

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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The Rest of the Bible

The New Testament portion of every Bible is the same. There are 27 books, and they are in the same order. But the Old Testament is a very different matter.

Protestant Bibles contain 39 books called "canonical" or, in other words, accepted as authentic and inspired. These are the books of the Hebrew Bible. But the Orthodox Old Testament contains several more books, as does that of the Roman Catholic Church.

The Orthodox O.T. canon, the group of books regarded as canonical by the Orthodox Church, is based on the Septuagint. This is the translation of the Old Testament from Hebrew to Greek that was produced by scholars between 300 and 200 BC. It was created, at least in part, as a way of making sure that Hellenistic Jews, among whom the understanding of Hebrew was being lost, could read the Old Testament. In the tenth century, all but 39 books were rejected by Jewish scholars. Their canon was the one accepted later by the Protestant reformers.

The Septuagint is the version of the Old Testament from which Saint Paul and the other apostles quoted, and many Church leaders used it as well. It is the version the Church inherited from the apostles, and therefore the Orthodox regard it as inspired. The name "Septuagint" refers to the number seventy, because it is traditionally understood that seventy scholars worked on the translation.

Theron Mathis has written a book entitled "The Rest of the Bible" as a way of acquainting readers with the books included in the Orthodox Old Testament that might be unfamiliar to many. As he points out, the books tell fascinating stories, and enhance our understanding of those parts of the Old Testament that we may

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, Dorothy Fabian, Barbara Kary, Helen Kurnewitz, Kathleen Lazarczyk, Dennis Maixner, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky.

know better. These less familiar books also offer moral teaching and describe virtuous lives. Saint Athanasius and others used them to instruct those preparing for baptism; they are valuable to modern Christians, too.

In Mathis' book we read about Susanna, who is called "the Righteous" and whose story is contained in the book of the prophet Daniel. Susanna was a devout Jewish woman who, because she would not satisfy the desires of two elders who lusted after her, was falsely accused of immorality and therefore faced a death sentence. She stood alone against her accusers, without the support of her family or friends. It was the young Daniel who came to her defense and uncovered the lies of those who were trying to have her executed.

Another story in Mathis' book is about Esther, the Jewish woman who became a queen in Persia and saved the lives of her people. But as Mathis points out, the Septuagint has a longer version of Esther than appears in Protestant Bibles, and the extra verses add depth and richness to the account of what she did and who she was.

"The Rest of the Bible" (available from Conciliar Press) is a good companion book to the Orthodox Study Bible, which is based on the Septuagint. Mathis invites us to "pick up an OSB and read along!"

ΕΙΣ ΠΟΛΛΑ ΕΤΗ ΔΕΣΠΟΤΑ!

We lovingly welcome our dear Vladika, His Eminence, **Archbishop Michael, Bishop of New York and the Diocese of New York and New Jersey**. We also warmly welcome all friends of our parish. Thank you for joining us in prayer this morning. May God grant all of you good health and joy for Many Years! Mnohaya Lita!

Announcements

◆ A new edition of the Diocesan publication, "Jacob's Well," is available by the bulletin board. Be sure to pick up a copy. "Jacob's Well" is an informative and a good way to reach-out and share our faith with shut-ins, friends, and neighbors. To view the on-line edition please visit the Diocesan website nynjoca.org

Our Deepest Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Dorothy and Stephen Fabian, on the repose of their son and our dearest parishioner **Andrew Fabian**, who fell asleep in the Lord on Wednesday, October 31, 2018. Visitation will be this afternoon, Sunday, November 4, at Bizub-Quinlan Funeral Home, 515 Lexington Ave. Clifton, NJ from 2PM to 5PM, with Panikhida served at 4PM. Funeral service will be tomorrow, Monday, Nov. 5 in our church at 10AM. May his Memory be Eternal! Vichnaya Pamyat!

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.



November 4, 2018

23rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Annual Archpastoral Visitation
by His Eminence Archbishop Michael

- **9:00am** – Greeting of His Eminence and the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Eph. 2:4-10

Gospel: Lk. 8:41-56

- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service.

Schedule of Services

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

6:00pm - Great Vespers with Litya

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8 - ARCHANGEL

MICHAEL & ALL BODILESS POWERS

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

6:00pm - Great Vespers, followed by
General Confession

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

9:00am - Divine Liturgy