

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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September 20, 2020

15th Sunday after Pentecost - *Tora 6*
Greatmartyr Eustathios, Placidias and
his wife Martyr Theopistes.

- 9:10am - Hours
- 9:30am - Divine Liturgy
2 Cor. 4:6-15 Gal. 2:16-20
Matt. 22:35-46 Mark 8:34-9:1

Schedule of Services

Tuesday, September 22

- 19:00pm - Akathist to Saint
John, Forerunner and Baptist of the
Lord.

Friday, September 25

- 19:00p9m - Moleben to the Most
Holy Theotokos:

Saturday, September 26

- 5:00pm - Great Vesper.

Sunday, September 27

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



WEEKLY BIBLE MESSAG

On September 20 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we continue to celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, and commemorate holy Great-martyr Eustathios, Theopiste his wife, and their two sons Agapios and Theopistos. Eustathios, before his baptism, was an illustrious Roman general named Placidias in the second century. While hunting in the country one day, he was converted to the Faith of Christ through the apparition of an uncommonly majestic stag, between whose antlers he saw the Cross of Christ, and through which the Lord spoke to him with a human voice. Upon returning home, he learned that his wife Tatiana had also had a similar vision. They sought out the Christian Bishop and were baptized, Placidias receiving the name Eustathios, and Tatiana the name Theopiste; their two sons were baptized Agapios and Theopistos. The family was then subjected to such trials as Job endured. When the family refused to sacrifice to the idols—a public sacrifice from which no Roman general could be absent—the Emperor Hadrian had them put into a large bronze device in the shape of a bull, which was heated with fire until they died. When their holy bodies were removed, they were found to be without harm. The martyrs suffered in the year 126. On this day, we also commemorate the Venerable-martyr Hilarion of St. Anne Skete on Athos; Venerable John of Crete; Martyrs Michael, prince of Chernigov, and his councilor Theodore. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O God, have mercy on us. Amen.

On September 23 in the Holy Orthodox Church we celebrate the Conception of the holy, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John. On this day the mercy, miracles and wisdom of God are celebrated: His mercy toward the devout and righteous parents of St. John, the aged Zacharias and Elizabeth, who all their lives had wished for and begged a child from God; His miracle, that of John's conception in the aged womb of Elizabeth; and His wisdom, in the dispensation of man's salvation. God had an especially great intention for John: namely, that he be the Prophet and Forerunner of Christ the Lord, the Savior of the world. Through His angels, God announced the births of Isaac to the childless Sarah, Samson to the childless wife of Manoah, and John the Forerunner to the childless Zacharias and Elizabeth. All of these were those for whom He had special intentions, and he foretold their birth through His angels. On this day, we also commemorate the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyr Raidos of Egypt; New-martyrs Nicholas the Grocer and John of Brachorion; Venerable Xanthippa and Polyxena of Spain. By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

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 Kovalycaik, Kathleen Lazarczyk, Dennis Maixner, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakoz, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky, Patricia Galley.

Birthday Greeting

Happy Birthday go out this week to **Irina Chaykivska** – 24. May God continue to enrich her life with the fullness of joy and happiness for many years – Mnogaya Lyeta!

Our Parish Life

♦ **A SITE TO SEE.** Take a look at www.ocmc.org and see all of the good being done by the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) in answering the call to bring the Gospel to all nation.

♦ **FOR YOUR INFO.** A moving and inspirational video showing the beauty of Orthodoxy can be seen on www.youtube.com. It is called *The Orthodox Church - A Visual Journey*. Take a look!

♦ **INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES (IOCC)** provides assistance solely on the basis need to the victims of poverty, war and natural disasters – orphans, refugees, people with learning disabilities and the elderly. Gifts are used to meet emergency wants such as food and shelter, as well as long-term projects that provide education, job training and disease prevention. During these trying economic times, your financial assistance is needed more than ever to allow this worthy charity to continue to provide essential services so that those who've lost everything can begin to rebuild their lives. Respond today to the call of Jesus Christ to minister to those who are suffering and in need throughout the world and send a contribution to IOCC, PO Box 630255, Baltimore, MD 21263. Know that every dollar you give helps IOCC secure, on average, almost \$7 in support from governments, foundations, ecumenical organizations and other funding sources. God bless- your assistance has never provided more hope.

