

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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The Sorrows of Samuel

On August 20th we remember the great prophet Samuel. His mother treasured him because she had been barren for many years before his birth. When her prayers for a son were answered, she kept her promise to dedicate him to God, and gave him into the care of the aged high priest and judge, Eli.

Living with Eli, Samuel "continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with men" (1 Samuel/1 Kingdoms 2:26). His loving mother visited each year, bringing a little robe she had made for him. And even though the "word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision" (3:1), Samuel was called by the Lord's own voice to be a prophet. The first news God gave him was grim—it was that He planned to punish Eli and his house for their sin—but the old priest took it calmly, knowing that he had not disciplined his worthless sons, who had no regard for God and stole from the people's offerings. Meanwhile, Samuel continued to grow up and to become known as a prophet of the Lord in "all Israel from Dan to Beersheba" (3:20).

God's plan was fulfilled when the Philistines routed the Israelites in battle and captured the Ark of the Covenant. Eli's sons died in the battle, Eli dropped dead of shock and grief, and his daughter-in-law said, "The glory has departed from Israel, for the Ark of God has been captured" (4:22).

This great sorrow was not permanent. The Philistines returned the Ark, and Samuel led the people in a burnt offering of repentance to God for having turned away from Him to worship foreign gods. "So the Philistines were subdued and did not again

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:

Genevieve Bobenko, Nancy Filak, Mary Hadginske, Helen Kurnewitz, Margaret Lawler, Kathleen Lazorczyk, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Anatoly & Anna Rozanovich, Nadia Sojka, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Peter Czech**, who celebrates his birthday this Saturday. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaia Lita!



Announcements

◆ **Annual Diocesan Youth Day** at Six Flags Great Adventure is this Thursday, August 20, 2015. For more information and how to register, please see a flyer at the bulletin board.

◆ As part of a "Vision for Our Future," Bishop Michael launched the **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors (DDB)** program in January 2011. He called upon the faithful of the diocese to voluntarily support this program through their financial gifts. The donations to this fund were used to support mission parishes, help seminarians, and assist existing parishes in their need. The program continues to be a vital force in our diocese and mission parishes are being established, seminarians are receiving scholarships, and struggling parishes are being revitalized. Please consider joining in this good work. You can donate through the Diocesan website: www.nynjoca.org.

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.



August 16, 2015

11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Afterfeast of Dormition
Translation of the Image of Christ
"Not-made by hands"

- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 1Cor. 9:2-12
Col. 1:12-18 (Image)
Gospel: Mt. 18:23-35
Lk. 9:51-56; 10:22-24 (Image)
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service.

Schedule of Services

- SATURDAY, AUGUST 22**
6:00pm - Great Vespers
- SUNDAY, AUGUST 23**
9:00am - Divine Liturgy