

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

Saved for Greater Work

On September 28th the Church honors Saint Chariton the Confessor.

Saints who are given the title "Confessor" rather than "Martyr" are those who witnessed to the faith and often suffered for it, but were not put to death as the direct result of their witness. Chariton did undergo imprisonment and torture when he boldly professed his faith, but was not martyred. God saved him for greater work.

Born in about 254, Chariton belonged to a well-respected family in the city of Iconium (now Konya, in Turkey) which was also the home of another saint named Thecla, a young woman who for three solid days listened from her window to Saint Paul's preaching on his first missionary journey. She was so convinced by what she heard that she later became a missionary herself, preaching and teaching as a helper to Paul.

Thecla was an example to Chariton. He began to speak publicly and often about his dedication to Jesus Christ. Before long he was arrested by the governor, and told to stop insulting the gods by claiming that only the one God of the Christians was real.

But the governor had no success with Chariton, who told him that the pagan gods were merely prideful demons who had been cast out of heaven into the depths of hell because they hated God and refused to worship Him.

At first the governor tried to talk Chariton out of his beliefs. But Chariton chose to challenge him, trying to make him examine his own beliefs and see their superficiality. Chariton said, "If your gods are truly worthy of worship, you shouldn't be letting me deride them and trying to reason with me. Why don't you defend them, and silence me once and for all?"



September 28, 2014

16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Ven. Chariton The Confessor

Church Musician Appreciation Day

- 9:00am – Divine Liturgy
Epistles: 2Cor. 6:1-10; 4:6-15
Gospels: Lk. 5:1-11; Lk. 6:17-23
- Fellowship – everyone is invited for
Coffee Hour following the service.

Schedule of Services

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

6:00pm - Great Vespers with Litya

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1 – PROTECTION

(POKROV) OF THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

5:30pm - Great Vespers, followed by
General Confession

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

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 Lazarczyk, Emil Mikulik, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Anatoly & Anna Rozanovich, Nadia Sojka, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

He went on, "Do your gods feel with their hands, or speak with their mouths, or see with their eyes? No, they do none of these things. They are dead idols, and they are nothing like the living God, Jesus Christ, and His Father in heaven."

The governor wasn't ready to hear any more, or to test the truth of Chariton's words. He ordered that the outspoken Christian be beaten and put in prison, where he was routinely tortured.

Chariton did not die in prison, and when the harsh measures against Christians were lifted, he was released. Setting out for Jerusalem, he was waylaid by robbers. But once again, though hurt, he didn't lose his life. He gave up his plans to live in a city, and went into the desert.

The later years of Chariton's life were given to the establishment of two monasteries, the first in the wilderness of Pharan and the second near Jericho. Both became well-known for the holiness of the men who came to live in them, learning from the example of Saint Chariton.

We don't know why some saints died as martyrs and others, though tested and made to suffer, did not. But the martyred ones apparently had finished their work. Some, like Saint Chariton, were being saved for greater work still to be accomplished.

Heartfelt Greetings

Congratulation to our Choir Director Maryann Stagen and all choir members, recent and former on the occasion of the **Diocesan Church Musician Appreciation Day**. May the our Lord on this day of recognition of all of you, who give time and musical talent to sing in our church choir, leading us in prayer, singing to the Lord, blessing His name and proclaiming His salvation, will ever strengthen and inspire you and grant you a long life, peace, good health, salvation, visitation, good hastening in all things, and may He protect and preserve you for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!

Announcements

◆ **Orthodox Education Day** at St. Vladimir's Seminary will be held this **Saturday, October 4**.

◆ Save the date: **Sat.- Sun. November 1st & 2nd**: His grace Bishop Michael will be visiting our parish with **Archpastoral visitation**, and he will also be a guest and a main speaker at the New Jersey **District Convention of the F.O.C.A.**, hosted by our "O" Club the same weekend at our church hall. Please plan to attend services on both days, and support our "O" Club by purchasing a patron or booster or by taking an ad in the convention adbook. If you would like more information, please see Bob or Betty Czech or any "O" Club member.

◆ **Food Pantry** items are needed. Cans of soup, vegetables, fruits & cranberry sauce, stuffing & gravy, and turkeys will be needed to make up **Thanksgiving Baskets** for our neighbors in need. Or, if you prefer, you can give a monetary donation, and we will shop for you. Please bring in your donations by **Sunday, November 16th** to give us enough time to assemble the baskets and prepare them for distribution.

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to **Janice Pecoraro** whose birthday is this Tuesday. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!