

**Sunday, 24th of November 2024**

**MARTYR MERCURIUS OF SMOLENKS**

**Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18**

**Gospel: Luke 13:10-17**

**Troparion – Tone 3**

**Your holy martyr Mercurius, O Lord, / through his sufferings has received an incorruptible crown from You, our God. / For having Your strength, he laid low his adversaries, / and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. / Through his intercessions, save our souls!**

We pray for our entire church family and those who do not have a family or church family, and our special prayers are for the sick and suffering and for the health and salvation of others:

The Archbishop Melchizedek, Archpriest Samuel, Archimandrite Joseph, Archpriest Paul, Protosphyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Protodeacon John, Mark, Matushka Ellen, Matushka Svetlana, Matushka Irene, Matushka Katherine, Catherine Xenia, Karen, Nadine Olsen, Michael Olsen, Michelle, Alexander, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Engelsman, Valentina Bobrowski, Anna Konoleva, Erika Dobrzynski, Douglas Dobrzynski, Andrew John Lihou, Marie Biancarelli, Joshua and Daniel Buccieri, Emma Matthews, Stephanie, Kristy, Victor Szemetylo, Helen, Bonnie Shaffner, Zoran Pejovic, Sunny Hunsicker, Ioana, Carmen, Michael, John, Sarah, Linda, Pamela Anne and Kimberly Marie, JoAnne, Beatrice, Christina, Orestes, Julia, Adrian, Sonya, Biljana, Dorothy, Pauline, Brandy, Makenzie, Tyler, Anna, Aleksei, Elena, Denis, Nadezhda, Izabella, Olga, Rita, Olga, Olga, Sofia, Iosif, John, Dawn, Pavel, Elena, Avery, Halyna (Klima), Sergey, John, Francis, Anna and Birgit. Amen!

**\*\*\* To amend the prayer list, speak with Mary Osinski\*\*\***

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**The Weekly Bulletin**  
**HOLY SPIRIT**  
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**November 24th, 2024**

**MARTYR MERCURIUS OF SMOLENSK** - The Holy Martyr Mercurius of Smolensk was a Slav by birth, probably from Moravia, the descendant of a princely line. Brought up in Orthodoxy, Saint Mercurius in zeal for the true Faith left his own native land for Russia, where he served in the army of the Prince of Smolensk. The saintly soldier secretly led an ascetic life. He was strict in fasting, he was chaste, spending his nights at prayer, and spiritually preparing himself to suffer for Christ. In the year 1239 a horde of Tatars [Mongols], already having laid waste to many Russian cities, appeared in the vicinity of Smolensk and set up camp 25 versts away at Dolgomost, threatening to destroy the city and its holy places. A church warden, praying by night in the Smolensk cathedral before a wonderworking icon of the Theotokos, heard the voice of the Queen of Heaven commanding him to find the holy warrior and say to him: "Mercurius, go forth into battle, for the Sovereign Lady summons you." The soldier went himself to the cathedral and heard the voice of the All-Pure Virgin, sending him to fight the enemy and promising him heavenly assistance. The warrior of Christ set off that very night to the Tatar camp at Dolgomost. He fought there with the leader of the Tatar army, a giant possessed of immense strength. He killed him and entered into single combat with the enemy host. Invoking the name of the Lord and of the All-Pure Theotokos, the holy warrior destroyed many of the enemy. The Tatar warriors watched with terror as lightning-bearing men and a radiant Woman aided Saint Mercurius in the fight. Unable to stand against the warrior of Christ, they retreated in flight. Saint Mercurius was himself killed in the battle by the son of the Tatar giant he had killed. The inhabitants of Smolensk, saved through the miraculous intervention of the Lord and the Most Holy Theotokos, reverently buried the body of the soldier-martyr in the cathedral of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos. Soon after his death, Saint Mercurius appeared in a vision to the church warden and ordered that his armor be hung over his grave, promising the Smolensk people constant help and intervention in every sorrow and struggle. Even today the sandals of the holy Martyr Mercurius are still preserved in the Smolensk cathedral church. His Feast was established at the end of the sixteenth century, and in 1509 the inhabitants of Smolensk were already calling him their special patron.

## Service Schedule

**Great Vespers:** 5pm Saturdays

**Hours:** 9:45am Sundays

**Divine Liturgy:** 10:00am Sundays

**Confessions:** Will be heard every Saturday evening after Vespers or by appointment.

**Call, text or email Father Michael at (848)228-1563 or [holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com](mailto:holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com)**

Monthly calendar at [www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org](http://www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org)

## Dates to Remember

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> of November**

**Great Vespers at 5 pm**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> of November**

**Divine Liturgy at 10 am**

**Julia Pawelko talk after coffee hour**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> of November**

**Great Vespers at 5 pm**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> of December**

**Divine Liturgy at 10 am**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS!

### Visitors Welcome

Glory be to Jesus Christ! Everyone is welcome to visit and worship with us. Following Divine Liturgy, please join us for light refreshment in the church hall.

### Christmas Fast Begun

The Christmas Fast began on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Please refrain from using any animal products until Christmas. We are also called to fast from sin, gossip, jealousy, anger, and from other things which, while well within our control, we all too often allow to control us.

### Spiritual Talk

Julia Pawelko is giving a talk on Practices of Orthodoxy: The meaning, the reason and purpose of the Baptismal Name. This talk will take place on Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> after coffee hour. Please consider attending.

### Spirit of Orthodoxy Christmas Concert

The Spirit of Orthodoxy Choir will have its concert on Friday December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 7:30 pm in our Church. This is a wonderful opportunity for outreach so please, invite your friends and family. The official flyer and more information are coming soon. This is the first time that we are hosting such a wonderful event, so please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

### Alaska Initiative

For the next two weeks, we will have donation basket for the Diocese of Alaska Fundraiser. This is a Diocese of NY/NJ event that is aimed to support the priests in the Diocese of Alaska. As you may know, many priests work for a little as \$7,500 a year. Please consider contributing to this important fundraiser.

### Advent Confessions

Confessions will be heard every Saturday evening or after Vespers or by appointment. If you wish to make an appointment for confession, please contact Father Michael via email [pejovicveljko@gmail.com](mailto:pejovicveljko@gmail.com) or call (848)228-1563.

### Clothing Bin

Please continue to use the clothing bin located in the church parking lot. Each donation supports the church financially and your participation is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your generosity.

### Sussex Help Center Announcement

Recently Dan Taylor had a meeting with the Sussex Help Center Food Pantry. Their requests are for soups or stews and items for school lunches for children. This is an ongoing HSOC outreach program and thank you for your support and contributions.

### Have an item for the bulletin?

Please email Father Michael at [holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com](mailto:holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com) or Mary Osinski at [mary.osinski@gmail.com](mailto:mary.osinski@gmail.com).