

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

Jealousy That Kills

July 3 is the day the Church remembers a very youthful martyr: a boy named Hyacinthus or Hyacinth, who lived in Caesarea in Cappadocia in the second century.

Raised in a Christian family, Hyacinth had to face a terrible dilemma early in life. He was bright and articulate, and had a friendly, engaging manner. These qualities brought him to the attention of the emperor Trajan, who made him an assistant to the chamberlain in the royal court.

The dilemma, of course, was Hyacinth's faith. The emperor and his other servants were pagans, and Trajan was among those Roman rulers who hated and feared Christians. When Hyacinth stood aside and did not take part in ceremonies of sacrifice to the pagan idols, other court members were quick to notice. They were already jealous that a high position had been given to such a young person, and now they saw their chance to curry favor with the emperor.

They denounced Hyacinth, and had him brought to trial. When he refused to sacrifice to the idols and openly stated his willingness to be sacrificed himself for Christ, the infuriated emperor had him thrown into prison. Trajan also ordered that the only nourishment Hyacinth should be given was food that had been sacrificed to idols. The emperor, not surprisingly, assumed that the boy would give in to his hunger when it became too hard to bear, and would eat the food forbidden to Christians.

But Hyacinth did not and would not touch the food he was given. He died after a number of days, still short of reaching his teenage years. It happened in the year 108.



June 30, 2019

All Saints of America
All Saints of Russia

Synaxis of the Twelve Apostles

- **8:45am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
 - Epistles: Rom 2:10-16
Heb. 11:33-12:2 (All Saints)
 - Gospels: Mt. 4:18-23
Mt. 4: 25-5:12 (All Saints)
- **Panikhida** – in memory of **Steven Baron**, offered by Thomas & Paula Brunson & Family
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, JULY 6

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, JULY 7

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

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.

In the first verses of Romans 14: 9-18 Saint Paul talks about the danger of passing judgment on other people. But after asking why anyone would judge a brother, he also writes: "Or you, why do you despise your brother?" The "despising" that Paul writes about can be a form of jealousy, an attitude toward someone who is different from us and who might, we fear, have something we do not. This was the jealous fear that motivated Joseph's brothers, in Genesis, to sell him into slavery and what they thought would be his death. And it led Trajan's courtiers to bring about Hyacinth's martyrdom, though they hoped it would cause him to betray his principles when hunger became extreme.

Paul is referring in these verses to those who scrupulously keep religious laws (such as not eating meat) and then judge others who do not keep the same laws. That judgment too is a form of jealousy, a fear that even those who don't keep the laws may be accepted by God. If that happens, what advantage will the law-keepers have?

Paul urges us to abandon such concerns. He asks us "never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother" because of jealousy, but to look to the Kingdom where we find "righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Stephanie Kibitelsky**, who celebrates her birthday this Monday; and **Maryann Stagen**, this Thursday. May God grant both of you, and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!



Announcements

◆ **Pilgrimage to Alaska:** Join His Eminence, Archbishop Michael and fellow pilgrims from our Diocese on **July 15-21, 2020** for a very special journey to the cradle of Orthodox Christianity in North America – Kodiak, Alaska! Participate in the 50th Anniversary celebrations of Saint Herman of Alaska's canonization and the 50th Anniversary of the OCA's autocephaly in 2020. There will be weekly trips to Alaska over the summer of 2020 sponsored by each of the dioceses of the OCA. This will be a special trip for all Orthodox believers. Regular price \$2,525/person. Early bird price (register by July 15, 2019) \$2,295 per person double occupancy. Single supplement \$675. Triple rate offers \$280/person savings. For more information please visit our Diocesan website: www.nynjoca.org.

◆ Save the date: Diocesan "YOUTH DAY" for the New York City and New Jersey Deaneries this year will be on **Saturday, 17 August at Yankee Stadium** for a baseball game with the NY Yankees vs the Cleveland Indians. First pitch is at 1:05 p.m. and further details will be announced soon along with registration information.

◆ Saint Andrew's Camp: Annual Bike Ride. Do a charity bike ride this year! Mark your calendar for **Saturday, 24 August 2019** and bike for **Saint Andrew's Camp**. This ride is ideal for the person who has never attempted a charity bike ride. You CAN do this ride! The Ride offers 3 distances to choose from, each on flat to rolling terrain. Overnight accommodations are available at the camp. For more information please visit our Diocesan website: www.nynjoca.org.