

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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The Monk Dostoyevsky Most Admired

On October 10 we remember Saint Ambrose of Optina, who lived from 1812 to 1891. The Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoevsky said that Saint Ambrose was the model for the character of Father Zossima in his novel "The Brothers Karamazov."

The Optina Monastery was frequented by pilgrims and seekers because it was well-known for the wisdom of its spiritual directors. Dostoevsky came to the monastery in profound sorrow after the death of his young son in 1878. His meeting with Father Ambrose deeply affected him. But the novelist was only one of countless people who received spiritual nurture from Father Ambrose' loving words of guidance.

Born into a priestly family, Alexander (his birth name) had a lively, outgoing nature and liked jokes and word play. He was bright, and did very well as a seminary student, but serious illness struck him just before graduation. He made a promise to God that if he recovered, he would become a monk.

Perhaps it was his lighthearted nature that made him completely seem to forget his promise for quite a while after he regained his health. But one evening, an especially enjoyable one filled with laughter and good company, Alexander was struck by the superficiality of his life. The very next morning, telling hardly anyone, he set out for Optina. It was October of 1839.

Alexander received monastic tonsure in 1842, and was given the name Ambrose in honor of Saint Ambrose of Milan. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1845, and served the Divine Liturgy with joy and reverence. Not long after, though, he again became ill, and in the years that followed his health continued to deteriorate.

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, Andrew Fabian, Edward Fedush, Mary Hadginske, Helen Kurnewitz, Margaret Lawler, Kathleen Lazorzcyk, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Nadia Sojka, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

In spite of this, however, he became the Elder of the monastery when the revered Father Macarius died in 1860 without naming a successor. By this time, Ambrose had become well-known throughout Russia as a spiritual guide, and so many people came to speak with him that they would wait in long lines. His schedule would have been fatiguing for a person in good health, but Father Ambrose was so ill that sometimes he had to receive people hour after hour while lying down, because he was too weak to get up. Yet he never turned people away, and always listened intently. Often he would tell people their own deepest thoughts, having seen into their hearts even before they had said a word.

In 1884, Father Ambrose founded the Shamordino Monastery for women near Optina. In 1891, visiting the monastery, he continued to receive those who wished to speak with him. But in the fall of that year, his health failed completely, and he died. His funeral, attended by crowds of people, was held at Optina, and he is buried there.

Father Ambrose left many good sayings. One which especially seems to reflect his thoughts about life is this: "We must live on earth just as a wheel turns, with only one point on the ground while the rest reaches out and upward."

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Daniel Kary**, who celebrates his birthday tomorrow; **Elena Kibitelsky**, this Wednesday; **Anna Rozanovich**, **Michael Shaker**, and **Ed Junda** - this Saturday. May God grant all of you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!

Announcements

◆ Next weekend, **Saturday, October 15 & Sunday, October 16, 2016**, His Eminence Archbishop Michael will be visiting our parish with Archpastoral visitation. Great Vespers on Saturday and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Sunday will be served at their usual times - 6:00pm and 9:00am respectively.

◆ **Church Musician Appreciation Sunday** will be celebrated on Sunday October 30, 2016. Additional prayers will be added during the Divine Liturgy for all choir members of our wonderful choir. We will also pray for the deceased choir members of our parish who used to glorify God with their beautiful voices. The Choir Appreciation Dinner will be held at 2:00pm at **Buco Ristorante** in Clifton. For more information please see Maryann Stagen.

◆ Our church needs to purchase **new processional candles for the Altar**. The cost per one is \$100. If anyone is interested to donate towards this project, please see Betty Czech. Your donation can be made in memory or in honor of your loved ones. Thank you.

◆ Now is the time to think of the **Thanksgiving food baskets** for our needy neighbors. We need turkeys, stuffing, gravy, and cans of vegetables, fruits, soups, and cranberry sauce. Or, if you prefer, you may give a monetary donation, and we will shop for you. Please bring in your donations by **Sunday, November 13**, to give us enough time to put the baskets together and prepare them for distribution. May God bless you for your generosity!



October 9, 2016

16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Holy Apostle James, Son of Alphas
Glorification of St. Tikhon,
Patriarch of Moscow

• **8:50am** – Hours

• **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy

Epistles: 2 Cor. 6:1-10

Heb. 7:26-8:2 (St. Tikhon)

Gospels: Lk. 7:11-16

Jn. 10:9-16 (St. Tikhon)

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

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15 - ANNUAL PARISH VISITATION BY HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

9:00am - Hierarchical Divine Liturgy