

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
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Can You Teach People by Ignoring Them?

Saint Amphilochius, Bishop of Iconium, who is commemorated on November 23, was from Cappadocia, like his contemporary Saint Basil the Great. Also like Saint Basil he had to deal with various false teachings that became popular during his lifetime. One of his chief opponents was Macedonius, a man who didn't merely teach wrong ideas, but used his position as a bishop to persecute some who did not agree. Macedonius was a power-hungry and cruel person who finally fell into disgrace, but not before he had done great damage to the Church and to many believers.

The basic teaching of Macedonius and his followers was that the Holy Spirit is merely a created being, not one of the divine and uncreated Persons of the Holy Trinity. His teaching went along with that of the Arians, who taught that Jesus Christ is not the divine Son of God.

Bishop Amphilochius argued powerfully against these teachings, knowing that they could lead people to misunderstand the truth about God. He persuaded Saint Basil to write his famous treatise on the Holy Trinity, and stood up to the threats of Macedonius and his friends.

Amphilochius also pleaded with the Emperor Theodosius to remove the false teachers from their positions of authority in the Church, especially the Arians who denied the divinity of the Son of God. The emperor was not willing to listen until the saint found an ingenious way of making his point. He asked for an audience with the emperor, and entered the royal chamber in which Theodosius was seated with his son, Arcadius.

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, Dorothy Fabian, Barbara Kary, Helen Kurnewitz, Kathleen Lazorczyk, Dennis Maixner, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky.

Giving a proper greeting to Theodosius, Bishop Amphilochius completely ignored Arcadius. This snub of the royal heir angered the emperor, who was ready to punish Amphilochius for it, but the bishop quickly spoke up and said, "Now you see, O Ruler, how you cannot tolerate disrespect to your son! In the same way, God the Father does not tolerate disrespect to His Son, and turns away from those who deliberately dishonor the Lord Jesus Christ and lead others to do the same by false teaching."

Theodosius was amazed at the bishop's willingness to risk his imperial anger, and realized from this how important the matter was. Amphilochius knew that people will lose hope of their own salvation if they do not believe that Jesus Christ is equal in power and mercy to God the Father, and therefore able to save them.

In Saint Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians (3:6-1) he expresses concern about some members of that community who were using their expectation of the Second Coming as an excuse to live in idleness. Paul warns the believers to ignore any such person, and have nothing to do with him. But like Amphilochius, Paul was concerned not with punishing but with saving people. He tells the Thessalonians: "Do not look on him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother."

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Florence Junda**, who celebrates her birthday today, and **Juliana Kary**, tomorrow. May God grant both of you, and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years!



Announcements

◆ The **Nativity Fast** started on Thursday, November 15 and will last until the Feast of Nativity of Christ. As always, during this fasting time, each member of our parish community is encouraged to prayerfully and spiritually prepare for the celebration of this joyous feast. On **Saturday, December 15 at 2:00 PM** there will be an **Akathist** (healing service) to the Mother of God in front of her icon "Queen of All", followed by **Parish Confessions**. Take this opportunity to rejuvenate your spiritual life as we prepare to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord. And remember that not variety, or quality, or quantity of foods that we prepare for the feast will make our celebration more joyous, but that our souls, cleansed in private Confession and sanctified in Holy Communion will be immensely more joyful when prepared properly.

Our Deepest Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **Deacon Paul Hilko** of Saint James the Apostle Church, Port Saint Lucie, FL, who fell asleep in the Lord on Monday, November 12, 2018. The son of our long-time choir director, the late Michael Hilko, Deacon Paul is survived by his beloved wife, Lorraine; two daughters; and numerous grandchildren. Information regarding the service times will be posted as they become available. May Deacon Paul's Memory be Eternal! Vichnaya Pamyat!



November 18, 2018

25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- 8:45am – Hours
- 9:00am – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Eph. 4:1-6
Gospel: Lk. 12:16-21
- **Molieben of Thanksgiving**
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service
- **“O” Club Meeting** after the coffee hour

Schedule of Services

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

6:00pm - Great Vespers with Litya

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21 – ENTRANCE

OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25

9:00am - Divine Liturgy