



SS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

A PARISH OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA, DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

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August 19, 2012

11th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Afterfeast of the Dormition

- 8:40am – 3rd & 6th Hour, Confessions
- 8:55am – Churching of Child – newly Baptized Jerry Pavel Federal
- 9:00am – Divine Liturgy

Epistle: 1 Cor. 9:2-12

Gospel: Mat. 18:23-35

Schedule of Services

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25

6:00pm – Great Vespers, Confessions

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26

8:40am – 3rd & 6th Hour, Confessions

9:00am – Divine Liturgy

Visit us online at:

www.SsPeterAndPaulBayonne.org

If you have information to be included in weekly bulletin, please email it by Wednesday to Fr.Igorksn@gmail.com

Samuel the Prophet

The prophet Samuel, who is remembered on August 20, is introduced to us in Scripture in a unique way. He is not yet a prophet, the first time we read about him.

Jeremiah is given a prophecy to deliver in the first chapter of the book named for him. Hosea receives a prophetic message in the second verse of his book. Isaiah's prophetic vision is described in the very first verse of the Book of Isaiah. We are told little about the childhoods or families of any of these prophets.

Samuel, by contrast, is introduced to us as a child who serves the priest Eli. We know the names of his parents, Hannah and Elkanah, and we're told that Elkanah was a loving husband. We know that the long-childless Hannah had endured unkindness from Elkanah's other wife, who did have children. We are given details of Hannah's devoted motherhood after the welcome birth of her son.

Samuel's closeness to Eli at such an impressionable age, and his subservient position, make it difficult for him to do one of the things God asks of him. The Lord reveals to Samuel His plans to punish Eli for "the iniquity which he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them" (1 Samuel / 1 Kingdoms 3:13). Though he is afraid to do so, Samuel must reveal this plan to Eli.

In adulthood, Samuel bears other difficult responsibilities. He must console and encourage the Israelites when they fight the Philistines and are defeated time and again. When God instructs him to anoint Saul as king. Samuel obeys, but then must stand by and watch Saul fall ever deeper into jealous rage against the young, charismatic and very able David.

This terrible jealousy leads Saul to try to kill David, and the

Intercessory Prayer

THE LIVING:

Eva Benda, Valentina Benda, Cathryn Christensen, Olga DeMay, Marianne Guagenti, George Hook, Peter Mazula, Walter Milk, Helen Pirniak, Stephen & Lillian Sokol, Faith Verona, Elizabeth Zuber, Olga Stecher.

THE DEPARTED:

Peter Kalada, Benedict Benda, Georgette Saba, Matilda Skripak, Andrew Bacsik, Helen Pawlush, Mary Milk, Antonina Rotko, Helen Cotrone, June Bianchini, Marianne Benda.

young man flees to Samuel for refuge. The two go together to Naioth in Ramah, but someone betrays their whereabouts to Saul, and he sends messengers to hunt David down. But the atmosphere around Samuel is so holy that the messengers "prophesy" or, in other words, are overwhelmed by the presence of God. Saul sends two more groups of messengers, and the same thing happens to them.

Finally Saul goes himself to kill David. But he, like the messengers, is overwhelmed and "prophesies." Saul is too far gone in his hatred to be redeemed by this experience. But it shows how close Samuel has become to God, and how strongly other people are affected by being in the divine presence that surrounds him.

Samuel's influence is so great that even after he dies, Saul can't do without him. The Philistines are once again gathering their troops to make war on Israel, and the terrified Saul asks a medium to call Samuel from the dead so the prophet can advise him.

This weird episode shows Saul's mad desperation. But it also shows the lasting power of a godly prophet like Samuel, who was "lent to the Lord" by his mother as a tiny child.



Today's Memorial Offering

- *Sanctuary Lamp* – in memory of Donald Bergen – by Helen Stathis.



Announcements

❖ **Divine Liturgy time change!** Please note that from **Saturday, September 8, 2012** (the Feast of the Nativity of the Most-Holy Theotokos) the beginning of the Divine Liturgies reverts back to **9:30am**.

❖ **The Carpathian Club** will hold its **annual picnic** on **Sunday September 23, 2012** from 11am-3pm on the church grounds. The price is \$17 at the door and \$15 in advance. For tickets please see Robert Pierce.

❖ Our **90th Jubilee Celebration** is coming up! Please reserve the weekend of **October 27-28, 2012** for the celebration. More information will be posted as soon as it becomes available.

❖ **Coffee Hour** sponsors are needed. Please sign up at the candle desk.

Congratulation

to our newest parishioner, Jerry Pavel Federal, who yesterday was Baptized in our Church. Welcome to our spiritual family! May God bless and preserve you, your parents, and all your family in good health for Many Years! Mnogaya Leta!

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 and receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.