

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 Bible and the Liturgy (Part II)

The readings for the first week of October include several passages from Saint Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. Like the verses from Ephesians read during the previous week, these verses show us how prayers of the Liturgy are based on the Bible.

In 4: 30 Paul entreats the Ephesians not to "grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." In 3: 16 he has prayed that God "may grant you to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man."

This Biblical idea of the Holy Spirit dwelling and working in us is reflected in the priest's prayer that "the communion of the Holy Spirit [may] be with all of you." The congregation asks the same for the priest by responding, "And with your spirit." Near the end of the Liturgy, we acknowledge this gift and sing, "We have seen the true Light! We have received the heavenly Spirit!"

As we prepare to sing the Lord's Prayer, the priest prays that we may do so "with boldness." We ask God to allow us to do this very bold thing: to approach Him "as Father" and to address Him with the

words of the prayer which Christ taught us. This plea has a basis in the Letter to the Ephesians. Near the end of the letter, Paul asks the Ephesians to make supplication for him, that "utterance may be given me in opening my mouth boldly, to proclaim the mystery of the Gospel" (6:19).

In verses read last week, the source of our boldness is revealed. Paul writes that we have "boldness and confidence of

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.

access through our faith" in Jesus Christ (3:12). It is this faith that enables us to "dare"—a strong word—to call on God as "Our Father." The only way we can dare to do such a thing "without condemnation" is to ask Him to "make us worthy," and to "commend our whole life and hope" to Him.

In the Prayer Before the Ambo, the priest asks God to "preserve the fulness of Your Church." This too has a basis in Ephesians. Paul writes that God intends His plan for our salvation to happen through the Church: "...that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known..." (3: 13).

But it is not only that the Church has a vital role in God's saving work. Ephesians also includes, in the fifth chapter, the well-known comparison of marriage to the relationship between Christ and the Church. The Church is precious to God – He loves it as a bridegroom loves his bride. So the Prayer Before the Ambo asks God to "sanctify those who love the beauty of Your house." These words ask a blessing on those who share God's love for His Church by honoring and respecting her.

Paul ends his letter to the Ephesians with a similar blessing: "Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with a love undying."

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Daniel Kary**, who celebrates his birthday this Tuesday, and **Elena Kibitelsky**, this Thursday. May God grant both of you, and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!

Announcements

◆ In the aftermath of recent Hurricanes, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) is offering assistance on the ground to those affected by the storms. **A special collection** will be taken next Sunday, October 15 to assist IOCC with their relief efforts. May God bless you richly for the holy work that you undertake in His Name. A letter with request from His Eminence Archbishop Michael as well as a flyer from IOCC are posted on the bulletin board.

◆ **Choir Appreciation Dinner** will be held next Sunday, October 15 at 2:00 pm at Buco Ristorante in Clifton. For more information please see Maryann Stagen.

◆ **Your help is needed:** in church we pray, besides others, for our parishioners who are incapable of being with us. If you would like to "adopt" one of those home-bound parishioners and mail/deliver him or her weekly bulletins with readings, as well as monthly newsletters, please see Bob Czech for their name and contact information. Also, located by the bulletin board is a new box with bulletins and readings from previous weeks.

◆ Save the date: **66th Annual NJ District FOCA Convention** with an Oktoberfest theme will be held on Sat. October 28, at Ss. Peter & Paul Church in South River. A flyer of the event is posted on the bulletin board.

◆ Please note: on Sunday, October 22, during coffee hour there will be a **short organizational meeting** of all children, parents, and possible teachers who are interested in re-opening of our **Church School**. For more information please see Fr. Igor.

◆ Save the date: on Sunday, October 29, the "O" Club will be hosting a **Pot Luck Lunch** for all our parishioners and their families. Stay tuned for more information.



October 8, 2017

18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- **8:45pm** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 2Cor. 9:6-11
Gospel: Lk. 7:11-16
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

6:00pm - Great Vespers followed by General Confession

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

9:00am - Divine Liturgy