

# 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

## Ready in Every Way to Hear His Word

**In the later part of Great Lent we read Genesis 46: 1-7. The passage tells the story of Jacob's journey to Egypt with his sons. God calls the aged Jacob, and makes a great promise to him, speaking to him in visions of the night: "Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there." God also tells Jacob that his favorite son Joseph, presumed to be dead, will be the one to close the old man's eyes when he himself dies.**

Having this assurance, Jacob and his sons set out: "They also took their cattle and their goods, which they had gained in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt, Jacob and all his offspring with him, his sons, and his sons' sons with him, his daughters, and his sons' daughters; all his offspring he brought with him into Egypt."

This is a momentous journey, because it begins the history of the Hebrews first flourishing in Egypt and then, in the Book of Exodus, being enslaved by a new king "who did not know Joseph."

The king is worried that the Hebrews have become "too many and too mighty for us." After the harsh years of slavery he imposes on them, Moses will come forth to deliver them from their Egyptian bondage and lead them toward the Promised Land.

But what would have happened if Jacob wasn't ready to hear and do the word of God, and to begin this important journey? In

## 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.

preceding verses (Genesis 45: 21-26) we are told that Jacob's sons had returned from Egypt where, to their wonder, they met their brother Joseph. He was not only alive, but had become the highest official in the Egyptian government. They relate this amazing news to Jacob, but "his heart fainted, for he did not believe them." (The Orthodox Study Bible translates the verse this way: "But Jacob's mind was completely stunned, for he could not believe them.") He only does believe when he sees the loads of "good things of Egypt" and "provision for his father on the journey" back to Egypt that Joseph has sent with the brothers.

Jacob was not ready for the good news that his beloved Joseph was alive; he was too stunned and faint of heart. He regained his senses, fortunately, and was able to carry out God's plan for him. That plan was more than just for a father to be reunited with a beloved and long-lost son. Jacob's journey would begin a whole new chapter in the history of salvation.

As Great Lent ends, this passage reminds us that we, too, will soon receive the good news that someone presumed to be dead is truly alive. Are we ready to hear that news? Will we do whatever God wants us to do as a result of hearing it, and take our own place in the history of salvation?

## Schedule of Services

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### GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 27

9:00am - Vespers & Divine Liturgy of St. Basil  
1:30pm - General Confession, followed by blessing of Paschal Baskets  
11:30pm - Midnight Office (Nocturne), Procession, and Resurrection Matins

### SUNDAY, APRIL 28 - THE HOLY PASCHA

9:30am - Divine Liturgy, followed by blessing of Paschal baskets and breaking of the Fast in the church hall.

### BRIGHT MONDAY, APRIL 29

9:00am - Divine Liturgy & Procession around the Church with children carrying icons

### BRIGHT TUESDAY, APRIL 30

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

## Announcements

◆ Today a second collection will be taken for the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (F.O.C.A.) and their "Gifts of Love" program. This year the donations will go to St. Tabitha's House in Malava, Kenya. St. Tabitha's House is a Christian orphanage under the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria started in the Kibera Slums of Kenya. They currently house 26 children, providing food, shelter, academic and spiritual education and so much more. St. Tabitha's House was founded by Fr. Agapios Lipesa and his wife Papadia Dorah. He was assigned as the rector of St. George the Great Martyr parish in the Kibera Slums in the Kisumu Diocese in Kenya. As part of his work as a parish priest, he consistently saw the horrific conditions that the people of Kibera lived in. At the same time he felt a strong love for the orphans who make up the most vulnerable of the population. Your generosity towards this cause is greatly appreciated. May God grant you Many blessed Years!



April 21, 2019

### ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM (Palm Sunday)

- 8:45am – Hours
- 9:00am – Divine Liturgy & blessing of palms and willows  
Epistle: Phil. 4:4-9  
Gospel: Jn. 12:1-18
- Coffee Hour – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

## Schedule of Services

### GREAT AND HOLY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

7:00pm - Holy Unction

### GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 25

9:00am - Vespers & Liturgy of St. Basil  
7:00pm - Matins with 12 Gospels

### GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY, APRIL 26

2:00pm - Vespers & placing of the Shroud  
7:00pm - Matins & Burial Service

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