

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

In Hope They Believed Against Hope

On June 6 we read Saint Paul's words in Romans 4:13-25. He urges us to follow the example of the patriarch Abraham, whose faith remained constant no matter what happened to him.

Abraham continued to believe God's promise that he would be the father of many nations, even as the years went by and he became an old man who still hadn't seen the promise fulfilled. Saint Paul puts it this way: "He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead because he was about a hundred years old, or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what He had promised" (19-21).

This is what Paul means by "in hope believing against hope." Abraham continued to believe God could and would keep His promise, even though immediate circumstances — his great age and his wife Sarah's barrenness — would seem to render it impossible for them to bear children and make him the father of many nations.

One of the saints commemorated this month (June 21) is the martyr Julian of Tarsus. He was the son of a pagan father and a devout Christian mother. When she was widowed, she took her son from his birthplace, the town of Anazerba, to Tarsus. There she saw to his baptism and instructed him in the faith.

The grace of baptism and his mother's teaching kept Julian

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, Andrew & Dorothy Fabian, Mary Hadginske, Barbara Kary, Helen Kurnewitz, Kathleen Lazarczyk, Dennis Maixner, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky.

from denying his faith during the persecutions unleashed by the emperor Diocletian. Though he was just eighteen when he was arrested as a Christian, Julian not only withstood torture but resisted the promises of riches and honors if he would renounce Christ and worship the pagan gods. When they tortured him and threw him into a dungeon, his mother begged to be given three days with her son, assuring the jailers that she would convince him to offer sacrifice to the idols. Her request was granted.

When the three days had passed, Julian and his mother were brought before the magistrate, who began to praise her motherly influence for bringing her son to his senses. But his flowery words were interrupted by the voices of the mother and son, loudly proclaiming that Jesus Christ is the only true God.

Julian's mother knew she was consigning him to execution when she urged him, imprisoned and severely weakened by torture, not to deny his faith. As a mother, she grieved her terrible loss. But like Abraham, she "did not waver when she considered his body" and her own body, which were "as good as dead." Like Abraham, "in hope she believed against hope," and the Church tells us that she and her son have received their crowns in the Kingdom of the One whose promises they believed.

Heartfelt Greetings

Happy birthday to **Michael Bzik**, who celebrates his birthday today. Happy wedding anniversary to **Gregory & Kathy Cahayla**, and **Steven & Helen Baron**, who recently celebrated anniversaries of their marriages. May God grant all of you, as well as all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!



Announcements

◆ Save the date: the upcoming **Parish Council Conference** with a theme "Bringing New Life Into Established Parishes" will take place on **Saturday, June 30**, from **10AM - 3PM** at Christ the Saviour Church, 365 Paramus Rd, Paramus, NJ. The Very Rev. Thomas Soroka will lead the conference. All Trustees please plan to attend this event. For more information please see a flyer at the bulletin board.

◆ Save the date: **2018 Church School Workshop** for our Diocese is planned for **Saturday, August 25** at Christ the Saviour Church, in Paramus from **10AM - 2PM**. For more information and to register please see a flyer at the bulletin board or visit our Diocesan website: nynjoca.org

Deepest Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of newly departed **Doreen Chanda**, who passed away on **Thursday, May 31, 2018**. Viewing will be at Bizub-Quinlan Funeral Home (515 Lexington Ave.) on Friday, June 8 from 4PM - 8PM with Panikhida at 6PM. Funeral will be in our Church on Saturday, June 9 at 9 AM. Burial service will follow at East Ridgelawn Cemetery. Memory Eternal! Vichnaya Pamiat!



June 3, 2018

All Saints

- **8:45am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy & Blessing of our newly elected Board of Trustees
Epistle: Heb 11:33-12:2
Gospel: Mt. 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30
- **Panikhida** - in memory of **Mary Fehisin**, offered by Peggy & Nick Kovalycsik
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

MONDAY, JUNE 4 – BEGINNING OF THE APOSTLES' FAST

Schedule of Services

- SATURDAY, JUNE 9**
6:00pm - Great Vespers
- SUNDAY, JUNE 10**
9:00am - Divine Liturgy