

PROPHET SAMUEL

The Prophet Samuel was the fifteenth and last of the Judges of Israel, living more than 1146 years before the Birth of Christ. He was descended from the Tribe of Levi. His mother Hannah besought him from the Lord through prayers (“Samuel” means “besought from God”). Even before birth, he was dedicated to God; Hannah’s song, “My heart exults in the Lord,” is the third Old Testament ode of the Canon (I Sam/I Kings 2:1-10).

When the boy reached the age of 3, his mother went with him to Shiloh and in accord with her vow dedicated him to the worship of God. She gave him into the care of the High Priest Eli, a judge over Israel. The prophet grew in the fear of God. At age 12 he had a revelation that God would punish the house of the High Priest Eli because he did not restrain the impiety of his sons. Eli’s whole family was wiped out in a single day.

The prophecy was fulfilled: the Philistines, having slain in battle 30,000 Israelites (among them, Hophni and Phinees, 2 sons of Eli), gained victory and captured the Ark of the Covenant. Hearing this, the High Priest Eli fell backwards from his seat at the gate, breaking his back; he died. The wife of Phinees, hearing the news, gave birth to a son (Ichabod) and died with the words: “The glory has departed from Israel, for the Ark of God is taken away” (I Sam/I Kings 4:22).

Upon the death of Eli, Samuel became the judge of Israel. The Philistines returned the Ark of God on their own initiative. After returning to God, the Israelites returned to the cities that the Philistines had taken. In his old age, Samuel made his sons Joel and Abiah judges over Israel, but they did not follow the integrity and righteous judgment of their father; they were motivated by greed.

The elders of Israel, wanting to be like other nations, demanded they have a king. Samuel anointed Saul as king, but saw in this a downfall, as God Himself had governed until this time, announcing His will through judges, His chosen saints. Resigning as judge, Samuel asked the people if they consented to his continued governance, but no one stepped forward for him. The Prophet Samuel denounced Saul as king for his disobedience to God and anointed David as king.

Prophet Samuel died in extreme old age. His life is recorded in the Bible (I Kings). In 406 AD his relics were transferred from Judea to Constantinople.



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THE TRINITARIAN

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Divine Liturgy on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Vespers on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.

BULLETIN 42 - VOLUME LX

TONE 2

AUGUST 20, 2023

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Afterfeast of the Dormition

Prophet Samuel

Hieromartyr Philip, Bishop of Heraclius,

and with him Martyrs Severus, Memnon, and 37 soldiers in Thrace;

Repose of Hieromartyr Protopresbyter Alexander Hotovitsky

Neither the tomb, nor death could hold the Theotokos, who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions. For being the Mother of Life, she was translated to life by the One who dwelt in her virginal womb.

Kontakion, Tone II

You arrived by your mother's prayers, bearing the name "God has heard." You were called by the Lord from infancy, O revered Prophet Samuel, you shepherded the rebellious people well and became the founder of the kingdom of Israel; entreat the True God for us who honor you with faith, that He may save our souls.

Troparion, Tone V

TODAY'S EPISTLE: I CORINTHIANS 9:2-12

TODAY'S GOSPEL: MATTHEW 18:23-35

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Saturday, August 26

5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

WELCOME GUESTS!

We are very glad you have come to worship the Holy Trinity with us this morning! Please participate in the services at your comfort level. Our greeters will kindly assist you with whatever questions or needs you may have. The communion of Christ's Body and Blood is reserved for practicing Orthodox Christians. All are invited to come forward at the end of the service to receive the blessed bread. Please stay after the Divine Liturgy for coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall so we can get to know you better!

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, August 21

II Corinthians 5:10-15

Mark 1:9-15

Tuesday, August 22

II Corinthians 5:15-21

Mark 1:16-22

Wednesday, August 23
(Theotokos)

II Corinthians 6:11-16
Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 1:23-28
Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

Thursday, August 24

II Corinthians 7:1-10

Mark 1:29-35

Friday, August 25

II Corinthians 7:10-16

Mark 2:18-22

Saturday, August 26

I Corinthians 1:26-29

Matthew 20:29-34

COMING EVENTS

AUGUST:

- 20, TODAY HTOC Parish Picnic
- 21-23 Set up for Rummage Sale
- 24-26 HTOC Rummage / Bake Sale
- 27, Sunday Parish Council meeting
- 28, Monday Cooking for St. Herman's House
- 30, Wednesday Serving dinner at St. Herman's House
- 31, Thursday 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir at St. Innocent Church

CELEBRATION:

Many thanks to all who had a part in the celebration last Sunday! The Parish Council supplied a delicious meal, and many people helped with the set-up, serving, and clean up.

Congratulations again, Protodeacon Anthony and Matushka Dianna!

PARISH PICNIC:

Please join your HTOC family today, following the Divine Liturgy, for our annual picnic!

RIDES TO CHURCH:

We are initiating a ministry of providing rides to church for those who wish to come for services and other events but often find it difficult to travel on their own. If you have a need for rides or if you can provide transportation, please contact Stephanie McNeely at: srmcneely@gmail.com or 216-225-3018.

RUMMAGE SALE AND BAKE SALE:

Please remember to bake this week for our Sale! The hours for the Sale are: August 24 & 25: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. August 26: 9:00 a.m.-noon. **Set-up is 9:00-3:00**, Mon-Tue-Wed. Much help is needed.

What hours can you donate?? Please commit your time on the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

PAN-ORTHODOX CHILDREN'S CHOIR:

A Children's Choir is being formed to foster a love for Orthodox Liturgical singing; it is open to children of all ages and experience levels. No audition, fee, or ability to read music is required. The first rehearsal will be at St. Innocent Church on Thursday, August 31, 6:30 p.m. Parents must remain on the premises during rehearsals. A pencil and a bottle of water are all that is needed; no other food or drink, please. To register a child, email tulevski@gmail.com

2023-2024 FELLOWSHIP GROUPS:

If you have not already done so, please consider signing up in the parish hall by September 10 for a Fellowship Group. Groups of 4-is single/couple/family units will be created from the sign-up list. By joining, you're committing to meeting with you group once a quarter for a year. Let's keep deepening our ties as a community and getting to know each other better! See Matushka Jen with any questions.

CARE PACKAGES:

We are also initiating a ministry of supplying care packages to college students several times throughout the school year. Any parishioners who would like to assist with this project, please contact Valerie: valspoerl@gmail.com or 216-513-4199

PARENTS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS:

Please contact Valerie Spoerl (contact info above) with names and addresses of your college students.

125th ANNIVERSARY:

Holy Assumption Church in Marblehead will celebrate their 125th Anniversary on Saturday, Sept. 23. All are invited to attend the Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m., celebrated by Metropolitan Tikhon and Archbishop Daniel. A banquet will follow—limited seating so please reserve tickets by August 20. There are ticket order forms in the Fellowship Hall.

SAVE THE DATE:

The IOCC will hold their Winetasting on Monday, October 16, 2023.

TRINITARIAN COVERS:

Our covers today are offered by Pdn. Anthony and Mat. Dianna Kall.

GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, 8/13/23	\$ 3135.00
CANDLES	126.00
FOOD SALE	282.00

DEVELOPING THE LITTLE CHURCH

I'm so glad there are so many great resources for Orthodox parents and families these days. A quick internet search on "Orthodox Christian Parenting" will tip you off to some helpful blogs, books, YouTube channels, and the like. Parents, there is no doubt raising kids in an Orthodox way is tough; but the investment can be quite rewarding and can give our little ones a strong foundation of formation and an anchor as they grow into adults and move on from our core family.

When we're honest, the time most of us spend at church is only a small fraction of our week. And therefore, while our parish seeks to be a true home for our children, to engage them more and more in worship, and to provide learning opportunities for growth in faith, the role of the parent in exemplifying and instilling Christian faithfulness in their children is extremely important. What other Orthodox Christians are most kids going to encounter day in and day out?

Therefore, it's of great importance for us to build faithful habits and rhythms into family life beginning from birth. Building family rhythms of prayer, fasting, regular church attendance, almsgiving, etc. from the very beginning can help set a wonderful tone. Yet, if you have older children, building these rhythms is not impossible, but it takes intentionality and consistency, starting slow and building over time.

I hope to take the next several weeks to share with parents and grandparents resources and ideas for taking on this awesome and beautiful task. One book that is full of ideas, real-life situations, and that is a down-to-earth accessible read is "Blueprints for the Little Church: Creating an Orthodox Home" by Elissa Bjeletich and Caleb Shoemaker.

Chapter 1 is focused on understanding the importance of the Christian home. St John Chrysostom aptly calls it a little church. And the authors write: "Becoming the little church means acquiring a new mindset. We are not simply raising children to live happy and healthy lives—we are raising saints who will find their rewards in heaven. This is radically different from the popular notion that we want "good kids" or "well-behaved kids." Moralism will only produce pharisees and passionless drones. The saints of God are filled with the Holy Spirit, radiate the Divine Light, and bring others to salvation."

It's a beautiful calling, but we still need a lot of encouragement along the way. Being parents of children means much self-sacrifice and devoting time to the development and growth of our kids. There are so many tasks around the house: laundry, dishes, meals, cleaning, getting kids to school and activities. It's often a thankless path. Elissa and Caleb remind us in this first chapter that all these tasks don't sacrifice our prayer, but can become prayer themselves when we do them prayerfully.

"On the Holy Mountain, as we said earlier, whether one is working or doing his handicraft or praying in church, everything becomes a prayer. And we who are here in the world, who have a family, a wife and children, we have to do our jobs, and our very jobs, our work, become a prayer—just like a monk when he does his prayer rule: he gets up, he falls down, he gets up, he falls down; he doesn't seem to be doing anything, and yet that is prayer." —Archimandrite Vasileios of Iveron

So parents, be encouraged. Your work is hard, yet it can become prayer. Your role of developing the church of the home is of great importance for the ongoing faith of your children and not to be ignored; yet this role is offered with the awareness that you too are a beloved child of a gracious Father.

More to come soon,

Fr Chris