

# 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

## Families in God's Household

During this week and the preceding weeks, the Church remembers several families, or groups, who became saints. Near the end of October, for example, we commemorate the Martyr Arethas and his Companions, as well as Terrence, Neonilla and their children. On November 7th we remember Thirty-three Martyrs of Melitene.

In 1984, writer and director Robert Benton made a movie about families, and a group that becomes a family, called Places in the Heart. It's set in the 1930's in a small Texas town where most people are struggling to keep going in the midst of the Great Depression. They also must be prepared for the tornadoes that occasionally ravage the land.

Edna Spalding, played by Sally Field, is suddenly widowed and finds herself with no means or skills to support herself, her two young children, and their debt-ridden forty-acre farm. In her desperation she agrees, at first with great reluctance, to hire an itinerant black laborer named Moze who comes to her door looking for work. He recognizes the difficulty of her circumstances, and convinces her that he knows how to raise cotton and can help her grow and sell enough of it to save her home.

Then the local banker, who is threatening foreclosure and has suggested that Edna send her children to stay with relatives, brings her another opportunity. Partly through charity and partly to get rid of an unwanted burden, he visits Edna with his irascible blind brother-in-law, who has been staying in his home. He offers Edna the chance to take the man in as a boarder.

This disparate group – Edna and her children, Moze, and Mr.

## Intercessory Prayers

We pray for all our fellow parishioners, and we pray especially for those who are incapable of being with us in church. Please keep in your prayers our Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

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

Will the blind boarder – gradually come to know and care about each other. They share backbreaking work to harvest the cotton, and fearful hours huddled in their tornado shelter with a storm directly overhead, rattling the shelter's doors and spilling dirt into the crevices. They become a kind of family.

The movie shows the huge social divide between blacks and whites in the South of the 1930's. When Moze notices and dares to tell Edna that the white merchants are trying to sell her inferior cotton seed at an inflated price, they come a few nights later in their Klan hoods and beat him severely. He leaves the farm, both to save himself and to spare her more trouble.

The closing scene of the movie is a fantasy in which all the main characters, including those who have died and those responsible for death, are united by receiving Communion together in church. It's a striking and beautiful image of oneness in Christ. We might call it a cinematic reflection on one of the readings for this day: "For He is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility...So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God..." (Ephesians 2:14,19).

## Heartfelt Greetings

Happy Wedding Anniversary to **Nick and Peggy Kovalycsik**, who celebrate it today. Happy Birthday to **Matthew Kary** who celebrates his birthday this Saturday. May God grant all of you good health and happiness for Many Years!



## Announcements

◆ The **Annual Diocesan Assembly** will be held this Tuesday and Wednesday, **November 10 & 11, 2015** at **Saints Peter and Paul Church, South River, NJ**. As a special guest, His Eminence has invited His Beatitude, Tikhon, Archbishop of Washington and Metropolitan of All America and Canada to the Assembly. For more information visit our Diocesan website [nyjoca.org](http://nyjoca.org).

◆ This **Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>**, the very first public concert of the **Chamber Choir of St. Tikhon's Monastery** will take place in New York City at the Church of St. John Nepomucene, 411 East 66<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door or may be ordered online at the choir's website, [www.MonasteryChamberChoir.com](http://www.MonasteryChamberChoir.com). Please see the poster at the bulletin board and visit the website for more information.

◆ **Passaic "O" Club Meeting** will be next Sunday, November 15 after the Divine Liturgy. All members are urged to attend.

◆ Please help us to fill **Thanksgiving Baskets** for those in need. Turkeys, stuffing, gravy, and cans of vegetables, fruits, soup, and cranberry sauce are needed. Or, you may prefer to give a monetary donation, and we will shop for you. Please bring in your donations by next **Sunday, November 15**, to give us enough time to put the baskets together and prepare them for distribution to our neighbors in need.



November 8, 2015

23<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Synaxis of the Archangel Michael and the Other Bodiless Powers*

• **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy

*Epistle: Eph. 2:4-10; Heb. 2:2-10*

*Gospel: Lk. 8:41-56; Lk. 10:16-21*

• **Panikhida** – in memory of the departed Veterans of our parish, and of the newly departed **Glen John Nebesnak**, on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of his repose.

• **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for a fellowship following the service.

*Schedule of Services*

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14**

11:00am - Holy Matrimony of Peter Weiner and Yelena Sideli

6:00pm - Great Vespers

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

9:00am - Divine Liturgy