

# 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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**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**  
ORTHODOX CHURCH in AMERICA

## The Memorable Words of Micah

*The prophet Micah, commemorated on August 14, was a younger contemporary of Isaiah but came from a very different background. While Isaiah was an aristocrat, Micah was a working-class man, and it shows in his writing.*

*He came from a small village in the foothills between the coastal plain and the central highlands of Palestine. He was keenly aware of the struggles of the working poor, and harshly critical of the greedy rich who exploited and oppressed them. Micah couched his prophetic warnings to corrupt public officials in earthy, graphic language:*

*"Hear, you heads of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel! You who hate the good and love the evil, who tear the skin from off my people, and their flesh from off their bones; who eat the flesh of my people and flay their skin from off them, and break their bones in pieces, and chop them up like meat in a kettle, like flesh in a cauldron" (2:1-4).*

*It wasn't only Micah's background that distinguished him from Isaiah. He also didn't share the older prophet's firm conviction that Jerusalem, being the holy city of Zion, would never be destroyed. Micah saw the city as a den of corruption rather than a place inviolably protected by God. He wrote: "Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed as a field; Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins..." (3:12).*

*A century later, the prophet Jeremiah made similar predictions concerning Jerusalem, so infuriating religious leaders that they wanted to put him to death for treason. But others saved Jeremiah's life by reminding everyone of Micah's earlier prophecy,*

## 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 Lazorczyk, Dennis Maixner, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky.

*which like Jeremiah's was clearly spoken in the name of the Lord.*

*For all his scathing rebukes, Micah also gives us beautiful words of peace and hope. In 4:3 we read, "...and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." It is Micah who prophesies that "You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days" (5:1). He also reminds us "to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God" (6:8).*

*2 Corinthians 1:20-21 tells us that Jesus Christ never vacillates, never says both Yes and No. In Him it is "always Yes. For all the promises of God find their Yes in Him."*

*That faithful "Yes" in God is anticipated in Micah when he says, "I will wait for the God of my salvation" (7:7) and especially in his prophecy's final words: "Thou wilt cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. Thou wilt show faithfulness to Jacob, and steadfast love to Abraham, as Thou hast sworn to our fathers from the days of old" (7:19-20).*

## Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Gregory Kary**, who celebrates his birthday today; **Patricia Galley**, this Tuesday; **Marilyn Stagen**, this Wednesday; and to **Samuel Czech**, who celebrates his 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday this Friday. May God grant all of you, and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years!



## Announcements

◆ We are still in the **Dormition Fast** that will last until the feast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos, this Wednesday, August 15. Please take this time as an opportunity to re-examine your spiritual life in relation to God, His Church, and our fellow human beings. The best outcome of such re-evaluation would be (and should be) a deep and sincere confession. Due to the weather conditions around Vespers last night, additional general and private confessions will be offered this coming Tuesday, August 14, immediately following Great Vespers.

◆ The **Food Pantry** is always in need of food items. Please keep those less fortunate in mind and help us to feed those in need. A basket is in the vestibule of the church for your convenience. May God bless you abundantly for your generosity.

## 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.



August 12, 2018

11<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Afterfeast of the Transfiguration

- 9:00am – Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: 1Cor. 9:2-12  
Gospel: Mt. 18:23-35
- Panikhida – in memory of **Mary Fechisin**, offered by the Bizub family
- Coffee Hour – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

## Schedule of Services

TUESDAY, AUGUST 14

6:00pm - Great Vespers with Litya

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15 - DORMITION

9:00am - Divine Liturgy & blessing of flowers and herbs

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18

6:00pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19

9:00am - Divine Liturgy