

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

Even Miracle Workers Have Their Bad Moments

On June 14th we remember the prophet Elisha, who was the disciple and successor of another great prophet, Elijah. In his eagerness to serve God, Elisha performed many miracles. Often these wonderful acts benefited people's physical health as well as their spiritual well-being.

For example, the men of the city of Jericho complained to him that "the water is bad and the land is unfruitful." Elisha was able to purify the water, and as a true prophet he gave the credit and glory to God working through him: "Thus says the Lord, 'I have made this water wholesome; henceforth neither death nor miscarriage shall come from it'" (2 Kings 2: 21).

Another time, Elisha provided a stew made of herbs and wild gourds for a group of "sons of the prophets." Tasting it, the men cried out that there was "death in the pot." Elisha merely added some meal, and made the food harmless and tasty. When someone brought him twenty loaves of barley and some fresh grain, he instructed his servant to give it to the men. But the servant complained that it wasn't nearly enough to feed all 100 of them. Elisha calmly repeated his instructions, and again said the words the Lord had given him: "They shall eat and have some left" (2 Kings 4: 38-44). Sure enough, in a way similar to Jesus' feeding of the 5000, everyone was satisfied, and there were lots of leftovers.

When a widow cried out to him that creditors were about to enslave her children to pay the family's debts, Elisha offered practical but miraculous help. He instructed her to borrow containers from her neighbors, and then provided oil to fill every

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, Michael Bzik, Mary Fehisin, Andrew Fabian, Mary Hadginske, Barbara Kary, Helen Kurnewitz, Margaret Lawler, Kathleen Lazarczyk, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

one. When there were no more containers, the oil stopped flowing, and Elisha told the woman to "sell the oil and pay your debts, and you and your sons can live on the rest" (2 Kings 4: 7).

One of Elisha's best-known miracles involved another woman in distress. The account of the Shunamite woman is given in 2 Kings 4: 8-37 and it is one of the fifteen Old Testament readings for Holy Saturday. Through Elisha's prayer, this hospitable woman is able to conceive a child. But a bad moment comes for the prophet when the child dies. She reproaches Elisha, and he says to his servant that "she is in bitter distress; and the Lord has hidden it from me, and has not told me." How helpless he must have felt, and perhaps momentarily abandoned by God. But by arduous prayer he is able to revive the child.

Elisha's mentor Elijah also had bad moments. Having killed Jezebel's prophets, he feared for his life and even "asked that he might die" rather than continue his prophetic work (1 Kings 19: 4).

When our own bad moments come, it's good to remember that we are not alone in having them, and that God will help us through them, just as He helped His miracle-working prophets.

Birthday Greetings

Happy 3rd birthday to **Sofia Kseniuk**, who celebrates her birthday tomorrow, and to **Kerri Czech**, whose birthday is this Tuesday. May God grant both of you and all those celebrating a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!

Congratulation

Our heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the newlyweds **David** and **Tania Baron** and to their proud parents Steven and Helen Baron. May God bless your new family and all your loved ones with abundant health, peace and prosperity for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!

Announcements

◆ The **Apostles'** (Ss. Peter and Paul) **Fast** begins tomorrow, Monday, June 12.

◆ Save the Date: The upcoming **Parish Council Conference** will take place on **Sunday, June 25**, from **2pm - 6pm** at Ss. Peter & Paul Church, 76 Whitehead Avenue, South River, NJ. Judge Ray Lanier will be the presenter. He will guide all through the changes, emphasize the reasons for and the importance of the Diocesan By-Laws, and will be available to answer all related questions on this topic. All Board of Trustees' members, please plan to attend this conference. For more information please see a flyer at the bulletin board.

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.



June 11, 2017

1st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
All Saints

- **8:45am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Heb. 11:33-12:2
Gospel: Mt. 10:32-33,37-38;
19:27-30
- **Panikhida** – in memory of grandfather **George Cerequas** and mother **Olga Koziel**, offered by Patricia Galley.
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, JUNE 17

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, JUNE 18 - ALL SAINTS OF AMERICA

9:00am - Divine Liturgy