

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

Good Disobedience and Bad Disobedience

Mark 1:35-44 shows that while He was doing great miracles on earth, Jesus Christ still remained obedient to His Father.

The passage begins in the very early morning. During the previous evening, Jesus has healed a great number of people and cast out demons, forbidding them even to speak. Now, well before the sun is up, He goes out alone to pray. Jesus never depends on His own power to heal and subdue demons. He constantly prays, submits Himself to His Father's will, and asks His Father to strengthen Him.

Another passage, in Hebrews, encourages us to pray often, and to help each other be faithful and obedient to God, as Jesus is to His Father: "But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called 'today,' that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we share in Christ, if only we hold our first confidence firm to the end..." (3:13-14). We need to pray constantly and renew our faith and our commitment to it.

Jesus, in the passage from Mark, is given little time for His private prayers. Very soon, Simon Peter and the others "pursue" Him, and find Him. Again He is obedient, leaving His remote place to go among the people and preach to them, as He came to do.

We soon see a reason why Jesus needs to renew His strength in prayer. It is because even those who receive great blessings from Him do not always listen to Him. A leper begs Him for healing, and Jesus grants it. But when Jesus "sternly charges" him not to say anything to anyone except the priests, the man promptly goes out to "spread the news." As a result of this disobedience, Jesus can "no longer enter a town." Yet His own

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 Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky.

obedience to His Father never wavers; He has come to preach and to save, and He will continue to do so.

The Church remembers Saint Hilarion the New, who gives us an example of good disobedience. He lived peacefully in the early 9th century as leader of the Dalmatus monastery until the imperial government was taken over by iconoclasts, those who fiercely opposed the veneration of icons, partly because they misinterpreted the Old Testament's prohibition of graven images. Hilarion revered icons, and fearlessly accused the emperor of heresy. He was quickly imprisoned.

Hilarion's monks successfully begged for his release, promising to adhere to the law against honoring icons. But once back in their monastery, they resumed veneration of the holy images. The emperor soon discovered Hilarion's disobedience, having assigned men to watch him closely. Once again Hilarion was imprisoned, and tortured.

Freed by the next emperor, Hilarion lived quietly at the monastery until his death in 845. His life shows that there is such a thing as good disobedience, because sometimes it is actually obedience to God's will, like the obedience of His Son – the Son who came in the flesh and thus allowed us to depict Him in icons.

Schedule of Services

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FRIDAY, APRIL 12

6:00pm - Akathist to the Theotokos & Molieben for Health

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

Announcements

◆ It is our joy to lovingly welcome our dear Vladika, His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, Bishop of New York and the Diocese of New York and New Jersey to the Deanery Mission Vespers this afternoon. **Eis Polla Eti Despota!**

◆ Next Sunday, April 14, there will be an additional collection for St. Andrew's Camp to build a new kitchen, dining hall, and activities center. The cost of this new building is \$300,000. Please be generous and be sure that the magnanimous gift you offer will help make possible a brighter future for our Church. Thank you.

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Maxim Kseniuk**, who celebrates his birthday today. May God grant you, and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnogaya Leta!

Memory Eternal

Memory Eternal to **Mitered Archpriest John Nehrebecki**, on the 1st Anniversary of his Repose. Grant rest eternal in blessed repose with the Saints, O Lord, to the soul of Thy servant, the ever-to-be-remembered + Mitered Archpriest John, who has fallen asleep, and make his Memory to be Eternal! Вечная Память!



April 7, 2019

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

St. John of the Ladder (Climacus)

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

Epistles: Heb. 6:13-20

Eph. 5:9-19 (Saint)

Gospels: Mk. 9:17-31

Mt. 4:25-5:12 (Saint)

• **Panikhida** in memory of **Steven Baron**, on the 40th day of his Repose, offered by Helen Baron and family.

• **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

• **4:00pm** - Deanery Mission Vespers

Schedule of Services

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

6:30pm - Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

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