

Evil Spirits

In addition to the created spiritual powers who do the will of God, there are, according to the Orthodox faith, those who rebel against Him and do evil. These are the demons or devils (which means literally those who “pull apart” and destroy) who are also known both in the Old and New Testaments as well as in the lives of the saints of the Church.

Satan (which means literally the enemy or the adversary) is one proper name for the devil, the leader of the evil spirits. He is identified in the serpent symbol of Gen 3 and as the tempter of both Job and Jesus (Job 1.6; Mk 1.33). He is labelled by Christ as a deceiver and liar, the “father of lies” (Jn 8.44) and the “prince of this world” (Jn 12.31; 14.30; 16.11). He has “fallen from heaven” together with his evil angels to do battle with God and his servants (Lk 10.18; Is 14.12). It is this same Satan who “entered Judas” to effect the betrayal and destruction of Christ (Lk 22.3).

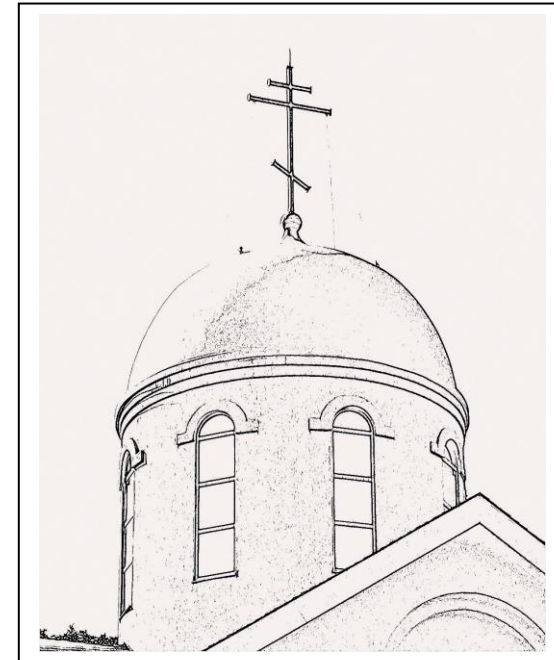
The apostles of Christ and the saints of the Church knew from direct experience Satan’s powers against man for Man’s own destruction. They knew as well Satan’s lack of power and his own ultimate destruction when man is with God, filled with the Holy Spirit of Christ. According to Orthodox doctrine there is no middle road between God and Satan. Ultimately, and at any given moment, man is either with God or the devil, serving one or the other.

The ultimate victory belongs to God and to those with Him. Satan and his hosts are finally destroyed. Without this recognition—and still more—the experience of this reality of the cosmic spiritual struggle (God and Satan, the good angels and the evil angels), one cannot truly be called an Orthodox Christian who sees and lives according to the deepest realities of life. Once again, however, it must be clearly noted that the devil is not a “red-suited gentleman” nor any other type of grossly-physical tempter. He is a subtle, intelligent spirit who acts mostly by deceit and hidden actions, having as his greatest victory man’s disbelief in his existence and power. Thus, the devil attacks “head-on” only those whom he can deceive in no other way: Jesus and the greatest of the saints. For the greatest part of his warfare he is only too satisfied to remain concealed and to act by indirect methods and means.

Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour (1 Pet 5.8).

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places (Eph 6.11–12).

WEEKLY



BULLETIN

Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Rejoice O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!

Troparion of the Annunciation to the Theotokos

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

A Parish of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey of the Orthodox Church in America

360 Van Zile Road, Brick, New Jersey 08724

Phone: (732) 458-9032

Email: orthodoxbrick@gmail.com

Fax: (732) 295-0007

Website: www.orthodoxbrick.org

Very Rev. Fr. Gary Joseph Breton, *Rector*

Very Rev. Fr. Sergius Kuharsky, *Retired Attached Priest*

Very Rev. Fr. Paul Kucynda, *Retired Attached Priest*

Rev. Fr. Michael Pejovic, *Attached Priest*

Matthew Petrides, *Senior Warden*

Matushka Mary Buletza-Breton, *Choir Director*

October 30, 2022

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Tone 3. Hieromartyrs Zenobius and his sister Zenobia, of Aegæ in Cilicia (285). Apostles Tertius, Mark, Justus, and Artemas, of the Seventy (1st c.). Hieromartyr Marcian, Bishop of Syracuse (2nd c.). Martyr Eutropia of Alexandria (ca. 250). Martyr Anastasia of Thessalonica (3rd c.). St. Stephen Milutin, his brother Ven. Dragutin (Theoctistus in monasticism), and their mother, St. Helen (Jelena), of Serbia.

Today's Readings:

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19

Gospel: Luke 8:26-39

Upcoming Service Schedule:

Today – **9:00am Divine Liturgy**

Saturday – **6:00pm Great Vespers**

Sunday – **9:00am Divine Liturgy**

Next Sunday's Readings:

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20

Gospel: Luke 8:41-56



*The Gadarene
Demoniac*

Keep up on OCA news by visiting www.oca.org, diocesan news by visiting www.nynjoca.org, and parish news by visiting www.occa-brick.org.

Special Prayers

We pray for **all** our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are **Fr. Sergius Kuharsky, Eileen Zamerovsky, Zoran Pejovic, Ingrid Kopec, Betty James, Manya Shark, Deryl Tczap, George Stavrou, Margaret Makara, Dennis & Ann Marie Gahr, Michael Getmanov, and Lori Ratushnuk.**

We are happy that you have joined us for worship today and hope that you will join us for Coffee Hour after the veneration of the Cross. Please note that **reception of the Holy Eucharist** is only for baptized members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared with prayer, fasting, and periodic confession. You are encouraged to receive the blessed bread that is **offered at the end of the service and which may also be offered to you by one of your neighbors during Communion.**

Annunciations

TODAY – **Team 1** is in charge of today's Coffee Hour. Team 2 will host next week. **Many thanks** to all who have volunteered to help out with this important ministry.

TODAY - **Church School** classes will be held during Coffee Hour.

TODAY – **Episode 2 of "The Chosen"** will be shown in the Parish Hall beginning at 11:30am. All those who wish to stay for the showing and a brief discussion following is welcome to do so. Episode 3 will be **shown in** the hall on **Thursday morning, November 10** at 10:00am.

TODAY – **Parish Monthly Calendars for November 2022** are now available. Paper copies can be found in the church narthex.

This Wednesday & Thursday – The annual **Diocesan Assembly** will take place at Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Endicott, NY. Father Gary and Matushka Mary will attend as delegates from our parish. Please pray for all delegates as they undertake the work of the Church in our Diocese of New York and New Jersey.

This Saturday – The **marriage of Luke Pasick and Jen Tordella** will take place at our parish at 1:00pm.

Wednesday, November 9 – **Dessert rolls** will be baked in the parish hall beginning in the afternoon. Please contact Cathy Berger or Olga Pasick if you are able to help out.

Congratulations to Father John Joseph and Matushka Janine Kotalik on the baptism yesterday of their daughter, **Katherine Elizabeth**. May God grant all of them Many Years!

We continue to pray for **peace in Ukraine**, for the withdrawal of Russian troops from that land, and for the wellbeing of the Ukrainian people. Lord, have mercy!

Please pray for vocations to the Holy Priesthood!

The Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors program is an essential vehicle for funding the activities and programs of our diocese. Please consider participating in the program. More information is available at the diocesan website at www.nynjoca.org.