



WEEKLY BULLETIN

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

Sunday July 16, 2017

6th Sunday after Pentecost

The Martyr Hyacinth

Epistle: **Romans 12:6-14**

Gospel: **Matthew 9:1-8**

Weekly Schedule of Services/Events

Sunday, July 16

9:00AM Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Jenna Greenhill

Tuesday, July 18

12:00PM St. John's Seniors

Thursday, July 20

7:00PM Officers Meeting

Sunday, July 23

Epistle: Reader Greg Morrison

9:00AM Divine Liturgy

From the Church Fathers...

"But whosoever shall do and teach," said He, "shall be called great." For not to ourselves alone, should we be profitable, but to others also; since neither is the reward as great for him who guides himself aright, as for one who with himself adds also another. Since he who cannot teach himself, yet attempts to set others right, will have many to ridicule him. Or rather such a one will have no power to teach at all, his actions uttering their voice against him.

St. John Chrysostom

Homily 28 on Matthew 8, 4th Century

Service Schedule

Divine Liturgy 9am
Weekday Eve Service
7pm

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Diocesan Online Resources

Diocesan Website: <http://www.acrod.org>

www.acrod.org

Camp Nazareth: <http://www.campnazareth.org>

www.campnazareth.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese>

www.facebook.com/acroddiocese

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/acrodnews>

twitter.com/acrodnews

You Tube: <https://youtube.com/acroddiocese>

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Weekly Announcements

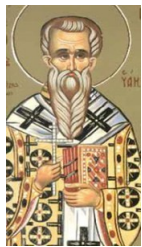
ORTHODOX YOUTH MISSION TEAM: The team left early Friday morning for the long trip to Alaska. Updates and photos from the trip can be seen on Holy Trinity Danbury's Website: <https://www.facebook.com/oymt1/> Please be sure to keep them in your prayers.

SCIENCE CAMP: Camp Nazareth is hosting its first ever Science Camp this Summer. Please see the bulletin for more information.

SUMMER PARISH SUPPORT: As summer comes, so come vacations. Please keep the Church in mind as it still functions and needs your support throughout the summer.

PLEASE NOTE: Divine Liturgy on Sunday, June 30th, will be at 8:30am so that our children can get on the bus to Camp Nazareth for an early start. Thank you.

The Martyr Hyacinth



The Martyr Hyacinth, who was from Caesarea of Cappadocia, was the chamberlain of the Emperor Trajan. On being constrained by the Emperor to partake of the sacrifices offered to idols and not wishing to do so, he was shut up in prison without food, where he gave up his spirit to God in the year 108.

Scripture Readings for Sunday

Epistle Reading

The Reading is from Romans 12:6-14

TITUS, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned.

When I send Artemas or Tychicos to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful.

All who are with me send greeting to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

Gospel Reading

The Reading is from Matthew 9:1-8

At that time, getting into a boat Jesus crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say 'Rise and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" he then said to the paralytic -- "Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.



It's Christmas Fair time again! Saturday, November 11th

Plans are already under way for our annual Christmas Fair. We are once again featuring theme trees. Are you interested in Doing a tree?? We have 10 trees available to decorate—please Call Pat LeBelle (203) 929-8237 or email Pat (lebellep@yahoo.com) To claim a tree. Afghans are also a popular item and we're hoping Our talented knitters will do one or two for the Fair. Any and all craft Items are always welcome!



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, August 13 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

St. John's "Glevenaks' Grove", Beaver Dam Road, Stratford

Come and join us for a good, old-fashioned Church picnic at the Grove, with plenty of the food you love, ice-cold drinks and delicious home-baked goods, games and raffles, music and fellowship!

PICNIC WISH LIST:

Soda (regular and diet); canned soda, bottled water; juice boxes; paper plates; paper towels; napkins; Please leave these items in the church auditorium. We are also in need of raffle prizes and baked goods which should be brought to the picnic.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

On Stewardship - Part 47 Squandering God's Gifts



"No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62 RSV)

The story is told of a young woman, a senior in high school, who tried out for the lead in the high school's spring play. She was a very talented young woman who wanted dearly to get that lead role. However, she was not chosen for the lead. She was offered a lesser, though significant, role in the play. In her disappointment she refused that role. In fact, she refused any role in the play.

She spent her spring pouting in her room about that major disappointment.

Looking back on the situation later, the young woman was sorry she had wasted her entire spring. She was lonely and she missed being with her friends. The play was a success, and she could not be a participant in the happy times that followed. She said, "I learned a hard lesson that spring."

As Jesus Christ made His way to Jerusalem for the last time, he was met by several people who want to follow Him and serve Him. Jesus first reminds them of the difficult road ahead. Some of the prospective followers then make excuses for not coming immediately. One has to bury his dead father. One wants to say good-bye at home. Following Christ, however, means no delay. Jesus says, *"No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."* So much for human excuses.

What Jesus has to do and what we have to do as His followers is more important than everything and anything else. No matter what the excuse, it does not matter to the Master. Everything is to be sacrificed for God's kingdom. If we have talents to use for the sake of the Kingdom, they are wasted if we misuse them, or, like the young woman in our story, we don't use them at all. But seemingly much worse is to make excuse for using them later (which usually means not using them at all).

The young woman in our story missed out on the entire spring of her senior year. She missed her friends. She missed her opportunity to be a part of the group. All because she did not get her way.

Good stewards give of their time and talents completely to God and the work that He can only do in us and through us. If we are to be followers of Christ, we must go. Go now. No excuses.

This weekly series of brief thoughts on stewardship and Orthodox life is brought to you by your Diocesan Stewardship Commission.