

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

Paul Punctures the Corinthian Balloon

In 1 Corinthians 4: 9-16 St. Paul talks to the Christians of Corinth with sarcasm and severity.

In verse 8 he has used the word "already" to express his feelings. The Corinthians apparently feel they already have the fullness of the faith and have already become rich. Paul says, "Without us you have become kings! And would that you did reign, so that we might share the rule with you!" In other words, if the Corinthians have achieved the fullness of salvation, they should take Paul and the other hard-working preachers to reign with them in the Kingdom.

Verses 9 and 10 remind the Corinthians of the sufferings of those preachers and teachers, contrasting them to the virtues of the Corinthians themselves. The preachers are fools, weak, and held in disrepute. Corinth's believers are wise, strong and held in honor. Of course Paul is being ironic here. These virtues are what the Corinthians only imagine they possess.

This is not the only part of this letter in which Paul has scolded the Corinthian Christians for having puffed-up ideas about themselves. In 1:26 he tells them, "...not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth; but God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise." They were chosen by God, Paul is telling them, and not because they were anything special, but because He is merciful.

In verses, 4:11-13, Paul vividly describes the sacrifices that he and others have made to spread the Gospel. The efforts of these

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

hungry, thirsty, ill-clad, buffeted, homeless people who labor to support themselves have left them as "the refuse of the world, the offscouring of all things." Despite this, they have blessed those who reviled them. They have endured persecution, and tried to conciliate when they are slandered.

Paul wants the proud Corinthians to remember all these things that he and others have done and endured for them. He doesn't want them to go on believing that everything good that has come to them has been the result of their own efforts or virtues. He wants to puncture their proud balloon.

In the next verse Paul's tone changes abruptly; his words no longer have a hard edge. He assures the Corinthian believers that he has not directed such harsh words at them in order to shame them, "but to admonish you as my beloved children." Though disappointed, Paul is still the father whose heartfelt wish is the salvation of his children in Christ. He tells them he is not just one of the "countless guides in Christ" they may know, people who observe the basics of belief and worship. Paul is the one who has sacrificed and suffered for them, as only a father would.

The last verse of this passage is a simple request made by a father who is worried about his children: "I urge you, then, be imitators of me."

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Betty Ann Fechisin**, who celebrates her birthday tomorrow. May God grant you, and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!



Farewell & Thank You

◆ On this last Sunday here at St. John's, Father Igor, together with Matushka Anna, Maxim, and Sofia would like to once again thank God, His Eminence Archbishop Michael, and all our St. John's family for the privilege of being able to serve here for the last six amazing years. We have come to know so many wonderful people, and we are grateful beyond words for your kindness which you have shown us in so many ways. It began with your warm welcome and continues with your prayers as we transition to our new assignment. Please continue to pray for us. May God bless all of you abundantly with all His earthly and heavenly blessings for Many Years! If you ever are in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, please visit us at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church there (2001 N. Andrews Avenue), we will be happy to see you!

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.



July 28, 2019

6th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- 8:50am – Hours
- 9:00am – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Rm. 12:6-14
Gospel: Mt. 9:1-8
- Panikhida in memory of newly departed **Elena Nehrebecki**, on the 9th day of her Repose, offered by Fr. Igor & Matushka Anna.
- Coffee Hour – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

Schedule of Services *

(*tentative, please verify with the next serving priest)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

9:00am - Divine Liturgy