

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

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Department of
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
ORTHODOX CHURCH in AMERICA

Disturber of the Peace

On January 19 the Church honors two saints named **Macarius**.

The first is Macarius the Great, to whom a demon once said, "There is only one thing in which I cannot excel you. It isn't in fasting, because I never eat, and it isn't in keeping vigil, because I never sleep." When Macarius asked what it was, the demon replied, "Your humility."

The second saint remembered on this day is Macarius of Alexandria. Born there in 295, he was a merchant until he was forty, when he was baptized and went into the desert to begin a life of prayer.

Even though he began his monastic effort later in life, Macarius was so conscientious in prayer that he came to have great spiritual power, and one story about him gives a good example. As he was crossing the Nile on a ferry boat, another passenger, a military officer, noticed him. The officer was wearing his gold-braided uniform, encircled by a gold belt, and carrying his handsome sword at his side. He said to Macarius, whose monastic clothes were simple and almost ragged, "You are blessed in being scorned by the world."

Macarius told the official, "Your words are prophetic, for my name is Macarius, which means 'blessed.' But if, as you say, I am happy and blessed in being scorned by the world, are you not miserable in being so obviously enslaved by the world?" These words had such a profound effect on the officer that he left the military, gave his possessions to the poor, and became a solitary monk.

But the devil, always trying to disturb our peace, sometimes tries especially hard with people like Macarius. For a long time,

Intercessory Prayers

We pray for all our fellow parishioners, but we pray especially for those who are incapable of being with us in church. Among them are:

Michael, Mary and Max Bakaletz, Genevive Bobenko, Pauline Bodnar, Nancy Filak, Dorothy Gentner, Mary Hadginske, Helen Kurnewitz, Margaret Lawler, Kathleen Lazarczyk, Emil Mikulik, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Anatoly & Anna Rozanovich, Nadine Sojka, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

the saint was tempted by lustful dreams and desires, and had a hard struggle to overcome them. He also was struck by a longing to leave his cell and travel to faraway places, which is dangerous for any monk trying to keep his life focused on God and prayer.

Macarius had to work so hard against these temptations that his efforts became legendary. He sat in a swamp and let himself be almost devoured by mosquitoes. He ate practically nothing, and tried, until it became impossible, to go without sleep. Once he spent many months walking in the desert with a heavy basket of sand on his shoulders. When another monk asked him what he was doing he replied, "I am wearing out him who wears me out."

Because his efforts to overcome temptations were sincere, Macarius reached a point where the devil could no longer disturb his peace so easily. He even became able to recognize and heal others possessed by demons or afflicted by serious temptations of the devil.

In a verse from one of this day's readings, Saint Paul tells us to "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts" (Colossians 3:15). The disturber of the peace will keep trying, but saints like Macarius are with us in the fight to snatch victory out of his evil hands.

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to **Anna Mae Beckmann**, who celebrates her birthday today, **Nicholas Alexander Silvestre** - January 22, and **Chris Baron** - January 23. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!

Memorial Offerings

Two beautiful baskets of red flowers were given in memory of **Mary Stagen** by daughter Maryann Stagen. Memory Eternal! Vichnaya Pamiat!



Announcements

◆ The next **Board of Trustees'** meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 21** at 7:00 p.m. All members are urged to attend.

◆ The **New Jersey Deanery Appreciation Dinner** for the 2013 Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors of our Diocese will be held at the Holy Assumption Church in Clifton on **Sunday, January 26** at 5:00pm.

◆ Our **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held on **Sunday, February 16** following the Divine Liturgy. A light luncheon will be available. Please plan to attend.

Our Deepest Sympathy

to family and friends of **Margaret Chabay**, who passed away on **Saturday, Jan. 18, 2014**. Per family request, funeral arrangements are as follows: there will be a gravesite service on Tuesday, January 21 at 1pm at the East Ridgelawn Cemetery. May newly departed Margaret rest in peace in God's Heavenly Kingdom! Memory Eternal! Vechnaya Pamiat!



January 19, 2014

30th Sunday after Pentecost

- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Col. 3:12-16
Gospel: Lk. 18:35-43
- **Fellowship** – everyone is invited for Coffee Hour following the Divine Liturgy

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25
4:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26
9:00am - Divine Liturgy