

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST RUSSIAN 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
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The Power of Speech

On September 4 the Church remembers the Old Testament prophet Moses.

We know a number of things about this man. One is that he was unsure of his ability to speak eloquently. When God tells him that he is to bring the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt, Moses demurs: "Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

Moses' uneasiness continues even when God promises him that he will be able to do signs, such as turning the water of the Nile into blood, to convince the Egyptians. Moses describes himself as "slow of speech and of a slow tongue" (Exodus 4: 10).

God becomes angry with Moses over the prophet's delays and excuses. Finally He sends Aaron, who does speak well, to be his brother's "spokesman" to the Egyptians. But both men have the solemn duty to use their speech to express the will of God, who tells Moses that Aaron "shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God" (Exodus 4: 16b)

During this week we read 2 Corinthians 9:12 to 10:18. In these verses Saint Paul is answering accusations that some members of the church in Corinth have made. Paul, like Moses, is concerned about the power of his speech. These church members are saying that his letters "are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible" (2 Corinthians 10:10). There is an implication that Paul is able to be "tough" on the Corinthians from a distance -- in letters -- but that face to face he is ineffectual and unimpressive.



August 31, 2014

12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- **8:50am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 1Cor. 15:1-11
Gospel: Mt. 19:16-26
- **Fellowship** – everyone is invited for Coffee Hour following the service.

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

5:30pm - Great Vespers, followed by General Confession

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

9:00am - Divine Liturgy
Vespers with Litya following coffee hour

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 - NATIVITY OF THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

Intercessory Prayers

We pray for all our fellow parishioners, but we pray especially for those who are incapable of being with us in church. Among them are:

Michael, Mary and Max Bakaletz, Genevieve Bobenko, Pauline Bodnar, Nancy Filak, Mary Hadginske, Helen Kurnewitz, Margaret Lawler, Kathleen Lazorzcyk, Emil Mikulik, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Anatoly & Anna Rozanovich, Nadia Sojka, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

Paul cautions his critics against looking only at the outward aspect of things. If his appearance and speech are nothing special, his message is. He has been given authority by God, to teach and edify.

How does Paul claim such authority? He says it is because he doesn't commend himself. He is not like those who think they are great because they use as a standard of comparison others who are just like them. They measure themselves by themselves.

But Paul measures himself in a very different way, and urges others to do the same. He says that rather than seeking a way to commend ourselves, we should seek God's commendation; we should measure ourselves by the standard God has set. He writes: "Let him who boasts, boast of the Lord" (10:17).

Like Moses, Paul always knew that his words were not his own, but came from God. His speech was so powerful that his influence in Christianity is unsurpassed. But in his humility he would have assented to God's direction to Moses and Aaron, those other powerful speakers, in the Book of Exodus: "I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and will teach you what you shall do" (4:15).



Announcements

◆ For the second year in a row, the Department of Liturgical Music of the OCA will be offering an on-line course, "Choral Conducting for Beginners," beginning September 15, 2014. For more information please go to www.oca.org

◆ The **Annual Diocesan Assembly** will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, **November 11 & 12, 2014** at the Saints Peter and Paul Church, Endicott, New York. For more information please go to our Diocesan website www.nynjoca.org.

Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Betty Czech**, who celebrates her birthday tomorrow. May God grant you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!

Memorial Offerings

Two beautiful baskets of flowers for the icons of Christ and the Mother of God, and around the icon in the center of the Church were given by Betty Ann Fechisin in memory of her father, **Michael Fechisin Jr.** on the 25th Anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord on August 26, 1989. Memory Eternal! Vichnaya Pamiat!

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 after the service in our Church Hall next door.