

# 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

## Jesus Goes Home to Teach

**On Thursday and Friday of this week, we read the account of Jesus preaching in His hometown, at the synagogue in Nazareth (Luke 4:16-30.)**

Things start off well enough. Jesus reads from the prophecy of Isaiah in which the prophet tells of the One who has the Spirit of the Lord upon Him and who will bring good news, recovery and release to the poor, the captives, the blind and the oppressed. He tells the people, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing", thus applying the prophetic words to Himself. The people speak well of Him and are amazed at His gracious words.

But there is already a note of discord. The people ask each other, "Is not this Joseph's son?" as if they resent His assuming authority and knowledge when He is, after all, just one of them, the son of a simple carpenter.

Jesus knows what they are thinking, and puts their thoughts into words: "No doubt you will quote to me this proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself.' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" He does not accept their opinion that He should perhaps have done some of His miracles in the place where He grew up. In fact, He brushes aside the idea by asserting that "no prophet is accepted in his own country." Then He says things that continue to raise the resentment of those who are listening.

He first relates a story about the prophet Elijah, who was sent by God to help a widow during a famine. Just hearing that the woman lived "at Zarephath in Sidon" would alert His listeners that she was a Syrophenician, not a Jew. Jesus makes the point

## 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 Lazorczyk, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Nadia Sojka, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

even more strongly by saying that though there were many widows in Israel at that time, Elijah was sent only to this non-Jewish one.

His next statement sends everyone into a rage. He again refers to an Old Testament prophet – Elisha this time, the disciple of Elijah. He reminds His listeners that Elisha cleansed a leper, Naaman the Syrian. He adds that there were "many lepers in Israel" when Elisha lived, just as there had been many widows in Elijah's time. But in each case the prophet ministered only to a non-Jewish person.

Those in the synagogue get the point: God doesn't play favorites, and His salvation is open not only to them, the chosen people, but to everyone. This makes them so furious that they try to kill Jesus then and there. But with His majestic authority He passes through the midst of them and goes on His way.

What would it have been like to be present in the synagogue that day? Would we be angered at the idea that we had no "exclusive" claim to God's attention and care? Or would we rejoice to have a God who reaches out to everyone? These are still questions worth thinking about.

## Birthday Greetings

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



## Announcements

◆ The next **Board of Trustees' Meeting** is scheduled for this Tuesday, September 20 at 7pm. All members please plan to attend.

◆ Save the date: on **Saturday, October 15 & Sunday, October 16, 2016**, His Eminence Archbishop Michael will be visiting our parish with Archpastoral visitation. Great Vespers on Saturday and Divine Liturgy on Sunday will be served at their usual times - 6:00pm and 9:00am respectively.

◆ This coming **Friday, Sept. 23, and Saturday, Sept. 24 at 7:00pm** at the Holy Assumption Church in Clifton the youth of our Diocese will perform "Godspell", a musical based on the Gospel of Matthew. For more information please see a flyer at the bulletin board.

◆ Save the date: **Orthodox Education Day** at St. Vladimir's Seminary this year is **October 1**. The theme is "Celebrating Mary," centering on the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary. The day begins with the Divine Liturgy at 8:00am.

◆ Save the date: on **Sunday, October 2**, we are going to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse to see "Squabbles," a comedy about a young couple with live-in in-laws. Tickets are still available and cost \$61.50 per person (choose from 7 entrees). For more information and tickets, please see Kathy Petrow, or call her at 201-796-6958. Dinner starts at 2:00pm.

◆ The **Food Pantry** is always in need of food items. Please keep those less fortunate in mind and help us to feed those in need. A basket is in the vestibule of the church for your convenience. May God bless you abundantly for your generosity.



September 18, 2016

**13<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**Sunday After the Elevation of the Cross. Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross**

- **8:50am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy  
Epistles: Gal. 2:16-20; 1Cor. 16:13-24  
Gospels: Mk. 8:24-9:1; Mt. 21:33-42
- **Panikhida** - in memory of **Louis Koziel** on the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Repose, offered by Patricia Galley
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for a fellowship following the service.

## Schedule of Services

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**  
6:00pm - Great Vespers

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**  
9:00am - Divine Liturgy