

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST RUSSIAN 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

The Sudden Call

June 15 is the feast day of the Old Testament prophet Amos, who lived during the 8th Century BC.

The New Testament describes the unexpected, sudden calls of several of the apostles. Two pairs of brothers—Peter and Andrew, then James and John—are going about their daily work of fishing when Jesus Christ calls them with the famous words, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." All of them leave their nets and their daily work at once to go with Him (Matthew 4: 18-20).

This sudden call to leave an everyday occupation seems also to have been Amos' experience. He was a shepherd, in a time when many Old Testament prophets came from a professional "class." In 2 Kings 2:3, 4:38 and 6:1 Elisha encounters the "sons of the prophets" as a group. In 1 Kings 22:6, the King of Israel gathers "the prophets," about 400 men, and asks them what he should do. In 1 Samuel 10:5, Saul is told that he will meet "a band of prophets coming down from the high place with harp, tambourine, flute, and lyre before them, prophesying."

When Amos describes his call, he makes it clear that he doesn't belong to this special group: "I am no prophet, nor a priest's son" (7:14). Like the fishermen in Jesus' time, his call seems sudden and unexpected. He is "a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel'" (7:15). This sudden call was also impossible to ignore: "The lion has roared; who will not fear? The Lord has spoken; who can but prophesy?" (3:5).

So Amos travels from his home in Tekoa, south of Bethlehem, to the Northern Kingdom. As soon as he arrives, he understands why God is angry with Israel. The rich "trample the head of the

Intercessory Prayers

We pray for all our fellow parishioners, but we pray especially for those who are incapable of being with us in church. Among them are:

Michael, Mary and Max Bakaletz, Genevieve Bobenko, Pauline Bodnar, Nancy Filak, Mary Hadginske, Helen Kurnewitz, Margaret Lawler, Kathleen Lazarczyk, Emil Mikulik, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Anatoly & Anna Rozanovich, Nadia Sojka, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

poor into the earth, and turn aside the way of the afflicted" (2:7), while fathers and sons patronize the same brothels, judges cheat plaintiffs, and women enjoy getting drunk.

The people, predictably, don't want to hear Amos' prophecy of punishment. They want to believe that God is pleased with their observances of the liturgical seasons and the sacrifices they offer. But Amos gives them God's word about these things: "I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies...the peace offerings of your fatted beasts I will not look upon" (5:21-22).

Amos also warns them that the "day of the Lord," which they anticipate as a time when God will give them victory over their enemies, will instead be "darkness, and not light" (5:18b).

Amos is rudely told to go back to Judah and never preach in the north again. But his hopeful prophecy about God's restoration of David's kingdom and the glorious age to come is quoted in Acts 15:16-17 by the apostle James: "I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen...that the rest of men may seek the Lord." This prophet of the Old Testament had prophesied the universal promise that the apostles, those who like him had received a sudden call, would preach to the world.



Announcements

◆ **Father's Day Greetings** to all fathers, grand-fathers, great grandfathers, godfathers and uncles of our Parish. Let us honor our fathers by praying for them and showing our love and respect. May God bless all fathers with good health, joy, peace for Many Years! Let us also not forget to pray for our departed fathers who have entered Eternal Life. Memory Eternal!

◆ Tomorrow, Monday, June 16 is the beginning of the **Apostles' (Ss. Peter and Paul) Fast**.

◆ The next **Trustees' Meeting** is this Tuesday, June 17 at 7pm. All members are encouraged to attend.

Deepest Sympathy

Our Deepest Sympathy to Anna Mae Beckman on the Repose of her niece **Carol Heitman** who passed away on June 4th. May the Lord rest her soul in His heavenly Kingdom. Memory Eternal!

Birthday Greetings

Happy 1st birthday to **Xenia Kary** and happy birthday to **Fred Beckmann**, both celebrating on June 19. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!

From Father and Matushka

This passed week we have been blessed with a baby girl **Sofia Kseniuk**, born June 12 weighting 8 lb. 3 oz., 20¼ inches long. We appreciate all your support, your prayers and best wishes. May God grant all of you and our newborn daughter Sofia good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!



June 15, 2014

1st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
All Saints

Happy Father's Day!

- **8:50am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Heb. 11:33-12:2
Gospel: Mt. 10:32-33,37-38;
19:27-30
- **Fellowship** – everyone is invited for
Coffee Hour following the service.

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, JUNE 21
5:30pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, JUNE 22
9:00am - Divine Liturgy