

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

A Different Kind of Marriage

Today, on March 19, the Church celebrates the memory of a martyred married couple, Sts. Chrysanthus and Daria, who lived in third-century Rome. He was born in the Egyptian city of Alexandria; she was a native of Athens.

Chrysanthus had a good education and a sharp intellect. When he first came from Egypt to Rome with his father and observed Roman society, the worship of pagan gods struck him as childish. It was based on fanciful stories with no moral grounding. Trusting his own doubts, he began reading about other philosophies, and among them were writings describing Christianity.

Impressed, Chrysanthus decided to learn more about Christianity from an actual Christian. Gathering his questions, he visited an elderly man who had been described as a Christian sage. They talked at length, and Chrysanthus chose not only to become a Christian, but to proclaim the Gospel openly.

Chrysanthus' father was not pleased. As a member of Rome's military elite he had a position to protect, and he certainly didn't want his son mixed up with a group of rebels who defied the government and put their faith in a deity who had been executed as a common criminal.

He thought of a way to reach his son and to turn the young man from his dangerous new ideas. He hired beautiful young women to seduce Chrysanthus, who struggled hard with temptation but managed to keep his resolve to be dedicated only to Christ.

The father made one last effort, and brought to his son a lovely girl named Daria, whose life had been dedicated to the gods. When Chrysanthus asked her how she could possibly worship statues and idols, she had a ready answer. Of course, she said, everyone knew that the idols were not to be worshipped. They

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.

were only there to focus people's attention on the real gods: fire, wind, rain.

Here was someone, Chrysanthus realized, who was more interested in truth than in mere seduction. They had long discussions, and he was able to show her that God through His Son had created fire, wind, rain and all natural things, so that He was the One to be worshipped. She willingly accepted baptism.

The two were married, and made a mutual decision to live in celibacy. They would let their zeal for Christ be the thing that united them, and use all their energy to preach His salvation. Sacrificing the pleasures of the world, they could travel more lightly on the path of salvation.

The husband and wife brought many new people into the Church – enough so that they attracted the attention of the Roman government. They were martyred in about 237, but their names have shone through Christian history ever since.

The married-but-celibate model is not common today, but it fit these two saints' desire to give everything to Christ. It also reminds us that virginity was not always seen as a virtue only for women. Chrysanthus exemplifies the fact that men, too, could and can live as virgins dedicated to the Lord.

Birthday Greetings

Our best wishes to **Nicholas Kovalycsik**, who celebrates his Birthday tomorrow, and **Genevieve Bobenko**, this Wednesday. May God grant each of you and all those celebrating a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Многая Лета!



Announcements

◆ The **Board of Trustees' Meeting** will be held today after the Divine Liturgy, at 11:30am. All members please plan to attend the meeting.

◆ **Joint Mission Pre-Sanctified Liturgies** this year (starting at 6:30PM) are as follows:

This Wednesday, March 22 - Holy Assumption Church in Clifton.

Mar. 29 - Christ the Saviour Church in Paramus, with His Eminence Archbishop Michael presiding.

◆ **Deanery Mission Vespers** this year (starting at 5PM) are as follows:

Tonight, March 19 - Holy Trinity Church, 830 Jefferson Ave. Rahway

Next Sunday, March 26 - our parish will host the service

April 2 - Holy Spirit Church, 102 Rte. 284, Wantage
April 19, Bright Wednesday, **7:00pm** - Christ the Saviour Church, Paramus, NJ.

For more information please see a flyer at the bulletin board.

◆ **Winter weather alert:** in case of necessity to cancel or delay any particular service at the church due to weather conditions, the information about cancellation will be posted on the parish website as well as on the Facebook page at least 1 hour before the scheduled time. If the weather is bad and you are not sure if the service will be served, please call rectory to verify.



March 19, 2017

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Veneration of the Cross

- **8:45am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy of St. Basil
Epistle: Heb. 4:14-5:6
Gospel: Mk. 8:34-9:1
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for a fellowship following the service.
- **11:30am** – Board of Trustees' Meeting

Schedule of Services

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

6:00pm - Vigil with Litya

SATURDAY, MARCH 25 - ANNUNCIATION

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

5:00pm - Deanery Mission Vespers