

# 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

## The Memorable Words of Micah

**Today we remember the prophet Micah, who was a younger contemporary of Isaiah but came from a very different background. While Isaiah was an aristocrat, Micah was a working-class man, and it shows in his writing.**

He came from a small village in the foothills between the coastal plain and the central highlands of Palestine. He was keenly aware of the struggles of the working poor, and harshly critical of the greedy rich who exploited and oppressed them. Micah couched his prophetic warnings to corrupt public officials in earthy, graphic language:

"Hear, you heads of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel! You who hate the good and love the evil, who tear the skin from off my people, and their flesh from off their bones; who eat the flesh of my people and flay their skin from off them, and break their bones in pieces, and chop them up like meat in a kettle, like flesh in a cauldron" (2:1-4).

It wasn't only Micah's background that distinguished him from Isaiah. He also didn't share the older prophet's firm conviction that Jerusalem, being the holy city of Zion, would never be destroyed. Micah saw the city as a den of corruption rather than a place inviolably protected by God. He wrote: "Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed as a field; Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins..." (3:12).

A century later, the prophet Jeremiah made similar predictions concerning Jerusalem, so infuriating religious leaders that they wanted to put him to death for treason. But others saved Jeremiah's life by reminding everyone of Micah's earlier prophecy, which like Jeremiah's was clearly spoken in the name of the Lord.



August 14, 2016

8<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
Forefeast of the Dormition

- **8:50am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: Rom. 15:1-7  
Gospel: Mt. 9:27-35
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for a fellowship following the service.
- **12:30pm** – Great Vespers with Litya

## Schedule of Services

**MONDAY, AUGUST 15 – DORMITION OF THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS**  
9:00am - Divine Liturgy and Blessing of Flowers and Herbs

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 20**  
6:00pm - Great Vespers

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 21**  
9:00am - Divine Liturgy

## Intercessory Prayers

We pray for all our fellow parishioners, and we pray especially for those who are incapable of being with us in church. Please keep in your prayers our Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Genevieve Bobenko, Mary Fechisin, Andrew Fabian, Edward Fedush, Mary Hadginske, Helen Kurnewitz, Margaret Lawler, Kathleen Lazorzcyk, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Nadia Sojka, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

For all his scathing rebukes, Micah also gives us beautiful words of peace and hope. In 4:3 we read, "...and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." It is Micah who prophesies that "You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days" (5:1). He also reminds us "to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God" (6:8).

The epistle reading for this day tells us that Jesus Christ never vacillates, never says both Yes and No. In Him it is "always Yes. For all the promises of God find their Yes in Him" (2 Corinthians 1: 20-21).

That faithful "Yes" in God is anticipated in Micah when he says, "I will wait for the God of my salvation" (7:7) and especially in his prophecy's final words: "Thou wilt cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. Thou wilt show faithfulness to Jacob, and steadfast love to Abraham, as Thou hast sworn to our fathers from the days of old" (7:19-20).

## Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Patricia Galley**, who celebrates her birthday today, and **Marilyn Stagen**, tomorrow. May God grant both of you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!



## Announcements

◆ Save the date: **2016 Annual Dept. of Christian Education Conference** will be held in our Deanery this coming Saturday, August 20 at Mother of God Mission in Princeton, NJ. All interested are welcome. For more information please see a flyer at the bulletin board.

◆ Save the date: **Annual Diocesan Youth Day** at Six Flags Great Adventure is scheduled for Thursday, August 25, 2016. For more information and how to register (**by August 15**) please see a flyer at the bulletin board.

◆ The Diocesan Department of Youth Ministry has several events planned for the upcoming months: **SAINT ANDREW'S CAMP BIKE RIDE** (August 27th); **GIRLS RETREAT** (November 11th); **ALTAR SERVERS RETREAT** (February 10-12, 2017), and more! For more information visit the diocesan website [www.nynjoca.org](http://www.nynjoca.org).

◆ A new edition of the diocesan publication, "**Jacob's Well**," is available at the narthex. Be sure to pick up a copy of this beautiful magazine. "Jacob's Well" is informative and a good way to reach-out and share the faith with shut-ins, friends, and neighbors. To view the on-line edition visit the diocesan website.

◆ **Enjoy your vacation** but remember to visit the Orthodox Church at your destination. To search for a local parish go to [www.orthodoxyinamerica.org](http://www.orthodoxyinamerica.org) and enter your location in the search panel. If you plan to receive Holy Communion, be sure that the priest knows who you are before the Divine Liturgy. It is always good form to approach the Chalice knowing that the priest is informed about you. Have a wonderful and safe summer!