

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

From Nothing to Everything in a Moment

The Church remembers the woman called Veronica (or Beatrice) whose story is told in Matthew 9: 20-22. She has been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years.

It would be hard to imagine a person whose life held less promise. This woman's condition, which she had endured for such a long time, cut her off from society in many ways. She was considered to be unclean, and could not take part in the traditional social or religious events. She was not even supposed to be intimate with her husband, or to touch anyone.

In Luke's Gospel we are given a further detail that Matthew's account does not contain: this woman had spent all her money going to doctors and taking their recommended medicines or undergoing their suggested procedures, hoping to find a cure. She had not simply accepted her terrible affliction, but had tried with all her strength to do something about it. The failure to find a cure, for all those years, must have added to her heavy emotional burden.

Desperation, sadness, poverty and loneliness were things this outcast woman lived with every day. She was a person about as close to having nothing as it is possible to be.

Matthew's Gospel tells us that her encounter with Jesus Christ took place when He was on His way to do a great work: a leader in the synagogue, whose daughter had just died, was asking Him to "lay Your hand on her, and she will live."



July 7, 2019

3rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- 8:45am – Hours
- 9:00am – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Rom 5:1-10
Gospel: Mt. 6:22-33
- Panikhida – in memory of **Louis Koziel**, offered by Patricia Galley
- Coffee Hour – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, JULY 13

6:00pm - Great Vespers, followed by General Confession

SUNDAY, JULY 14 - ST. VLADIMIR

(COMMEMORATED JULY 15)

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 Lazorczyk, Dennis Maixner, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky.

This leader had something in common with the lowly Veronica; they shared faith in Jesus Christ. Matthew quotes her as saying something similar to what the leader had said about his daughter. Veronica says, "If I only touch His garment, I shall be made well." So she breaks the rules about uncleanness and does touch the fringe on His garment.

Jesus' response is immediate and unhesitating: "Take heart, daughter, your faith has made you well." With these words He gives her not only healing, but hope for the rest of her life. She is not only cured, but she can take heart, and look forward new confidence to the coming years.

Saint Paul tells us what happened to the woman when she reached out in faith to Christ, and what happens to all those who put their faith in Him. Everything, Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 3: 22-23, becomes theirs: "For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future, all are yours; and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's."

By her act of faith in that one moment, the woman who had nothing was given everything. She simply had to step up and receive what is promised to all people. We can make it the aim of our lives to do the same.

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Kathy Cahayla**, who celebrates her birthday this Wednesday; and **Peggy Kovalycsik**, 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

◆ **A request from His Eminence Archbishop Michael regarding special "Matching Pledge" for St. Andrew's Camp:** An Anonymous Donor has offered a Matching Pledge: for every dollar donated for the new building in the month of July, the Anonymous Donor will match each of the contributions – up to \$10,000! Our Diocesan parishes, organizations and faithful are urged to help the Camp Building Project by donating this month, and having their contribution matched by this Anonymous Donor. All contributions should be made out to "Saint Andrew's Camp," earmarked for the "New Building Project," and mailed to: Diocesan Chancery, 33 Hewitt Avenue, Bronxville, New York 10708. May God bless all those who contribute toward this new facility at our youth camp – with all the good things that come from His hands.

◆ **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.