

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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CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

A group of saints, all Roman soldiers, were martyred together in about the year 302 in Macedonia.

Their names are Pasicrates, Valentin, and Julius (with other companions) and the details of their stories are somewhat diverse. Pasicrates' brother had renounced Christ for fear of persecution, and he tried to convince Pasicrates to do the same. But Pasicrates angrily told him, "Get away; you are no brother of mine!" Then he and Valentin submitted to death together.

Julius had served in the army for many years, and made a statement at his trial: "I served the emperor faithfully for 26 years. Shall I now fail to be faithful to the greater Kingdom and its King?" He too was executed.

One of the companions, Marcian, had a wife and young son. As he was preparing to face death, his wife came to the place of execution, carrying the child in her arms. Marcian kissed his son and prayed that God would take care of him. He commended his young child to God's care.

The word "commend" occurs in our worship services, especially the Divine Liturgy. In the Litany of Supplication the priest says, "...let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life to Christ our God." The Prayer of Preparation contains these words "Unto Thee we commend our whole life and hope, O Master who lovest mankind."

The meaning of "commend" is important. It expresses a basic tenet of our faith--that we trust God to care for us, to take care of "all our life" and of each other. Commending ourselves to God means placing ourselves, so to speak, in His hands. We

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.

acknowledge that on our own we can't do anything; it is all up to Him and we are confident in entrusting ourselves to Him.

In some liturgical translations, the word "commit" is used in place of "commend." But this completely changes the meaning of the petition. To commit means to pledge or to bind. When we commit ourselves or someone else, we put them under an obligation. How can we pledge, bind, or put under obligation to God people we may not even know? How can we commit people to Him who may not even believe in Him?

We can't do any of those things. What we can do is put them under His care. So, for example, we "commend" to Him people we do not know personally but who we know are suffering in distant places. We commend to Him those we know and love, but for whom we have no personal power to do anything. The martyr Marcian was about to die and would no longer be able to care for and protect His child. But he could commend the boy to the One whose care is unfailing and unshakable.

So as believers we commend "our whole life and hope" to God. We put ourselves, those we love, those we are worried about, those who suffer, in His hands.

What better place is there to be?

Mother's Day Greetings

Our heartfelt greetings to all mothers, grand-mothers, great grandmothers, godmothers, and aunts of our Parish. Let us honor our mothers by praying for them and show our love and respect. May God bless all mothers with good health, joy, peace for Many Years! Let us also not forget to pray for our departed mothers who have entered Eternal Life. Memory Eternal!

Birthday Greetings

Happy happy birthday to **Jennifer Czech**, who celebrates her birthday this Wednesday. May God grant you, and all who celebrate their birthdays this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!

Announcements

◆ The **Paschal Artos** that was distributed last Sunday is still available. If you would like to have a piece, please see fr. Igor after the Divine Liturgy.

◆ **Heartfelt Thank You** to all of you who in any possible way participated in preparation, beautification and clean-up of the services and social events in our parish during this Paschal season. May the blessing of the Lord be upon you and your loved ones for Many blessed Years! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Welcome Visitors

We welcome all visitors to the Paschal Divine Liturgy this morning. 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.



May 12, 2019

3rd SUNDAY OF PASCHA
Holy Myrrhbearing Women
Mother's Day

- **8:45am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Acts 6:1-7
Gospel: Mk. 15:43-16:8
- **Panikhida** in memory of **Steven Baron**, offered by John & Barbara Kary; and for all departed **mothers, grand-mothers and godmothers.**
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

Schedule of Services

- SATURDAY, MAY 18**
6:00pm - Great Vespers
- SUNDAY, MAY 19**
9:00am - Divine Liturgy