

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 26, 2020

1st Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 6
Hieromar. Hermolaus of Nicodemia
St. Jacob Netsvetov of Alaska

- 9:10am - Hours
 - 9:30am - Divine Liturgy
Rom. 15:1-7. Phil. 3:7-14
- Matt. 9:27-35. Mark 10:29-31,42-45

Schedule of Services

Tuesday, July 28

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

Friday, July 31

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

Saturday, August 1

Begin. Dormition Fast

- 5:00pm - Great Vesper

Sunday, August 2

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



WEEKLY BIBLE MESSAG

In today's epistle reading, it says, "Accept each other, as Christ accepted you, to the glory of God." This was St. Paul's finishing point as he wrote about how each of us should please our neighbors first, not ourselves first. He especially pointed out that Christ Jesus did not please Himself, but took on our reproaches as the Bible prophesied. What does it mean to accept each other as Christ accepted us? This may seem like a strange question, but some people interpret it to mean that we should be accommodating to an extreme. They may even interpret it to involve an acceptance of lawlessness or immorality. But the last phrase answers this question: to the glory of God. We are to accept our neighbors to the glory of God. It is not for the glory of our opinions or for the glory of a cause. Christ died for our sins & so we too should guide others to repent. This doesn't mean that we should accept the sins of others. God doesn't accept sins; He often stands against them, which causes some people to hate Him and demonize Him. Christ was demonized and His disciples were also demonized. But the Holy Spirit's non-acceptance of sins and falsity isn't a work of demonizing sinners. The Bible teaches that everyone on earth is created by God and has a conscience.

Refusing to accept what goes against God is what we are created to do. So we should accept our neighbors as sinners, just as Christ accepted us. And we should remember that we too are sinners, which helps us not to demonize, as if we are superior. As Christ gently heals our souls, so should we heal others. And as St. Paul says in this passage, when we imitate this spirit of Christ, we can glorify God in one mind. Christ's unity comes from this mind of seeking to please others first. And this is because human glory fades away, but what is from the Holy Spirit stays forever.



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 Lazarczyk, 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 **Austin Christopher Anderson** – July 27 and **Betty Ann Fechisin** – July 29. 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 Dormition Fast** begins this Saturday, August 1, and continues until the feast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos on August 15. Parish Confessions will be heard immediately following Vespers on Saturday, August 8.
- ◆ **The flowers** adorning the icon of St. John the Baptist on the center tetrapod and front icons Jesus Christ and Holy Theotokos were given by **Rose Marie Petrow** in memory of her mother **Anastasia Petrow**. We sincerely thank her with prayers for God's blessing always.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **For your information** A moving and inspirational video showing the beauty of Orthodoxy can be seen on www.youtube.com. It is called *The Orthodoxy Church – A Visual Journey*. Take a look!

