at Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Jersey City, NJ. His Eminence Archbishop Michael will be main celebrant and homilist. For other Deanery Mission Vespers please see a flyer at the bulletin board.

◆ **Joined Pre-Sanctified Liturgies** this year (6:30 PM): **March 20** - our church will host the service; **April 3** - Holy Apostles Church in Saddle Brook; **April 17** - Holy Assumption Church in Clifton.



March 10, 2019

SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE

**The Expulsion of Adam from Paradise.
Forgiveness Sunday.**

- **8:50am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Rom. 13:11-14:4
Gospel: Mt. 6:14-21
- **Panikhida** – in memory of Steven Baron, on the 9th day of his Repose, offered by the Baron family
- **Maslenitsa** – everyone is invited to celebrate the beginning of our Lenten journey.
- **Forgiveness Vespers** with the Rite of Forgiveness. The service will start after Maslenitsa.

BEGINNING OF LENT – STRICT FAST