

# 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

## A Prophet in the Shadows

**On September 28 we remember the Prophet Baruch. He was the stalwart friend and secretary of the much more prominent and often-quoted prophet Jeremiah.**

It was no small thing to be Jeremiah's companion and scribe. Not only did Baruch laboriously write thousands of words of prophecy dictated by his master, he also read the words that Jeremiah had "spoken against Israel and Judah and all the nations" to the very people against whom he had spoken them.

The 36<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Book of Jeremiah says that Baruch wrote on a papyrus scroll the warnings Jeremiah heard from God, telling the people of Jerusalem and Judah to turn from their evil ways. Then, at Jeremiah's direction, he read the scroll publicly in the Temple at Jerusalem, facing the very people who were accused by God of wrongdoing.

A group of royal officials asked Baruch to read the scroll again, privately, to them. They asked him how he had come to write the words, and he replied that Jeremiah had dictated them. The danger Baruch and his master faced is made clear by the officials' instructions to Baruch: "Go and hide, you and Jeremiah, and let no one know where you are" (36:19).

The king, Jehoiakim, also wanted to hear what was in the scroll. Sitting by a fire, he had a courtier named Jehudi read it, column by column. As Jehudi finished reading a column, the king would cut it off with a penknife and throw it into the fire. Not only did Jehoiakim refuse to heed God's warnings, but Baruch had to write the whole scroll, with more words added, all over again.



September 24, 2017

16<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**New Martyrs of Alaska: Hieromonk Juvenaly and Peter the Aleut.**

- **8:45am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy  
Epistles: 2Cor. 6:1-10; Rm. 8:28-39  
Gospels: Lk. 5:1-11; Lk. 21:12-29
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

## Schedule of Services

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**

6:00pm - Great Vespers with Litya

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1 – PROTECTION OF THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS**

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, Michael Bzik, Mary Fechisin, 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.

*The disobedience of the kings and people finally led to the fall of Jerusalem. In Jeremiah 39: 6-8 we read the grim results: "The king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah [the king of Judah at that time] at Riblah before his eyes; and the king of Babylon slew all the nobles of Judah. He put out the eyes of Zedekiah and bound him in fetters to take him to Babylon. The Chaldeans burned the king's house and the house of the people, and broke down the walls of Jerusalem."*

*Baruch stood loyally by Jeremiah as the great prophet was imprisoned and persecuted. With Jeremiah, he grieved at the fall of Jerusalem. But we don't remember Baruch only as a witness to disheartening events. He also is a prophet, and in his writings we read: "This is our God; no other can be compared to him! He found the way to knowledge, and gave her to Jacob his servant and to Israel whom he loved. Afterward she appeared upon earth and lived among men" (Baruch 3:35-37). The Church Fathers saw in this a prophecy of the coming of Christ.*



## Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Jennifer Bzik**, who celebrates her birthday this Thursday; **Joanna Bzik**, and **Janice Pecoraro**, both this Saturday. May God grant all of you, and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!



## Announcements

- ◆ Save the date: On **Friday, Sept. 29**, and **Saturday, Sept. 30** at **7:00pm** at the Holy Assumption Church in Clifton the youth of our Diocese will perform a musical "Joseph & His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat". For tickets (\$10 for adults and \$5 for children 10 and younger) call Barbara Baz at 315-491-6647. For more information please see a flyer at the bulletin board.
- ◆ Save the date: on **Sunday, October 1**, Christ the Saviour Church in Paramus will have their **Annual Parish Picnic** from 12pm - 6pm. Everyone is invited. For more information please see a flyer at the bulletin board.
- ◆ Save the date: On **Saturday, October 7**, Holy Assumption Church in Clifton will have their Annual Beefsteak Dinner at 7pm. Cost: \$40 per adult. Reservations required by Monday, October 2, 2017. 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.