

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 Generous and the Greedy

The Old Testament prophet Elisha, commemorated on June 14, ministered to many people - some generous and unselfish, others greedy and grasping. Their stories are sometimes strikingly similar to those of people we encounter in the New Testament.

A wealthy woman invites Elisha for a meal as he passes through Shunem, her home. After that, he stops in whenever he is passing through, so she and her husband create a comfortable rooftop chamber for him. She perceives that the prophet is a holy man, like the Samaritan woman in John's Gospel who perceived that Jesus was a prophet.

Elisha asks her, during a visit, what he can do for her in return — perhaps speak to the king on her behalf. Her reply shows that she is not only generous in hospitality, but also is not greedy. Surely she could think of a favor to ask of the king, but she says, "I live among my own people." She is content with what her family and community can provide. She is like the centurion in Matthew 8:7, who declines Jesus' offer to come to his home to heal a beloved servant, asking only that the Lord use His power over illness to restore the man's health. For the Shunamite woman and the centurion, the meeting of a need is enough. They will not ask for more, even though they could.

Another time, Elisha heals Naaman, a Syrian army commander, of leprosy. A captive girl from Israel who serves Naaman's wife expresses the generous wish that the leprous commander could meet Elisha, "the prophet of God in Samaria." This, she tells her mistress, would insure Naaman's cure. Eventually Naaman does meet the prophet. At first he is indignant that Elisha wants him to

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

bathe in the Jordan, so inferior to Damascus' rivers! Finally, at the gentle urging of his own servant, he obeys Elisha and is healed.

Now a grateful believer in the one true God, Naaman offers Elisha a gift, which the prophet refuses. He is like the "unmercenary healers" among the saints, who took no pay or presents. But one person is only too glad to try to "get something" from Naaman. Gehazi, Elisha's servant, follows the commander and requests money, which Naaman freely gives. Gehazi hides the money, forgetting that Elisha has spiritual sight, and will know what he has done. He lies to the prophet, and for his evil deeds is afflicted with leprosy.

The story is as chilling as the description in Acts of Ananias and Sapphira, who hold back some of their property from the company of believers, and then lie about it to the apostle Peter. Their greed and their lie cause them to be struck dead.

Elisha dealt with people at their best and at their worst, just as other prophets and the apostles did. He is honored by the Church because whatever the situation or person he might be dealing with, he was the "man of God" doing His will.

Heartfelt Greetings

Happy birthday to **Sofia Kseniuk**, who celebrates her 4th birthday this Tuesday, and **Kerri Czech**, this Wednesday. May God grant both of you, and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!



Announcements

◆ Save the date: the upcoming **Parish Council Conference** with a theme "Bringing New Life Into Established Parishes" will take place on **Saturday, June 30**, from **10AM - 3PM** at Christ the Saviour Church, 365 Paramus Rd, Paramus, NJ. The Very Rev. Thomas Soroka will lead the conference. All Trustees please plan to attend this event. For more information please see a flyer at the bulletin board.

◆ Save the date: **2018 Church School Workshop** for our Diocese is planned for **Saturday, August 25** at Christ the Saviour Church, in Paramus from **10AM - 2PM**. For more information and to register please see a flyer at the bulletin board or visit our Diocesan website: nynjoca.org

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.



June 10, 2018

All Saints of America (All Saints of Russia)

- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy
Epistles: Rom. 2:10-16; Heb. 11:33-12:2
Gospels: Mt. 4:18-23; Mt. 4:25-5:12
- **Panikhida** - in memory of grandfather **George Cereguas** and mother **Olga Koziel**, offered by Patricia Galley; and **Robert Hatsko**, offered by Elizabeth Hatsko, on the 7th anniversary of his Repose
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, JUNE 16

6:00pm - Great Vespers followed by general & private confessions

SUNDAY, JUNE 17

9:00am - Divine Liturgy