

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

Giving It All Up When You Have It All

On June 27 the Church celebrates the memory of a man who, from birth, truly "had it all." He is Saint Sampson the Hospitable. In some accounts he is also given the title of Physician.

He was born in Rome in the 5th century to a wealthy, prominent family. The study of medicine particularly interested him, and his privileged position enabled him to pursue it fully, while also receiving an excellent and well-rounded education.

Sampson belongs to a group of saints known as "Unmercenaries." These saints cared for those who needed medicine or healing without asking for payment. When Sampson completed his medical studies, he willingly served as a physician to anyone who needed him. Along with medicine and physical care, he gave comfort and spiritual guidance, urging everyone he met to trust and serve Jesus Christ.

His loving care wasn't limited to those who were considered, in the stratified Roman society, to be his equals. When his parents died he freed all the slaves he had inherited as part of a vast fortune. His inherited money went to help the poor, and he made plans to live simply in the wilderness.

But he came to understand that he could serve God better living among people, so he moved to Constantinople. He took a small house and offered its shelter to homeless people, while continuing to serve as a physician and caring friend.

The Patriarch of Constantinople heard about Sampson's work, and called him to priestly ordination. More people got to know who he was after he was ordained, but his quiet ministry of healing didn't change at all.



June 22, 2014

2nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
All Saints of America

• 9:00am – Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Rom. 2:10-16

Heb. 11:33-12:2(Saints)

Gospel: Mt. 4:18-23

Mt. 4:25-5:12(Saints)

• Fellowship – everyone is invited for
Coffee Hour following the service.

Schedule of Services

MONDAY, JUNE 23

10:00am - Funeral for **Helen Newell**

6:00pm - Great Vespers with Litya

TUESDAY, JUNE 24 - NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

5:30pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, JUNE 29

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

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, Genevieve Bobenko, Pauline Bodnar, Nancy Filak, Mary Hadginske, Helen Kurnewitz, Margaret Lawler, Kathleen Lazorzcyk, Emil Mikulik, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Anatoly & Anna Rozanovich, Nadia Sojka, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

When Emperor Justinian became gravely ill and his doctors could find no cure, Sampson was sent for. His fervent prayer healed the emperor, who was so relieved and grateful that he wanted to bestow lavish gifts on the man who had cured him.

But Sampson had already had the kinds of things the emperor wanted to give him. He respectfully reminded the monarch of this, and said, "I left those things behind for the sake of Christ, so that I might find heavenly and eternal wealth." Perhaps only a person who has given up great riches is able to understand so well how little they mean in comparison to God's gifts.

Sampson did receive a reward from the emperor. He requested that Justinian build a hospital to serve the people of Constantinople. His request was fulfilled, and the hospital became the largest free clinic in the empire. One commentator remarked on the uniquely Christian character of the hospital:

"It should be noted that such institutions were unknown to the pagans. They built grandiose edifices, temples to their gods, palaces, theaters, circuses whose ruins amaze us even today by their enormous size. They spent huge amounts on luxury and pleasure, but nowhere do we see that they tried to ease the lot of the sick and the suffering." (From "Selected Lives of Saints", compiled by A.N. Bakhmeteva, Moscow 1872.)



Announcements

◆ A concert by the **Konevets Quartet** featuring Russian folk songs and sacred chant will be held at Holy Apostles Orthodox Church in Saddle Brook on Tuesday, June 24th at 7:00 p.m. Proceeds from the concert help to support the Konevets Monastery. No admission, however free-will donations are accepted. For more information please go to Holy Apostles website at: www.holyapostlesnj.org.

◆ The **Trustees' Appreciation Dinner** will be held on July 8 at 6:30 p.m. at *Al Cavaliere* in Clifton. For more information, please see Mary Ann Dolak.

◆ The **Food Pantry** coordinator, Helen Baron, thanks everyone for their donations and wishes to remind everyone that the need exists in the summer months as well as during holiday seasons. There is no vacation for those in need of assistance.

◆ **Enjoy your vacation** but remember to visit the Orthodox Church at your destination. To search for a local parish go to <http://orthodoxyinamerica.org> and enter your location in the search panel. Have a wonderful and a safe summer!

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Mary Ann Dolak** who celebrates her birthday today. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!

Deepest Sympathy

Our Deepest Sympathy to Family and friends of newly departed **Helen Newell**. Viewing will be at J.C.Fila Funeral Home today, Sunday, June 22 from 1pm to 4pm with Parastas at 1pm. Funeral Service will be in our Church tomorrow, Monday, June 23rd at 10am, followed by the burial at East Ridgelawn Cemetery. May the Lord rest her soul in His heavenly Kingdom. Memory Eternal!