

# 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

## Helping Our Children Reach the Kingdom

**The Church remembers a young but very determined Christian woman who was martyred for the faith. She is St. Theodosia, a native of Tyre in Phoenicia.**

Theodosia was born in the late third century, and her loving parents raised her to be a devout Christian, as they were. She was deeply influenced by her upbringing, so much so that by her middle teens she had already pledged to live as a virgin and dedicate herself to Christ.

It was during those same years, while a teenager, that she traveled to Caesarea in Palestine. This was one of the places where Christians were being savagely persecuted. Theodosia saw a group of believers, bound with rope and obviously having already been beaten and mistreated, waiting to be interrogated by the pagan governor. She approached them and congratulated them on their steadfastness, urging them to remain strong and asking them to pray for her.

This act of solidarity with such notorious religious criminals was enough to get the young woman arrested by guards. When the guards presented her to the governor, she infuriated him by her cheerful manner and the absence of fear she displayed. He didn't hesitate to subject her to terrible tortures. But she maintained her composure and addressed him directly: "By your cruel actions, O governor, you are insuring that I will have the great happiness of the Kingdom. I rejoice to see that I am called to this crown, and I thank God that He has granted it to me."

No matter what ugly tortures he invented, the governor could not shake Theodosia's faith or make her beg for an end to the

## 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 you 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.

*pain. He finally had her beheaded.*

*Theodosia's parents were like many who love their children. They wanted her to be a good Christian, but also hoped to spare her any suffering. Knowing that those in power hated Christianity, they had tried to dissuade her from declaring her faith in public and risking great trouble.*

*After her martyrdom, they had a vision of their daughter dressed in bright, shining garments and holding a gleaming golden cross. Theodosia said to them, "Behold the glory of which you wanted to deprive me!" She said this, perhaps, not to rebuke them but to show them they need not lament the choice she had made.*

*All parents can be tempted to urge their children not to speak out about their faith when doing so might be dangerous or isolating. The Church also remembers another daughter whose parents had to accept that she would proclaim her faith, suffer, and experience extraordinary things: Mary, the Mother of God.*

*The icon of the Theotokos called "Unfading Bloom" shows the Mother of God and Christ surrounded by bright flowers, which represent Mary's ever-bright purity. Theodosia, like Mary, chose to attend to God's will rather than the dictates of this world. She chose the unfading glory that so many saints find after suffering in the present world, the world that is, at every moment, fading away.*

## Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Chris Bzik**, who celebrates his birthday this Thursday. May God grant you, and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years!

## Announcements

◆ The next **Trustees' Meeting** is scheduled for next Sunday, March 31 after the coffee hour. All members please plan to attend.

◆ **Deanery Mission Vigil** for the Feast of Annunciation this afternoon will be at 5:00PM at the Annunciation Church, 360 Van Zile Road, Brick, NJ. His Eminence Archbishop Michael will be main celebrant and homilist. Other Deanery Mission Vespers:

**Sunday, March 31**, 4:00PM - Assumption of the Holy Virgin Church, 35 Orange Avenue, Clifton, NJ.

**Sunday, April 7**, 4:00PM - our parish will host the service. His Eminence Archbishop Michael will be main celebrant and homilist.

**Sunday, April 14**, 4:00PM - Holy Trinity Church, 830 Jefferson Avenue, Rahway, NJ.

**Wednesday, May 1**, 7:00PM - Christ the Saviour Church, 365 Paramus Road, Paramus, NJ.

◆ Remaining **Joined Pre-Sanctified Liturgies** this year (6:30 PM): **April 3** - Holy Apostles Church in Saddle Brook; **April 17** - Holy Assumption Church in Clifton.

## 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.



March 24, 2019

### SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

#### Forefeast of the Annunciation

• 9:00am – Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

Epistle: Heb. 1:10-2:3

Gospel: Mk. 2:1-12

• **Coffee Hour** and a **Pot Luck Luncheon** sponsored by the Passaic "O" Club

## Schedule of Services

**MONDAY, MARCH 25 - ANNUNCIATION**

9:00am - Vesperal Divine Liturgy

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27**

6:30pm - Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

**FRIDAY, MARCH 29**

6:00pm - Akathist to Jesus Christ & Panikhida for the Departed

**SAT., MARCH 30 - MEMORIAL SATURDAY**

6:00pm - Great Vespers

**SUNDAY, MARCH 31**

9:00am - Divine Liturgy