

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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Department of
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
ORTHODOX CHURCH in AMERICA

Saint Poeman and Saint Paul

On August 27th we remember the Venerable Poemen (often spelled Pimen) who was one of the most prominent of the desert-dwelling ascetics. He was born in Egypt in the fifth century. As a young man, Poemen visited great monastics, sharing their way of living and learning from them. He spent the rest of his life as a monk in the Egyptian desert.

In any collection of sayings of the desert fathers, quotations from Poemen will fill several pages. He clearly had a strong and lasting effect on those around him, teaching others by the example of his disciplined and holy life. Those who knew him and lived with him remembered and recorded what he said.

On this same day we read Galatians 2:6-20, and even in this short passage we find Saint Paul, also a well-respected and well-remembered teacher, saying several things that agree with Saint Poemen's teachings. They are expressed differently, of course, but these two men had similar understandings of God and His love.

Paul reports in these verses that the apostles James, Cephas and John gave him and his helper Barnabas "the right hand of fellowship" when they saw that he had been given the grace to preach the Gospel to the uncircumcised—the Gentiles—just as Peter "had been entrusted with the Gospel to the circumcised" (2:7).

In saying this, Paul is validating his own ministry by pointing out that the other apostles, who had been with Christ and were considered leaders, accepted him as a comrade and fellow worker. But he is also noting gratefully that God accepts the service of people whose skills, backgrounds, and characters

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 Lazarczyk, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Anatoly & Anna Rozanovich, Nadia Sojka, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

differ widely, as his and Peter's certainly did.

Some words of Saint Poemen make a similar point: "If three men meet, of whom the first fully preserves interior peace, and the second gives thanks to God in illness, and the third serves with a pure mind, these three are doing the same work." Poemen, like Paul, appreciates the generosity and wisdom of God, who so willingly finds value in the varied efforts and abilities of the human beings who "are doing the same work" – His work.

Saint Paul refers to the other apostles' illustrious reputations, and then adds that such things make no difference because "God shows no partiality." Poemen, in a similar vein, cautions his fellow monks to have no concern with anyone's reputation, including their own: "A man who lives with a companion ought to be like a stone pillar; hurt him, and he does not get angry, praise him, and he is not puffed up."

Another striking quotation from Saint Poemen reflects Paul's own words in other places. When a brother asked Poemen, "If I see my brother committing a sin, is it right to conceal it?" Poemen answered, "At the very moment when we hide our brother's fault, God hides our own, and at the moment when we reveal our brother's fault, God reveals ours too."

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Andrea Shaker**, who celebrates her birthday this Wednesday. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!



Announcements

◆ 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.

◆ **Enjoy your vacation** but remember to visit the Orthodox Church at your destination. To search for a local parish go to <http://orthodoxyinamerica.org> and enter your location in the search panel. Have a wonderful and safe rest of the summer!

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 23, 2015

12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Leavetaking of the Dormition

- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 1Cor. 15:1-11
Ph. 2:5-11 (Theotokos)
Gospel: Mt. 19:16-26
Lk. 10:38-42; 11:27-28
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service.

Schedule of Services

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

6:00pm - Great Vespers & Litya

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29 – BEHEADING OF

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST (STRICT FAST)

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

9:00am - Divine Liturgy