

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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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

The Good Grandmother of Good King Wenceslas

Today the Church honors a princess of Bohemia, part of what is now the Czech Republic. She is the Holy Martyr Ludmilla.

She and her husband, a Czech prince, were both baptized in about 871 by Saint Methodius, one of the two great evangelists--the other is Saint Cyril--who together are known as the Enlighteners of the Slavic Peoples. As new Christians instructed and inspired by those two great men, Ludmilla and her husband enthusiastically built the first Christian church in Bohemia, near Prague. They built other churches as well, provided for clergy to serve in them, and supported the spread of the faith among their people in every way they could. Pagan opposition was so strong that for a while the couple had to leave the country, but when they returned they continued their work.

Ludmilla was widowed quite early in life; her husband was in his thirties when he died. After this, their son married a woman named Dragomira who was happy to have a royal husband, but whose Christianity was only a façade; she secretly kept her pagan beliefs and customs.

Ludmilla took most of the responsibility for raising the young couple's child, her grandson, whose name in Czech was Vatslav but who is better known as Wenceslas. She brought him up as a devout Christian, and strongly influenced his attitudes. He is the one so admiringly described in the Christmas carol as caring for the poor by taking food to them on a bitterly cold night, and being concerned for the young page who accompanied him.

Dragomira was not pleased with Ludmilla's authority over her son. When her husband died, she became regent for the young

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 Lazorczyk, Dennis Maixner, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky.

and inexperienced Wenceslas, who took the throne in 921. That was her chance, and she took it, encouraging pagan customs in the court and among the people. Her hatred of Ludmilla became so overwhelming that, even though the older woman had moved to a distant town, she wanted to destroy every vestige of her influence. She sent seasoned assassins to murder Ludmilla, and they did their deadly work.

Her loving grandson Wenceslas placed her body in the Church of Saint George in Prague. Ludmilla and Wenceslas, who was later killed by his own brother, are both martyred saints of the Church.

In 2 Corinthians 4:6-15 Saint Paul describes the many kinds of suffering he has undergone without ever having been undone by them. He writes of being "afflicted but not crushed, perplexed but not despairing, persecuted but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed." Paul adds, "For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake."

Saint Ludmilla was one who was "always being given up to death for Jesus' sake" because the forces of paganism constantly stalked her and her family, ready to kill them. But she never wavered, and she would say with Paul, "We do not lose heart" (4:1).

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Jennifer Bzik**, who celebrates her birthday this Friday. May God grant you, and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years!

Congratulation

Our heartfelt wishes to the newlyweds **Serge Sabo & Hope Marie Callahan**, who united their lives in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony this passed Wednesday. May God bless both of you with abundant health, peace and prosperity for Many Years to come! Mnogaya Leta!

Announcements

◆ The next **Trustees' Meeting** will be next Sunday, Sept. 23, following the Coffee Hour. All members please plan to attend.

◆ The **Annual Diocesan Assembly** is scheduled to be convened on Tuesday, October 30 and Wednesday, October 31, 2018 at the Orthodox Church of the Holy Annunciation, 70 Van Zile Road, Brick, NJ 08724. The guest speaker is Archimandrite Sergius, Abbot of St. Tikhon's Monastery. The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy is on Tuesday, October 30 at 9:00am. The Assembly will begin at 1:00pm. The schedule for Wednesday will be published as it becomes available.

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.



September 16, 2018

16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross. Sunday After the Elevation of the Cross

- **8:45am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
 - Epistles: Gal. 2:16-20 (Sunday After)
 - 2Cor. 6:1-10 (Resurrection)
 - Gospels: Mk. 8:34-9:1 (Sunday After)
 - Mt. 25:14-30 (Resurrection)
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
9:00am - Divine Liturgy