

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

170 Lexington Avenue, Passaic, New Jersey, 07055

www.stjohnspassaic.org

REV. FR. IGOR KSENIUK, Rector

Department of
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
ORTHODOX CHURCH in AMERICA

The Enlightener of the First Christian Nation

Today the Church remembers Saint Gregory, Enlightener of Armenia. Like other enlighteners — Nina of Georgia, Columba of Scotland and Innocent of the Aleuts--Gregory was not a native of the country he would one day illumine with the Christian faith.

Born about 239 in Parthia, Gregory came to Armenia as a child with his family. His father, Anak, had a dark purpose: the king of Persia had paid him to assassinate the Armenian king when some good opportunity arose.

Anak bided his time until one day, out hunting with the king and some nobles, he saw the king sitting alone in a secluded spot. Anak attacked, but the dying king was able to cry out his name, and command that he and his family should be executed.

Pursued to a river by the nobles, Anak could see no escape. He jumped into the river and drowned. Most of his family members were soon killed, but a quick-thinking nursemaid had grabbed Gregory, and took him to safety in Caesarea.

Gregory was raised as a Christian, and among his childhood friends was the crown prince of Armenia, Tiridates, who had been forced out of his country when the Persian king's plan to invade and seize the throne succeeded. When the prince decided to return to Armenia and claim his throne, he invited Gregory to come along as his trusted advisor. Neither young man knew about the history they shared.

Once in Armenia, the two came into conflict. Gregory earnestly wanted Tiridates to become a Christian; Tiridates was content with his pagan gods. When jealous nobles noticed this rift, 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, Michael Bzik, Andrew & Dorothy Fabian, Barbara Kary, Helen Kurnewitz, Kathleen Lazarczyk, Dennis Maixner, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky.

enlarged it by informing the king that Gregory was the son of his father's assassin. Enraged, the king consigned Gregory to a deep, foul pit. He would spend fourteen years there, visited only by a woman who dropped him morsels of bread. The king became ill and depressed, and when nothing seemed to help, his loving sister ordered Gregory released from the pit. She was convinced that only this Christian could help her brother. Gregory, finally free, immediately asked the courtiers to fast, and prayed day and night. When Tiridates recovered, his sister revealed that she was the one who had fed Gregory in the pit.

The king was now ready to accept the Christian faith, with Gregory as his learned and loving teacher. In the year 301, he and his courtiers, followed by masses of citizens, were baptized, making the Armenian people the first to accept Christianity as a nation.

After being consecrated a bishop in Caesarea, Gregory returned to Armenia and traveled the country, teaching and preaching, opening monasteries and building churches. In the place where he had a vision of Christ, he erected a cathedral, with the king's support. He also sent missionaries into neighboring countries to spread the faith. Though known as the enlightener of one nation, Gregory never forgot the command of Christ to "Go and teach all nations."

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Janice Pecoraro**, and **Joanne Bzik**, both celebrating their birthdays today. May God grant both of you, and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years!



Announcements

◆ Next **Sunday, October 7**, is the Diocesan **Church Musician Appreciation Sunday**. We will honor our choir directors and singers with special prayers added during the Augmented Litany and with our special thanks to them.

◆ 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.

◆ On Saturday, October 13, St. Vladimir's Seminary will host a workshop for Church readers and musicians. For more information please see a flyer at the bulletin board.



September 30, 2018

18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- **8:45am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 2Cor. 9:6-11
Gospel: Lk. 6:31-36
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service
- **12:30pm** – Great Vespers for the Feast of Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos

Schedule of Services

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1 – PROTECTION (POKROV) OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

Memory Eternal

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of our lifetime parishioner, **Mary Hadginske**, who fell asleep in the Lord this passed Tuesday, September 25. May her Memory be Eternal! Vechnaya Pamyat!