

# 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

## A Modern Experience in the 10<sup>th</sup> Century

**Saint Tryphon, Patriarch of Constantinople, served during the tenth-century reign of Romanus, who ruled the Byzantine or Eastern Empire.**

From his early years, Tryphon wanted only to be a simple monk. He chose to live without anything beyond his basic needs, and became known for his even-tempered approach to life. He didn't argue or debate with people, and his peaceful nature accepted the events of life as the will of God.

Tryphon is notable among the saints because, unlike many, his life did not end in torture and violence. What did happen to him is more like something that happens often in our own day. He was undermined by dishonest people who cleverly manipulated him, taking advantage of his honesty and trustfulness for their own benefit.

Emperor Romanus had a son, Theophylact, and for some reason was determined to appoint him as Patriarch. But because the boy was so young, Romanus asked Tryphon, by that time a seasoned and respected monk, to serve until the boy was old enough to take the position. Tryphon accepted the appointment, perhaps not knowing the emperor's whole plan, and served as Patriarch for three years. He became greatly loved by the people, who appreciated his modest way of speaking, his kindness and his simple manner of living.

When Theophylact turned twenty, the emperor was eager to have him become Patriarch, and asked Tryphon to step aside. But the monk could see that the young man wasn't ready, and that to appoint him would be harmful to the Church. So he refused leave the Patriarchate.



April 14, 2019

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

St. Mary of Egypt

• 9:00am – Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

Epistles: Heb. 9:11-14; Gal. 3:23-29  
Gospels: Mk. 10:32-45; Lk. 7:36-50

• Coffee Hour – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

• Panikhida in memory of Mitered Archpriest John Nehrebecki, newly departed Angelina Aphanasyeva, and Leonid Soroka, offered by Elena and Vladimir Nehrebecki.

## Schedule of Services

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

6:30pm - Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

SATURDAY, APRIL 20 - LAZARUS SATURDAY

6:00pm - Vespers & blessing of willows

SUNDAY, APRIL 21 - PALM SUNDAY

9:00am - Divine Liturgy & blessing of palms and willows

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

Romanus tried to find a way of accusing Tryphon of some wrongdoing, so as to get rid of him, but there simply wasn't anything he could use. So he turned to a bishop who was willing to gain his favor by taking part in a deceitful plan.

This bishop pretended to be Tryphon's friend, and asked him to write his name and full title as Patriarch on a sheet of paper. The signature was necessary, the bishop told him, to disprove rumors that Tryphon was illiterate and unfit for his high position.

Suspecting nothing, Tryphon did as he was asked. The dishonest bishop took the paper to the emperor, who had him compose and write, above the signature, a statement of resignation. The document was used to depose Tryphon, despite objections from his many followers. He was sent back to the monastery where he had lived years earlier.

The members of the Church in Constantinople then lived through a difficult period of distrust toward the imperial government and their own leaders. Yet Saint Tryphon's humble acceptance of his unjust treatment was an example of Christlike endurance. The people who loved him learned from it, and those who deceived him were shamed by it. To this day in our churches, the humble monk is honored as no corrupt bishop or devious emperor can ever hope to be.

## Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Walentyna Szeszawicka**, who celebrates his birthday this Tuesday. May God grant you, and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnogaya Leta!



## Announcements

◆ Today, Sunday, April 14, there will be an additional collection for St. Andrew's Camp to build a new kitchen, dining hall, and activities center. The cost of this new building is \$300,000. Please be generous and be sure that the magnanimous gift you offer will help make possible a brighter future for our Church. Thank you and may God grant you Many blessed Years!

◆ **Deanery Mission Vespers** this afternoon will be at 4:00PM at the Holy Trinity Church, 830 Jefferson Avenue, Rahway, NJ.

◆ Next Sunday, April 21 (Palm Sunday), there will be a second collection for the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (F.O.C.A.) and their "Gifts of Love" program. This year the donations will go to St. Tabitha's House in Malava, Kenya. St. Tabitha's House is a Christian orphanage under the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria started in the Kibera Slums of Kenya. They currently house 26 children, providing food, shelter, academic and spiritual education and so much more. St. Tabitha's House was founded by Fr. Agapios Lipesa and his wife Papadia Dorah. He was assigned as the rector of St. George the Great Martyr parish in the Kibera Slums in the Kisumu Diocese in Kenya. As part of his work as a parish priest, he consistently saw the horrific conditions that the people of Kibera lived in. At the same time he felt a strong love for the orphans who make up the most vulnerable of the population. Your generosity towards this cause will be greatly appreciated. May God grant you Many blessed Years!