

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

www.stjohnspassaic.org

V. Rev. Maryan Chaykivsky, Rector 973-473-1928 (Phone/Fax)

Email: fr.maryanch@gmail.com 908-930-2274 (cell)



August 22, 2021

Monday, August 22, 2021

- 9:10 am - Hours
- 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy followed by blessing of flowers and herbs.
Epistle: 1 Cor. 3: 9-17
Gospel: Matt. 14:22-34
- **Coffee Hour** – Church Hall. Everyone is invited for a fellowship followed the service.

Schedule of Services

Saturday, August 28

- 5:00 pm – Great Vespers.

Sunday, August 29 (Strick Fast)

The beheading of the Holy, Glorious, prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John.

- 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.

Parable: Eyes of My Father:

A teenager lived alone with his father and the two of them had a very special relationship. The father believed in encouragement. Even though the son was always on the bench, his father was always in the stands cheering. He never missed a game.

This young man was the smallest of the class when he entered high school. His father continued to encourage him but also made it very clear that he did not have to play football if he didn't want to.

But the young man loved football and decided to hang in there. He was determined to try his best at every practice and perhaps he'd get to play when he became a senior. All through high school he never missed a practice or a game, but remained a bench warmer all four years. His faithful father was always in the stands, always with words of encouragement for him. When the young man went to college, he decided to try out for the football team as a "walk-on".

Everyone was sure he could never make the cut, but he did. The coach admitted that he kept him on the roster because he always puts his heart and soul to every practice and at the same time provided the other members with the spirit and hustle they badly needed. The news that he had survived the cut thrilled him so much that he rushed to the nearest phone and called his father.

His father shared his excitement and was sent season tickets for all the college games. This persistent young athlete never missed practice during his four years at college, but he never got to play in the game. It was the end of his senior football season and as he trotted onto the practice field shortly before the big play off game, the coach met him with a telegram. The young man read the telegram and he became deathly silent.

Swallowing hard, he mumbled to the coach, "My father died this morning. Is it all right if I miss practice today?"

The coach put his arm gently around his shoulder and said, "Take the rest of the week off, son. And don't even plan to come back to the game on Saturday."

Saturday arrived and the game was not going well.

In the third quarter, when the team was ten points behind, a silent young man quietly slipped into the empty locker room and put on his football gear. As he ran onto the sidelines, the coach and his players were astounded to see their faithful team-mate back so soon.

"Coach, please let me play. I've just got to play today," said the young man.

The coach pretended not to hear him. There was no way he wanted his worst player in this dose playoff game. But the young man persisted and finally feeling sorry for the kid, the coach gave in.

"All right," he said. "You can go in." Before long, the coach, the players and everyone in the stands could not believe their eyes. This little unknown, who had never played before, was doing everything right.

The opposing team could not stop him. He ran, he passed, blocked and tackled like a star. His team began to triumph.

The score was soon tied. In the closing seconds of the game, this kid intercepted a pass and ran all the way for the winning touchdown. The fans broke loose. His team-mates hoisted him onto their shoulders. Such cheering you've never heard!

Finally, after the stands had emptied and the team had showered and left the locker room, the coach noticed that the young man was sitting quietly in the corner all alone.

The coach came to him and said, "Kid, I can't believe it you were fantastic! Tell me what got into you? How did you do it?"

He looked at the coach, with tears in his eyes and said, "Well, you knew my dad died, but did you know that my dad was blind?"

The young man swallowed hard and forced a smile, "Dad came to all my games, but today was the first time he could see me play and I wanted to show him I could do it!"

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 **Peter**

Czech – August 22 and **Andrea Shaker** August 26. May God continue to enrich their life with the fullness of joy and happiness for many years – Mnogaya Lyeta!

Announcement

Let us remember that as Orthodox Christians, we believe everything comes from the Lord: our breath, happiness, sight, touch, hearing, beauty, youth, age and all makes life on earth so sacred and bearable. Being made in His likeness, we stand apart from the rest of creation. Each one of us has inherent worth – rich and poor, man and woman, adult and child, educated and ignorant, light and dark, beautiful and homely, sound and disfigured. To intentionally destroy the crowning act of His creation – something that He Himself declared to be **VERY GOOD** – is to strike at the very image of God. If human life has no **eternal** value, why did Christ voluntary take on our nature in His Incarnation, live as a poor man, die the most painful death reserved for the worst of criminals and rise from the dead on the third day?

May all of us, as united members of His Body, the Church, continue to live our lives in a manner pleasing to God by working and praying for the protection of human life and the preservation of its dignity.

