

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
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

The Holy Spirit at Work

Today is the Feast of the Holy Pentecost.

On that day the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit. They were given the power to preach and teach without fear and with joy in the Lord.

June 1 is the feast day of another saint who was empowered by the Holy Spirit. Using his considerable intellectual skills, he sought the true God for many years. He finally found Jesus Christ, and became one of the most famous Christian teachers of the early Church. He is Saint Justin the Martyr.

Justin was born to pagan parents in about the year 100, in Judea. He had a good early education, but didn't find it sufficient to answer his questions about the meaning of life. He decided to pursue the study of philosophy, and in his writings he describes his experiences with various teachers.

First was a Stoic, who in Justin's words "knew nothing of God and did not even think knowledge of Him to be necessary." Next Justin studied with a traveling, or itinerant, philosopher. But this man, he thought, was more interested in collecting his fee than imparting knowledge. Then there was a teacher of Pythagorean philosophy. But he required that a student take his courses in music, astronomy and geometry before concentrating on philosophy. Justin had little interest in or time for such requirements.

Justin's study of Platonic philosophy brought him closer to answers. As he described it: "And the perception of immaterial things quite overpowered me, and the contemplation of ideas furnished my mind with wings, so that in a little while I supposed I had become wise; and such was my stupidity I expected

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:

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.

forthwith to look upon God, for this is the end of Plato's philosophy."

Then Justin had a life-changing experience, which he later saw as a direct gift from the Holy Spirit. He met an old man who, unlike all the wise teachers he'd encountered, convinced him that there was true wisdom—not in the works of philosophers, but in the teaching of the Old Testament prophets about Jesus Christ. Justin responded with joy:

"A fire was suddenly kindled in my soul. I fell in love with the prophets and these men who had loved Christ; I reflected on all their words and found that this philosophy alone was true and profitable. That is how and why I became a philosopher. And I wish that everyone felt the same way that I do." Observing the unshakable faith of martyrs strengthened his conviction that Christianity was true.

Saint Justin would later write defenses of Christianity (called "Apologies") powerful enough to convince an emperor to halt the persecutions of believers. He also formed basic Christian thought, being among the first to say that the Old Testament foretells the coming of Jesus Christ as Messiah.

Saint Justin accepted martyrdom, inspired by the example of other martyred believers. The Holy Spirit was at work in all of them, just as on the day of Pentecost when wind and fire changed the apostles' lives forever.

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Michael Bzik**, and to **Eileen Bowne**, who celebrate their birthdays this Wednesday. May God grant both of you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!

Announcements

◆ **Thank you** from the Passaic "O" Club for your generous donations collected on Palm Sunday for our Gifts of Love Appeal. The money was used to help St. Vladimir's Camp for Orthodox Youth.

◆ **The 90th Anniversary of our parish** is in two weeks! On **June 13-14, 2015**, our beloved Hierarch Archbishop Michael will join us in celebrating this milestone. **Great Vespers** will be served on **Saturday at 6:00pm**, followed by **Panikhida for all departed parishioners**. On **Sunday**, the **Hierarchical Divine Liturgy** will start at **9:00am**, followed by a **banquet at The Brownstone** in Paterson, NJ at 1:00pm. For reservations, please contact Robert or Betty Czech by tomorrow, June 1.

Floral Offerings

Flowers for the feast of Pentecost were given by Maryann Stagen in memory of her mother Mary. Last Sunday, May 24, two baskets of white flowers were offered by our parish in memory of Archpriest Peter Kohanik. Two baskets of flowers on Sunday, May 17 were given by Michael Bzik in memory of his parents John and Anna. May their Memory be Eternal!

Our Deepest Sympathy

to family and friends of **Joseph Hutnik**, who passed away May 24, and to family and friends of **Michael Chanda**, who passed away May 28. Services for Michael Chanda will be only at the Vander May Funeral Home, 567 Ratzer Rd. Wayne, NJ, on Monday, June 1, at 7pm, and Tuesday, June 2, at 10am. May they rest in peace in God's Heavenly Kingdom! Memory Eternal!



May 31, 2015

8TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA PENTECOST – FEAST OF THE HOLY TRINITY

- **8:50am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy & Vespers with kneeling prayers
Epistle: Acts 2:1-11
Gospel: Jn. 7:37-52, 8:12
- **Fellowship** – everyone is invited for Coffee Hour following the service.

Schedule of Services

MONDAY, JUNE 1 - DAY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
9:00am - Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, JUNE 6
6:00pm - Great Vespers followed by General Confession

SUNDAY, JUNE 7
9:00am - Divine Liturgy