

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

When Life Suddenly Changes

During the week of April 9, we encounter the stories of three men whose lives changed abruptly. For all three, the sudden changes had huge consequences. They are Moses, the Holy Martyr Ardalion the Actor, and Saint Martin, Confessor and Pope of Rome.

On April 10 we read from the first chapter of Exodus. Here Moses, who had been raised in the palace of the Egyptian pharaoh, kills an Egyptian who is beating a Hebrew slave. Though he believes nobody has seen the crime, he is confronted by two Hebrews who know all about it. Now Moses realizes that the members of the Egyptian court certainly also know. His crime means that he is suddenly no longer like the pharaoh's son, but has become his enemy. Sure enough, "When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses." Moses flees to Midian and says of himself, "I have been a sojourner in a foreign land." As the Book of Acts tells us, this man who had been "instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians" (2: 22) has become an exile and a wanted man.

April 14 is the feast day of the Holy Martyr Ardalion the Actor. He was a popular mimic and comedian whose specialty was a routine in which he mocked Christian martyrs. His winks, broad gestures and booming voice made the crowds roar with delight at this imitation of the martyrs' deaths that were actually taking place at that time. But one day during a performance Ardalion suddenly stopped and proclaimed to the audience that he was a Christian, and said they must not laugh. At first everyone thought this was just another joke, and waited for him to go on with his routine. But Ardalion refused to continue, and the infuriated

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, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

crowd booed and jeered. Ardalion was arrested, tried, and sentenced to die by literally being roasted to death – a true martyr, no longer a joking mocker.

Another saint commemorated on April 14 is Martin, Confessor and Pope of Rome. Raised in the Church and respected as a priest, he was called to become Pope of Rome in the year 649, a time of serious disagreements over the Church's teachings. Suddenly, because he insisted on upholding the true teachings, he became the enemy of the Emperor, who wanted to heal the terrible divisions by accepting the false teachings and thus ending all disputes. Saint Martin's determined refusal to give in resulted in so much abuse and persecution that in six years he was dead. But the false teachings were later condemned, and his staunch defense of the truth led the Church to honor him as a saint.

Even when life suddenly changes and becomes much harder, or is put in jeopardy, the words of Saint Paul in Romans 6:3 are reassuring. We read these words on April 14: "For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His."

Schedule of Services

(continued from previous page)

GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 15

9:00am - Vespers & Divine Liturgy of St. Basil
1:30pm - General Confession, followed by blessing of Paschal baskets
11:30pm - Midnight Office (Nocturne), Procession, and Resurrection Matins

SUNDAY, APRIL 16 - THE HOLY PASCHA

9:30am - Paschal Divine Liturgy, followed by blessing of Paschal baskets and breaking of the Fast in the church hall.

BRIGHT MONDAY, APRIL 17

9:00am - Divine Liturgy & Procession around the Church with children carrying icons

BRIGHT TUESDAY, APRIL 18

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

Announcements

◆ The **Gifts of Love** collection today will raise funds to help repair the St. Nicholas Chapel in Kanai, Alaska, which is part of the Holy Assumption Russian Orthodox Complex located there. The church is one of the oldest in Alaska, completed in 1896. Your help in restoring the Chapel is greatly appreciated.

◆ **2017 Palm Sunday Bridegroom Matins**, sponsored by F.O.C.A. will be served tonight at 5PM at Ss. Peter & Paul Church, 109 Grand St., Jersey City, NJ.

◆ **Bright Wednesday Vespers** with His Eminence Archbishop Michael will be on April 19 at 7PM at Christ the Saviour Church in Paramus, NJ. For more information please see a flyer at the bulletin board.

Our Deepest Sympathy

to family and friends of **Nadia Sojka**, who passed away on **Tuesday, April 4, 2017**. May she rest in peace in God's Heavenly Kingdom! Memory Eternal!



April 9, 2017

ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM (Palm Sunday)

- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy & blessing of palms & willows
Epistle: Phil. 4:4-9
Gospel: Jn. 12:1-18
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for a fellowship following the service.

Schedule of Services

GREAT AND HOLY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

7:00pm - Holy Unction

GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 13

9:00am - Vespers & Liturgy of St. Basil
7:00pm - Matins with 12 Gospels

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY, APRIL 14

2:00pm - Vespers & placing the Shroud
7:00pm - Matins & Burial Service

(continued on the next page)