

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthodox Church of America

A Parish of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey

170 Lexington Avenue, Passaic, New Jersey, 07055

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October 20, 2019

18TH SANDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Greatmartyr Artemius Righteous
Child Artemy. Tone 1.

- 9:15 - Hours
- 9:30 - Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 2 Cor, 9: 6-11
Gospel: Lk. 16:19-31

▪ **Coffee Hour** - everyone is invited for a fellowship following the service.

Schedule of Services

Saturday, October 26

**Greatmartyr Demetrius, Martyr
Lupus**

- 5:00pm - Great Vesper

Sunday, October 27

- 9:15 – Hours
- 9:30 – Divine Liturgy



ICON LAMPS AND INCENSE

Some points about their Significance in the Holy Church

The lamps which hang in Orthodox Churches have a very long and venerable tradition. In the Book of Exodus it says: And do you command the sons of Israel, and let them bring to thee refined pure olive beaten to burn for light, that a lamp may burn continually in the tabernacle of the testimony, outside the veil that is before the ark of the covenant. Aaron and his sons shall burn it from evening until morning before the Lord; it is a perpetual ordinance throughout your generation of the sons of Israel. (Ex.27:20-Septuag.)

In this commentary on Psalm 17, Saint Athanasius the Great points out that the lamp used in our worship represent the mind is illumined with repentance; for without repentance, our lamps – that is, our minds – are darkened by sin. The incense, too, has a long history in the rites of both the Old and the New Israel. At every vespers service in the Church, we chant the verse from Psalm 140: Let my prayer be set forth as incense before Thee, the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.

Thus, it is a symbol of our prayers and teaches us how our prayers must rise unto God, free of the earthly passions; but filled with warmth and fragrance.

Furthermore, the incense typifies the life of virtue, as apposed to the stench of sin. It remind us of the fragrance of the holy relics of the saints, who are graced with incorruption – which stands in contrast to the foul

stench of corruption and decomposition that comes from sin.

In his ninth sermon on the *Song of Songs*, this is what Saint Gregory of Nyssa says concerning the true meaning of the aromatic incense, as it is used in sacred rites of the Church of New Israel:

The soul that breathes a sweet spiritual fragrance, in the manner of Paul who was *the fragrance of Christ* (II Cor. 2: 15), surpasses all the aromatic spices of the old Law. She becomes fragrant throughout her entire life, breathing the myrrh of holiness and an incense variously mixed and compounded of all the virtues; and thus she comes to delight the nostrils of (Christ) her Spouse in a fragrance of sweetness. (PG 44, 956-7)

Thus, the incense is meant to teach us that we must strive to become “the fragrance of Christ,” so that both our souls and bodies may escape the bonds and the bitter stench of sin and corruption, even as Christ triumphed over sin and death.

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, Doroty Fabian, Barbara Kary, Margaret Kovalycsik, Kathleen Lazarczyk, Dennis Maixner, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashisky.

Birthday Greeting

Happy Birthday go out this week to **Anna Rozanovich**. May she continue to be surrounded by loving family and friend and live a life touched by happiness and filled with God richest blessing for many years – Mnogaya Lyeta!

Announcement

• The **Trustee’s Meeting** will be today, following the Divine Liturgy and coffee hour. All members please to attend.

• **Concert:** Sunday, October 27 at 4:00 p.m. at St. Anthony Orthodox Church 385 Ivy Lane, Bergenfield, NJ. **Spirit of Orthodoxy Choir** and **Boston Byzantine Choir**. Suggested donation: \$15

• The **Annual Diocesan Assembly** is scheduled to be convened on Thursday, October 31st and Friday November 1st, 2019 at the Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity, 369 Green Avenue, East Meadow, NY 11554

• **Bulletin Info.** Contact Father Maryan, our Bulletin Editor, if you want to include an announcement in next Sunday’s bulletin.

• **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.

• **Welcome** to all our visitors and guests who participate in our celebration of the Divine Liturgy today. We are glad you are here. While Holy Communion may only be received by prepared Orthodox Christians, our non-Orthodox guests are welcome to join us in venerating the cross and receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Liturgy. We also hope you will join us for the meal and time of fellowship in our parish hall.