

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

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Department of
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ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

Two Chronicles of Holy Lives

On March 11 the Church celebrates the memories of two saints who collected and recorded accounts of the lives of holy people. They lived in different times and places, but shared the conviction that Christians always need examples of courageous faith.

Saint Sophronius of Jerusalem was born in Damascus in about 560. He became a monk and entered the Monastery of Saint Theodosius, where he was befriended by the hieromonk John Moschus, and became John's disciple. The two traveled together through monasteries in several countries, gathering inspiring stories of the monks and elders they met. Their collection has come down to us as a book called "The Spiritual Meadow."

In the prologue, which he dedicates to Sophronius, Saint John Moschus describes a meadow full of flowers of various colors, each with their own beauty. Similarly, he writes, holy men serve God in different ways, but all are equally pleasing to Him. Like meadow flowers, the men he writes about are different, but their varied examples all can lead others to lives of holy service. He continues: "Just as a bee seeks out only what is useful and true, so I have described the lives of the holy fathers that souls may be enlightened."

St. Sophronius himself was a prolific writer. His work includes 950 troparia and stikhera, many odes, a life of Saint John the Almsgiver, and the Prayer for the Great Blessing of Water at Theophany. He is also the author of the Life of Saint Mary of Egypt. This is the only saint's life that is a requisite part of an Orthodox worship service; it is read during the fifth week of Great Lent.

St. Sophronius saw heresies divide the Church, and was forced as Patriarch to surrender the city of Jerusalem to Saracen, or

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, Nancy Filak, Mary Hadginske, Helen Kurnewitz, Margaret Lawler, Kathleen Lazarczyk, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Anatoly & Anna Rozanovich, Nadia Sojka, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

Muslim conquerors. But his personal example and his writings about other exemplary people continue to be "useful and true."

Cordoba, Spain in the 850's was also a time and place in which Christians lived under Muslim rule. Saint Eulogius of Cordoba, the second chronicler commemorated on this day, was born sometime before 819, and raised in a devout Christian family. He was sad to see some Christians getting comfortable with their second-class citizenship and becoming increasingly assimilated. Then there were others who fearfully concealed or even abandoned their faith in order to "get along" in the dominant culture.

Saint Eulogius wanted to inspire his fellow Christians to be braver and more faithful. He collected and wrote stories of Cordoban Christians who refused to deny or hide their faith and were martyred. Among them were priests, government officials, monks and nuns, soldiers, and other believing men and women. Saint Eulogius himself was beheaded when the authorities discovered that he was hiding Christians.

A reading for this day is Proverbs 9:11, in which God promises the wise that He will add years to their lives. Saints Sophronius and Eulogius knew that those promised years would be granted in a world beyond this one, where peace overcomes the strife they wrote about in their accounts of holy people.

Heartfelt Greetings

Happy Birthday to **Rose Marie Petrow**, who celebrated her birthday on March 2, **Amy LeBorgne**, March 11; **Scott Cahayla**, March 13; and **Robert M. Czech**, March 14. Happy Wedding Anniversary to **Bob & Betty Czech**, March 14. May God grant all of you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!

Announcements

◆ **A heartfelt Thank You** to all of you who in any possible way participated in planning, organization, preparation, and all the work that was done for the beautiful Pan-Orthodox Vespers on Sunday of Orthodoxy that we hosted last week. May the Lord reward all of you hundredfold for your time and talents that you used for the glory of God and His Holy Church. Many Years!

◆ Schedule of the **Deanery Mission Vespers** (services start at 4:00pm):

Mar. 8 - St. Gregory Palamas Church, Glen Gardner, NJ
Mar. 15 - Holy Resurrection Church, Wayne, NJ
Mar. 22 - St. John the Baptist Church, Alpha, NJ
Mar. 29 - Holy Transfiguration Church, Pearl River, NY
Wed. April 15, Bright Wednesday, **7:00pm** - Christ the Saviour Church, Paramus, NJ. For more information please see a flyer posted on the bulletin board.

◆ **Joint Mission Pre-Sanctified Liturgies** during this Great Lent will be as follows:

Mar. 11, 9:00am - Ss. Peter & Paul Church in Passaic.
Mar. 18, 6:30pm - our parish will host the service.
Apr. 1, 6:30pm - Holy Assumption Church in Clifton.

◆ **We welcome** all visitors to our Divine Liturgy. It is our joy to have you with us today. If this is your first visit to our parish, we welcome you and invite you to return as often as you are able. While Holy Communion may only be received by prepared Orthodox Christians, our non-Orthodox guests are welcome to join us in venerating the Cross, receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, and for fellowship after the service in our Church Hall in the school building next door.



March 8, 2015

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT St. Gregory Palamas

- **8:50am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy of St. Basil
Epistle: Heb. 1:10-2:3
Heb. 7:26-8:2
Gospel: Mk. 2:1-12
Jn. 10:9-16 (Saint)
- Fellowship and the Annual Parish Meeting.

Schedule of Services

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

6:00pm - Akathist to Jesus Christ & Panikhida for the Departed

SATURDAY, MAR. 14 - MEMORIAL SATURDAY

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, MAR. 15 - SUNDAY OF THE CROSS

9:00am - Divine Liturgy