

## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthodox Church of America

A Parish of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey

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*July 25, 2021*

*Dormition of the Righteous Anna*

*Mother of the Theotokos*

- 9:10 am - Hours
- 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy
- Epistle:* Rom. 10:1-10 Gal.4:22-31
- Gospel:* Matt. 8:28-9:1 Luke 8:16-21
- **Coffee Hour** – Church Hall. Everyone is invited for a fellowship followed the service.

*Schedule of Services*

**Saturday, July 31**

- 5:00 pm – Great Vespers

**Sunday, August 1**

- 9:10 am - Hours
- 9:30 am – Divine Liturgy.

♦ We are happy that you have joined us for worship today and hope that you will join us for coffee hour after the service. Please note that reception of the Holy Eucharist is only for baptized members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared with prayer, fasting, and periodic confession. You are encouraged to receive the blessed bread that is offered at the end of the service and which may also be offered to you by one of your neighbors during Communion.



### WEEKLY BIBLE MESSAG

*Dormition of the Righteous Anna, the Mother of the Most Holy Theotokos*

Saint Anna was the daughter of the priest Matthan and his wife Mary. She was of the tribe of Levi and the lineage of Aaron. According to Tradition, she died peacefully in Jerusalem at age 79, before the Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos.

During the reign of Saint Justinian the Emperor (527-565), a church was built in her honor at Deutera. Emperor Justinian II (685-695; 705-711) restored her church, since Saint Anna had appeared to his pregnant wife. It was at this time that her body and maphorion (veil) were transferred to Constantinople.

Portions of Saint Anna's holy relics may be found on Mount Athos: Stavronikita Monastery (part of her left hand), Saint Anna's Skete (part of her incorrupt left foot), Koutloumousiou Monastery (part of her incorrupt right foot). Fragments of her relics may also be found in her Monastery at Lygaria, Lamia, and in the Monastery of Saint John the Theologian at Sourota. Part of the saint's incorrupt flesh is in the collection of Saints' relics of the International Catholic Crusaders. The church of Saint Paul Outside the Walls in Rome has one of the saint's wrists.

Saint Anna is also commemorated on September 9.

*Parable: A Hole in The Fence :*

There once was a little boy who had a bad temper. His Father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, he must hammer a nail into the back of the fence.

The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence. Over the next few weeks, as he learned to control his anger, the number of nails hammered daily gradually dwindled down. He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence....

Finally the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all. He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper.

The day passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone. The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. He said, "You have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one. You can put a knife in a man and draw it out. It won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry, the wound is still there. A verbal wound is as bad as a physical one."

Friends and loved ones are a very rare jewel, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise and they always want to open their hearts to us. Water your relationships with kindness... and they will grow. So be careful little lips what you say...! And you won't chase friendships away.

### *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, Barbara Bogart, Michael Bzik, Mary Ann Dolak, Barbara Kary, Margaret Kovalycsik, Kathleen Lazarczyk, Dennis Maixner, Marian Nagel, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Patricia Galley.

### *Birthday Greeting*

Happy Birthday go out this week to **Brielle Hope Anderson** – July 25; **Austin Christofer Anderson** – July 27 and **Betty Ann Fechisin** – July 29. May God continue to enrich their life with the fullness of joy and happiness for many years – Mnogaya Lyeta!

### *Announcement*

♦ **Panikhida service** today following the Divine Liturgy in memory of **Anastasia Petrow** died July 26,1999 and **Wasily Petrow** died May 4, 1990. Parents of Rose Marie Petrow.

♦ **The flowers** adorning the Icon on the center tetrapod were given by **Rose Marie Petrow** in memory of her parents. We sincerely thank her with prayers for God's blessings always.

♦ **Saint Andrew's Camp Annual bicycle ride fundraiser!** This year the bicycle ride will be on Saturday, August 28th, 2021. The ride is a fun way to support OUR Camp and to connect with other Orthodox Christians from different churches of our diocese. All levels of riding ability are welcome.

