

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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August 2, 2020

8th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 7

Relics Protomartyr Stephen

- 9:10am - Hours
- 9:30am - Divine Liturgy
1 Cor. 1:10 -18.
Matt. 14:214-22.

Schedule of Services

Tuesday, August 4

- 9:00am - Akathist to Saint John, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord.

Wednesday, August 5

- 5:00pm - Great Vesper with Litya

Thursday August 6

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

- 9:30 – Divine Liturgy

Friday, August 7

- 9:00am - Moleben to the Most Holy Theotokos

Saturday, August 8

- 5:00pm - Great Vesper

Sunday, August 9

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

WEEKLY BIBLE MESSAG

There were 5000 men and many more women and children. This multitude wasn't planned to be so large. So when Jesus saw the crowd, He felt compassion and cured all the sick among them. Then there was a problem. The disciples realized that it was getting late and the people needed to get to a town for some food. But the Lord Jesus casually told them that there was no need to send them away. (He evidently loved being with these people.) And then He told His disciples to feed them. But the disciples only had 5 loaves and 2 fishes, which they gave to Jesus. What happens when we give something to Jesus? What happens when we cling to Him in need? What happens if we give Him all that we have, even a few loaves & fishes? Our Lord and Savior blessed the bread and fish; then He broke the bread to be given to over 10,000 souls. The disciples began passing around the baskets of bread & fish and the Holy Spirit miraculously made that bread & fish multiply so much, that everyone was full. There were even 12 baskets of leftover scraps! And when this giant miracle was finished, Jesus told His disciples to leave in a boat while He stayed with the crowd. (He must've really loved them!)

And He did this to prepare for another giant miracle. This is what happens when we give something to Jesus, like our worship & prayer. It happens when we give our ears to His Gospel & gather for His Liturgy. He takes the best we can offer to Him, no matter how little, and He transforms it into overflowing abundance. It may or may not be noticeable; yet the Holy Spirit fills our souls. And then God prepares the next great miracle for our next offering to Him. This cycle is the way of our Creator, who loves us abundantly, even sending us more than we need every time.



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, Dorothy Fabian, Barbara Kary, Margaret Kovalycsik, Kathleen Lazorzcyk, Dennis Maixner, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky, Patricia Galley.

Birthday Greeting

Happy Birthday go out this week to **Nicholas Bzik** – August 2. May God continue to bless them with good health and long life for many years – Mnogaya Lyeta!

Our Parish Life

- ♦ We can now worship together again; however, do to social distancing, we are limited to 55 parishioners in the church. It should go without saying that anyone feeling sick or not yet comfortable with attending should stay home and watch the livestream. **Also**, there will continue to be **NO COFFEE HOUR** to minimize any risk.
- ♦ **The sacrament of Holy Confession.** As we return to church, confession by **appointment** is now available. Masks must be worn and social distancing must be observed. If you prefer, you can still take part in the Sacrament **via phone**; call Fr. Maryan to set up a time for both options.
- ♦ **Please Inform** Fr. Maryan if you, a family member or any other parishioner is hospitalized. By doing so, I can schedule a visit. Thanks for your assistance in this matter.

♦ As you can see, our parish life is quite different from what we are used to; but with the Lord's direction and guidance, and your love and patience, we're certain that we will successfully get through this. The day will come when we can, once again, celebrate all of our traditions and services together in our accustomed manner. Until then, let us be grateful for how far we have gotten through this great health crisis and live in hope and love for our God.

