

We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy for Coffee hour.

Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

OCA – Diocese of New York-New Jersey

V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searfoorce, Rector

Sub-Deacon Edward Dawson

Sub-Deacon Vlashi

Parish Council President: Andrew Romanofsky

Parish Council Vice President: Holly Dawson



Sunday, October 23, 2016

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

Gospel, St. James: Matthew 13:54-58

Tone 1 (5th of Luke)

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Epistle, St. James: Galatians 1:11-19

18th Sunday After Pentecost

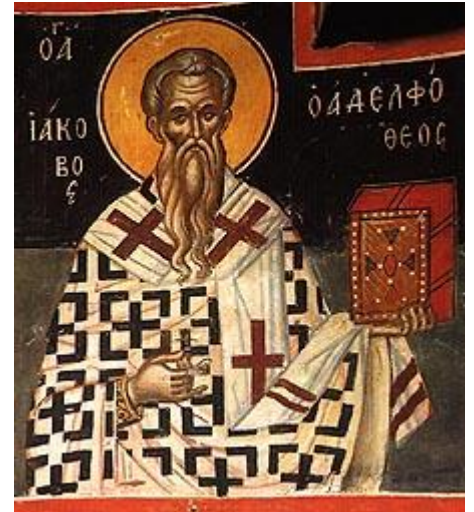
Holy Apostle James (Jacob), the Brother of the Lord (ca. 63). Translation of the Relics of Bl. Jacob (James) of Borovichí, Wonderworker of Novgorod (ca. 1540). St. Ignatius, Patriarch of Constantinople (877-878).

Troparion – Tone 4

*As the Lord's disciple you received the Gospel,
O righteous James; / as a martyr you have
unfailing courage; / as God's brother, you have
boldness; / as a hierarch, you have the power to
intercede. / Pray to Christ God that our souls
may be saved.*

Kontakion – Tone 4

*When God the Word, the Only-begotten of the
Father, / came to live among us in these last
days, / He declared you, venerable James, to be
the first shepherd and teacher of Jerusalem /
and a faithful steward of the spiritual Mysteries.
/ Therefore, we all honor you, O Apostle.*



Apostle James, the Brother of the Lord

Prayer Requests

For Health of:

Erin Salamone, on her birthday (Oct. 24th), offered by her father Sub-Deacon Vlashi.

Erin & Brian Salamone, on their anniversary (Oct. 25th), offered by Sub-Deacon Vlashi.

In Memory of:

Clara Gallagher, on her birthday (Oct. 26th), offered by her son Sub-Deacon Vlashi.

Liturgical Schedule

Sunday, October 23rd

9:30 am: Sunday School
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Saturday, October 29th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, October 30th

9:30 am: Sunday School
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Saturday, November 5th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, November 6th

9:30 am: No Sunday School
9:45 am: General Confession
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Saturday, November 12th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, November 13th

9:30 am: Sunday School
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

**50th Golden Jubilee
Anniversary Celebration
Luncheon Following
Liturgy**

Bulletin Sponsors:

Sub-Deacon Vlashi

Readings:

The Prokeimenon in the 1st Tone:

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee.
(*Psalm 32:22*)

vs. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the just!
(*Psalm 32:21*)

Another, Tone 8 (St. James):

Their proclamation hath gone out into all the earth, and their words to the
ends of the universe! (*Psalm 63:10*)

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Brethren, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

St. James: Galatians 1:11-19

Brethren, I make known to you the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Alleluia in the 1st Tone:

God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me.
(*Psalm 17:148*)

vs. He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever. (*Psalm 17:51*)

Another, Tone 1 (St. James):

The heavens will praise Thy wonders, O Lord; and Thy truth in the congregation of the saints. (*Psalm 88:6*)

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31 (5th Sunday of Luke)

The Lord said this, "There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses, and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to them, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"

St. James: Matthew 13:54-58

When He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, "Where did this Man get this wisdom and these mighty works? Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this Man get all these things? So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house." Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.



Apostle James, the Brother of the Lord

Holy Apostle James, the Brother of God (Adelphotheos) was the son of Righteous Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos (December 26). From his early years James was a Nazarene, a man especially dedicated to God. The Nazarenes vowed to preserve their virginity, to abstain from wine, to refrain from eating meat, and not to cut their hair. The vow of the Nazarenes symbolized a life of holiness and purity, commanded formerly by the Lord for all Israel. When the Savior began to teach the nation about the Kingdom of God, St James believed in Christ and became His apostle. He was chosen as the first Bishop of Jerusalem.

St James presided over the Council of Jerusalem and his word was decisive (Acts 15). In his thirty years as bishop, St James converted many of the Jews to Christianity. Annoyed by this, the Pharisees and the Scribes plotted together to kill St James. They led the saint up on the pinnacle of the Jerusalem Temple and asked what he thought of Jesus. The holy Apostle began to bear witness that Christ is the Messiah, which was not the response the Pharisees were expecting. Greatly angered, the Jewish teachers threw him off the roof. The saint did not die immediately, but gathering his final strength, he prayed to the Lord for his enemies while they were stoning him. St James' martyrdom occurred about 63 A.D.

The holy Apostle James composed a Divine Liturgy, which formed the basis of the Liturgies of Sts Basil the Great and John Chrysostom. The Church has preserved an Epistle of St James, one of the books of the New Testament.

In 1853, Patriarch Hierotheus of Alexandria sent to Moscow a portion of the relics of St James. The Church distinguishes between the holy Apostle James the Brother of God, and St James the son of Zebedee (April 30) and St James the son of Alphaeus (October 9).



Bulletin Sponsor: Use the sign-up sheet at the candle stand for the health of, eternal memory of or a Pannikhida for a loved one or friend, for a donation of \$10. Sponsors will be remembered during Divine Liturgy for the day/week that you signed up for.

Memorial Candles: Candles be purchased at the candle stand, suggested donation of \$10 for a large one.

Private Confessions: Can be heard a half hour before any service. See Father Matthew for other times.

General Confession: Will be at 9:45 am on the first Sunday of the month.

Pannikhida Service: The third Sunday of each month there will be a Pannikhida after Divine Liturgy. If you would like your loved ones to be remembered please give a list of names to Father Matthew before that Sunday for those to be remembered in the month.

Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail:

OrthodoxChurchMotherOfGod@outlook.com

The Living Clean Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Friday from 8-9:15 pm downstairs in the community room.

The Grey Book Step Meeting Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Tuesday from 7-8:00 pm downstairs in the community room.



***Orthodox Church of the Mother of God
50th Golden Jubilee
Anniversary Celebration
Sunday, November 13, 2016***

Luncheon following Liturgy — \$10 Donation — See Lore Stefy for tickets



NY/NJ Diocese News

Mays Landing, NJ: Aid to IOCC is a Parish Project - 10/21/16

The **Orthodox Church of the Mother of God - Joy of All the Sorrowful in Mays Landing NJ** participated in a parish project in support of International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). *"Since the Dormition Fast seems to get lost in the fun of summer, we thought it would be a good idea to emphasize it by holding an alms-giving project," said Trudy Ellmore (parish treasurer). "Our parish is very small, so the goal was set at a moderate 10 kits of essential personal items. Each kit contains: a hand towel, a wash cloth, a bar of soap, a toothbrush, a comb, six Band-Aids & a nail clipper/metal nail file. After two-weeks of collection, enough items were gathered to make 65 complete kits!"*

Rochester, NY: Feeding the Hungry in Community Outreach - 10/19/16

Eight parishioners from **Saint John the Baptist Church in Rochester NY** joined the extraordinarily dedicated volunteers of Saint Peter's Kitchen near the city's center neighborhood in preparing and serving a full-menu lunch meal on 19 October 2016. *"We served 122 people who comprise a loving and socially interactive community with varying degrees of need," said Father Ken James Stavrevsky (parish rector). "The example of Christian love and philanthropy exhibited by those who labor at Saint Peter's is amazing ... serving a restaurant quality hot lunch meal Monday through Friday every week. It was an honor and great blessing to labor with them!"*

From the Office of the Archbishop

Congratulations to the following members of our diocesan family:

Presbyter Thaddeus Franta, awarded the Skufiya by His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, on Saturday, October 15, in Saints Peter and Paul Church, in Herkimer, New York. *"Axios! Axios! Axios!"*

Presbyter Igor Kseniuk, awarded the Kamilavka by Archbishop Michael, on Sunday, October 16, in Saint John the Baptist Church, in Passaic, New Jersey. *"Axios! Axios! Axios!"*

Upcoming Events:

- November 1-2: Diocesan Assembly, Holy Trinity Church, Yonkers, NY
- November 11-13: Diocesan Girls Retreat, Saint Basil Academy, Garrison, NY
- November 18-19: Diocesan Matushki Retreat, Warwick Retreat Center, Warwick, NY



Orthodox Church in America (OCA) News

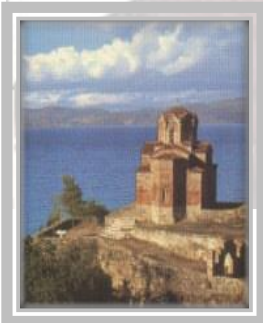
Holy Synod awards 2017 Church Planting Grants

During their Spring Session here October 18-21, 2016, the members of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America approved five full and one partial Church Planting Grants for 2017.

Saint John the Evangelist Mission, Tempe, AZ [Priest Andre Paez, Priest-in-Charge] and Saint James Mission, Beaufort, SC [Priest James Bozeman, Priest-in-Charge] will receive third-year grants. Receiving second-year grants will be Saint Nektarios Mission, Waxahachie, TX [Priest David Bozeman, Priest-in-Charge] and Saint Juvenaly and His Companion Mission, Wasilla, AK [Archpriest Mikel Bock, Priest-in-Charge]. Receiving a first-year grant will be the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary Mission, Saint James, MO [Priest Joel Wilson, Priest-in-Charge], while Saint Katherine Mission, Cardiff, CA [Priest Andrew Cuneo, Priest-in-Charge] will receive a partial-year grant.

"Each of these missions receives a substantial grant—\$24,000.00 for the first year, \$20,000.00 for the second year, and \$16,000.00 for the third year—matched by the missions, in order to support the full-time ministries and missionary work of their priests," explained Priest John Parker, who chairs the OCA's Department of Evangelization. "Once again, it is encouraging that representative missions from across the OCA, representing four dioceses, applied this year. Please pray for these missions and missionary efforts, including those who were not able to be funded. Pray for missions to be established, and for our current parishes to thrive.

"There is remarkable talent and energy in our Orthodox Church in America, demonstrated in creative ways in our Planting Grant Missions," Father John added. "Here, on the 'front lines' of evangelistic work, priests and devoted parishioners labor to bring Orthodox Christianity to new towns and cities—places in which Orthodox Christianity has never been. It is our humble joy to participate in such life-changing apostolic work, in the long line of missionary saints like Saint Herman, Saint Innocent, Saint John Kochurov, Saint Alexander Hotovitsky, Saint Raphael, and the newly-canonized Saint Sebastian of Jackson. We are indeed grateful for their examples, and for the generosity of so many in the Orthodox Church in America whose offerings make the Planting Grant Program possible."



Prayers by the Laker, St. Velimirovich, LXXIX:

People have become bad, and so they say: "What does the Lord do for us?"

The Lord gives life to everybody; the Lord gives a face to every creature. The Lord is as tenderhearted as a child, and selfishness and gloominess are unknown to Him.

The Lord gives to everyone whatever one asks of Him. The Lord fills His eternity with giving, and yet you say: "What does the Lord give to us?" You would not even have been able to pose this question, if the Lord had not given you the power to do so.

The Lord collects the tears of those who mourn in the palms of His hands. The Lord visits captives. The Lord sits at the bedside of the sick.

The Lord keeps vigil over perilous paths, and keeps watch over the depths of the sea, and yet you say: "What does the Lord do for us?"

Whatever you ask of the Lord, He also gives you. But because you began to seek more from the world than from the Lord, you feel deluded in your hopes, and so you say: "What does the Lord do for us?"

Like a good host, the Lord sets His table and awaits His guests. The Lord listens attentively for knocking, and is quick to open the door to every guest. Around His table are clustered undreamed-of mansions; at His table are many seats. Whoever strikes His door and knocks, will not be turned away, and yet you say: "Why did the Lord not open when we knocked?" Because you knocked at the door of the Lord with doubt, but at the door of the world with faith.

The Lord stands at the door of your soul with a broom, ready, at your invitation, to clean the horrendous filth out of your soul, to make your newly-cleaned soul fragrant with incense and fragrance, and to adorn her with virginal jewelry --the Lord is standing and waiting for your invitation.

At the edge of your heart the Lord is standing with a tall candle that burns without smoking or melting. The Lord is standing and waiting at your invitation, to bring the candle into your heart and enlighten it, to burn up all the fear in your heart, all its selfish passions and all its ugly desires, and to drive out of your heart all the smoke and foul stench.

At the edge of your mind the Lord is standing with His wisdom and with His tongue, ready, at your invitation, to enter into it and drive out all its foolish thoughts, all its filthy fancies, and all its mistaken notions, and to erase from your mind all nonexistent images -- the Lord is standing and waiting to introduce His reason, His seals, and His words.

Yet you say: "Where is the Lord?" At the edge of your life. Therefore your life has become hunchbacked. If the Lord were in the center, where He was in the beginning and where His rightful place is, your life would be upright and you would see the Lord, and you would not be asking: "Where is the Lord?"

You have become bad, therefore you ask: "Where is the Lord?"

The Lord is too good, therefore the bad do not recognize Him.

The Lord is too translucent, therefore the dusty do not see Him.

The Lord is too holy, therefore the unholy do not perceive Him.

If there are not enough people, who will confess the name of the Lord, the Lord will manifest Himself through objects.

If even the stars of heaven forget the name of the Lord, it will not be forgotten by the countless hosts of angels in heaven.

The weaker the confession of the Lord's name in one realm, the stronger it is in another. Neither can the uttering of the name of God be decreased, nor can it be increased. If one brook dries up, another will begin to rise, and thus - the sea maintains the same level.

Sayings of the Ascetics of the Orthodox Church, LXXVIX:

II. The Realities of the Spiritual World Retribution

Don't be deceived regarding the knowledge of what will be after your death: what you sow here, you will reap there. After leaving here, no one can make progress. Here is the work, there the reward; here the struggle, there the crowns.

+ St. Barsanuphius the Great, Instructions, 606

The Morning Offering – Daily Inspiration by Abbott Tryphon



Atheists

I've never met an atheist!

The young man announced at the beginning of a college class, that he was an atheist. I'd been invited as a guest lecturer, and had opened the talk with the observation that everyone has a nous that hungers for God. This young man took exception, declaring there was no God, and furthermore stating that he certainly did not have hunger for a relationship with anything that could be defined as a god.

I asked him to define the God he'd chosen to deny, and after hearing his definition, I declared that I agreed with him. I, too, did not believe in such a God. The average understanding of just who God is, has largely been based on a concept that is not in sync with the biblical description of God, nor the teachings of the historic Church. Furthermore, the false science that is the basis for the denial of God's involvement in creation, and in the life of our world, has come about due, in large part, to this very misconception of just who God is, to begin with.

The God that has been revealed in the holy scriptures, and the God we worship within the life of the Church, is a God that so loved us, that He took on our human flesh, that He might experience our hunger, our thirst, our sorrow, our pain, and even our joy. He is not a remote God, incapable of understanding His creation, but, rather, a God who chose to join Himself to His creation, and invite us into communion with Him. We have been invited to share in His divinity, and, through the gift of eternal life, to dwell with Him forever.

Our God is present everywhere, and is Light in a darkened universe. Everything that is good, is from God, for He is love, and has invited us into communion within His love. His light shines upon us, even when we chose to live

in darkness, for He is everywhere present, and fills all things. Our disbelief in no way cancels out His presence, nor does our disbelief in anyway negate the fact that He is God.

The person who declares himself an atheist, is in fact one who avoids the obvious. Refusing to believe in God’s existence in no way cancels out the reality that God indeed does exist. Just as refusing to believe the world is round because it appears flat from our perspective, or denying the existence of molecules because we can’t see them, the denial of God’s existence emanates from a narrow focus on self.

That one would deny the existence of God, yet accept the theories of quantum physics which are based on an unprovable noetic science, is proof that we, as a species, have fallen far from that which our Creator God had intended, having become, in our pride, gods unto ourselves.

With love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon



Daily Reflection **We Do Not Lose Heart**

“...So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed every day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, because we

look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.” (2 Cor 4: 16-18)



How helpful and comforting is this passage, not only in our ageing process, but in dealing with the death of loved ones. “We look not to the things that are seen,” as we tended to do, when they were still with us, “but to the things that are unseen.” Because our relationship with those departed continues, but it changes.

This changed, new relationship is “unseen,” and, in many ways, unburdened of transient confusion. There is no more occasion for discussion or conflict with them, but new opportunity for service, from our side, in offering prayers and works of love in their memory. “So we do not lose heart.” The whole experience of loss “is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,” as we look “to the things that are unseen.” That’s one of the best parts, I think, of having faith; It is the knowledge that there is more to life than “things that are seen.” Glory to God for all things, visible and invisible. Amen!

Holy Orthodox Quotes

“You do not know in whom the Lord will come and visit you; be impartial to all, kind to all, sincere and hospitable.”
-**St John of Kronstadt**

Matthew 25:32-46

All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.† And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:† for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’† “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:† for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’ “Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

The Philokalia: Daily Readings

The lover of Jesus will be freed from evil; the disciples of Jesus will behold true knowledge.

+ *St Thalassios the Libyan, 400 Texts on Love and Self-Control*

Through the Grace of God – Orthodox Christianity

Elder Thaddeus: Live Simply, Humbly, and Meekly

“When He came to dwell among us He showed us the way to live: simply, humbly, and meekly. We should approach Him just as He created us – as innocent children.”

Ancient Christian Wisdom

If you become proud when you receive what you ask in prayer, then it is obvious that your prayer was not to God, and you did not receive help from Him, but the demons were working with you in order to exalt your heart; For when help is given from God, the soul is not exalted, but is all the more humbled, and she is amazed at the great mercy of God, how merciful He is to sinners.

+ **St. Barsanuphius the Great**

Holy Trinity Christians United for Peace: Syria

Please join us for Christians United for Peace: Syria, an event hosted by our Holy Trinity Parishioners, on October 29.

We have all been saddened by the senseless destruction and persecution of our brothers and sisters around the world. Christians United for Peace: Syria, is our call to the Christian community to raise consciousness and funds, for this very tragic situation.

The event is open to anyone, to join us for an evening of awareness, education and action. Please share this information with your organizations, and anyone who might be interested. We will be very happy to welcome you.

On behalf of Father George and our Holy Trinity family,

With love in Christ,
Eugenia Kramvis
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