

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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A Man Who Gave Second Chances

June 14th is the feast day of Elisha, a prophet of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

Elisha was the son of a farmer, called to his vocation while he was plowing a field "with twelve yoke of oxen before him" (I Kings 19: 19). Elijah, the senior prophet who has been told by God to seek him out, casts his mantle on Elisha, who runs after him and promises to follow him once he has kissed his parents goodbye.

The casting of the mantle is a kind of anointing, and Elisha will be with his mentor until the day when Elijah says to him, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you" (II Kings 2: 9). Elisha makes a bold request: "I pray you, let me inherit a double share of your spirit."

Then the two are separated by a "chariot of fire and horses of fire." Elijah ascends, in a whirlwind, into the heavens. Elisha cries out, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!"

One of the many miracles Elisha does after this reveals the importance of the words "chariots and horses." The Syrian army has come by night and surrounded the Israelites with "horses and chariots and a great army." Elisha's terrified servant asks, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"

Elisha's answer at first glance seems strange: "Fear not, for those who are with us are more than those are with them." He prays that God will open the servant's eyes so he may see for himself what the answer means. The Lord does open the young

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:

Genevieve Bobenko, Nancy Filak, Mary Hadginske, Helen Kurnewitz, Margaret Lawler, Kathleen Lazorczyk, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Anatoly & Anna Rozanovich, Nadia Sojka, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

man's eyes, and he sees that "behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha" (II Kings 6: 17b).

As Elisha is dying, Joash the king of Israel weeps and cries out to him, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" These words, the same ones Elisha said to Elijah, indicate the strength and power given by God to His prophets. They are greater than any earthly power, as Elisha's young servant saw with his own eyes. They will preserve the people of Israel as long as the people listen to their prophets. When they don't, they will be undone. Even mighty Solomon, with his silver, gold, myrrh, spices, slaves and "fourteen hundred chariots and twelve thousand horsemen," (I Kings 10: 26) loses everything when he ignores a warning prophecy and turns away from God.

We remember this every Holy Saturday when we read that the Israelites crossed the Red Sea while Pharaoh's horses and chariots were drowned. We sing with Miriam, "The horse and rider He has thrown into the sea" (Exodus 15: 21). We can cross any sea, no matter how daunting, because He is with us as He was with the people and the prophets to whom He sent his "horses and chariots of fire."

"I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against her."

Matthew 16:18

1925 - 2015

"The Church is the temple of God, a holy place, a house of prayer, the assembly of the people, the body of Christ. It is cleansed by the water of His baptism, sprinkled by His blood, clothed in bridal garments, and sealed with the ointment of the Holy Spirit... The Church is an earthly heaven in which the super celestial God dwells and walks about. It represents the crucifixion, burial and resurrection of Christ: it is glorified more than the tabernacle of Moses, in which are the mercy-seat and the Holy of Holies. It is prefigured in the patriarchs, foretold by the prophets, founded in the apostles, adorned by the the hierarchs, and fulfilled in the martyrs."

St. Germanus of Constantinople (+733)

Εἰς Πολλά Ἐτη Δέσποτα!

We lovingly welcome our dearest Vladika, His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, Bishop of New York and the Diocese of New York and New Jersey. We also welcome all clergy, matushki, all parishioners and friends of our parish. Thank you for joining us for this special occasion of our 90th Anniversary. May God grant all of you Many Years!

◆ Church floral arrangements today are offered by Eva Stashitsky in loving memory of her husband Michael. Memory Eternal!

Birthday Greetings

Happy 2nd birthday to Xenia Kary and happy birthday to Fred Beckmann, both celebrating on June 19. May God grant both of you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!



June 14, 2015

2nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
All Saints of America
90th Anniversary of our Parish

- 9:00am – Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Rom. 2:10-16
Heb. 11:33-12:2(Saints)
Gospel: Mt. 4:18-23
Mt. 4:25-5:12(Saints)
- 1:00pm – Banquet at "The Brownstone"

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, JUNE 20
6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, JUNE 21 - NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST (COMMEMORATED ON JUNE 24)
9:00am - Divine Liturgy