

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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CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

The Hard Life of a Prophet

On May 1st the Church honors the Prophet Jeremiah, a sensitive soul who was called by God to do things that would have been difficult even for a person less easily bruised.

God instructs His young prophet to warn Jerusalem of foreign invaders from the north. So Jeremiah addresses the people: "In vain you beautify yourself. Your lovers despise you; they seek your life. For I heard a cry as of a woman in travail, anguish as of one bringing forth her first child, the cry of the daughter of Zion gasping for breath, stretching out her hands, "Woe is me! I am fainting before murderers" (4:30-31).

In popular literature, prophets are sometimes depicted as mirthless killjoys who take pleasure in spoiling everyone's good times and bringing messages of doom. But this is not true of most of the prophets, and certainly not of Jeremiah. His message burdens his heart: "My anguish, my anguish! I writhe in pain! Oh, the walls of my heart! My heart is beating wildly; I cannot keep silent; for I hear the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war" (4:19).

Through Jeremiah, God accuses the people not only of turning from Him, but of embracing false, powerless gods: "...for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns, that can hold no water" (2:13). This is in painful contrast to the good things God has done for them: "When I fed them to the full, they committed adultery and trooped to the houses of harlots" (5: 7b).

God is concerned with more than His people's wandering off to impotent gods. Through Jeremiah He accuses them of

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, Michael Bzik, Mary Fechisin, Andrew Fabian, Mary Hadginske, Barbara Kary, Helen Kurnewitz, Margaret Lawler, Kathleen Lazorzcyk, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

unkindness toward one another: "Like a basket full of birds, their houses are full of treachery; therefore they have become great and rich, they have grown fat and sleek. They know no bounds in deeds of wickedness; they judge not with justice the cause of the fatherless, to make it prosper, and they do not defend the rights of the needy" (5:27-28).

Jeremiah describes what happens to a culture in which people no longer care about each other: "Let everyone beware of his neighbor, and put no trust in any brother; for every brother is a supplanter, and every neighbor goes about as a slanderer. Everyone deceives his neighbor, and no one speaks the truth; they have taught their tongue to speak lies; they commit iniquity and are too weary to repent" (9:4-5).

Finally, he poetically contrasts God's intentions with what actually happened: "I thought how I would set you among my sons, and give you a pleasant land, a heritage most beautiful of all nations. And I thought you would call me, My Father, and would not turn from following me" (3: 19).

Reluctant to deliver harsh messages, sensitive to mistreatment, Jeremiah still relied on God's word: "I am with you, to save you and deliver you" (15: 20b).

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Anna Mikola**, who celebrates her birthday tomorrow, and to **Marian Nagel**, this Wednesday. May God grant both of you and all who celebrate their birthdays this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!



Announcements

◆ **A Heartfelt Thank You** to all of you who in any possible way helped during this Great Lent, Holy Week, and Bright Week with things that were needed to be done. Your labors, time, and offerings did not go unnoticed, but instead are greatly appreciated! May God bless you abundantly for your efforts, granting all of you Many Blessed Years! Mnohaja Lita!

◆ **St. Andrew's Camp Annual Bicycle Ride Fundraiser:** Do a charity bike ride this year! Mark your calendar for Saturday, August 26, 2017 and bike for St. Andrew's Camp. This ride is ideal for the person who has never attempted a charity bike ride. The Ride offers 3 distances from which to choose, each on flat to rolling terrain. Overnight accommodations are available at the camp. Reach out and ask a friend to bike with you and support the Camp at the same time. For additional information visit www.saintandrewscamp.org.

Welcome Visitors

We welcome all visitors to our Divine Liturgy. It is our joy to have you with us today. If this is your first visit to our parish, we welcome you and invite you to return as often as you are able. While Holy Communion may only be received by prepared Orthodox Christians, our non-Orthodox guests are welcome to join us in venerating the Cross, receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, and for fellowship in our Church Hall after the service.



April 30, 2017

3rd SUNDAY OF PASCHA

Holy Myrrhbearing Women

Holy Apostle James (Jacob), the brother of St. John the Theologian

- **8:45am** – Hours
 - **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
- Epistle: Acts 6:1-7
Acts 12:1-11 (St. James)
- Gospel: Mk. 15:43-16:8
Lk. 5:1-11 (St. James)
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, MAY 6

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, MAY 7

9:00am - Divine Liturgy