

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

There are Many Kinds of Prisons

Saint Clement of Rome, commemorated today, was a contemporary of the apostles and one of Rome's earliest bishops.

Born into a wealthy and well-known Roman family, Clement was highly educated and raised in luxury. But he lost his family when his mother and brothers were caught in a roaring gale at sea and were flung by the storm to different places. His grieving father went off to look for his wife and sons, and somehow also was lost.

Clement wanted desperately to find his family, and decided to travel east in his search. He went to Alexandria, where he met the apostle Barnabas. Later, in Palestine, he was introduced to the apostle Peter, and the two men struck up a friendship. After many spiritual conversations Clement agreed to be baptized by Peter, and became his follower. In the next years he accompanied the great apostle on his travels and helped in Peter's efforts to bring people to Christ, enduring with him his sufferings and imprisonments.

As they traveled, Clement and Peter shared an extraordinary personal experience. They found Clement's mother, reduced to begging in an obscure town. Later they found his father. Reunion with his parents was like a release from prison for Clement, freeing him from the worry of not knowing what had happened to them. He and Peter rejoiced together.

Peter knew that enemies of Christ were determined to kill him. He wanted to leave the Church, and Rome, in good hands. He and the other apostles made Clement a bishop. After Peter's death as a martyr, two men served briefly as Bishop of Rome, and then came Clement's tenure. He served brilliantly, convincing

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.

unbelievers to follow Christ and fearlessly proclaiming the faith. As bishop, he urged his flock in a letter to be willingly "imprisoned" or "bound" for Christ: "Let the one truly possessed by the love of Christ keep His commandments. What can express the binding power of divine love?"

The emperor Trajan exiled Clement to Cherson, a place in the Crimea. There he met several thousand prisoners for the faith, Christians who had also been exiled and put to the arduous work of stonecutting at a quarry in the hot, dry land where water was scarce. They welcomed Clement and took strength from his encouragement and unshakable faith. So strong were his prayers that God revealed a hidden spring from which they could all take physical refreshment as well.

Once again Clement brought unbelievers to the faith, in this case pagans who lived in the area. The stonecutting work led to the building of a church right in the quarry, and more were built in the following years.

Clement was put to death by drowning in the year 101. It would be centuries before his relics were rescued from the sea, but their wonderworking power has healed and saved many other prisoners of unbelief and despair, leading them to certainty that the Kingdom is the place where all those in prison will be set free.

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Mirek Szestawicky**, who celebrates his birthday this Wednesday, and **Daniel Beckmann**, this Friday. 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.

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.



November 25, 2018

26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Leavetaking of the Entry

- **8:45am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistles: Eph. 5:9-19; Heb. 9:1-7
Gospels: Lk. 13:10-17; Lk. 10:38-42; 11:27-28
- **Panikhida** – in memory of **Andrew Fabian**, offered by Patricia Kestin.
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

Schedule of Services

- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1**
6:00pm - Great Vespers
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2**
9:00am - Divine Liturgy