



WEEKLY BULLETIN

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH
Sunday September 1, 2018

The Prophet Samuel
Epistle: **2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4**
Gospel: **Matthew 22:1-14**

Weekly Schedule of Services/Events

Sunday, September 2

9:00AM Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Christopher Greenhill

Wednesday, September 5

7:00PM Moleben to St. Nectarios

Thursday, September 6

7:00PM Board Meeting

Sunday, September 9

9:00AM Divine Liturgy
Epsitle: Jennifer Morrison
Rescue Mission

From the Church Fathers

For unto Christ he would pass all on, saying, "He must increase, I must decrease;" by the Son Himself again, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you;" ... But not by words only, but also by actions did He bid them.

St. John Chrysostom

Homily 68 on Matthew 21, 4th Century

Service Schedule

Divine Liturgy 9am
Weekday Eve Service 7pm

General Information

www.stjohnsmillhill.com

Street Address

384 Mill Hill Ave
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Mailing Address

40 Beaver Dam Road
Stratfor, CT 06614

Contact Information

Fr. David Cochran

H: 203-385-1020

C: 203-339-1913

pauldcochran@gmail.com

Carol Feduik, President

carolcfeduik@yahoo.com

John Galpin, Choir Dir

choir@stjohnsmillhill.com



Diocesan Resources

Diocesan Website

www.acrod.org

Camp Nazareth

www.campnazareth.org

Facebook

www.facebook.com/acrod-diocese

Twitter

www.twitter.com/acrod-news

YouTube

www.youtube.com/acrod-diocese

Weekly Announcements

HIS GRACE BISHOP GREGORY: The clergy of our diocese received a letter from His Grace Bishop Gregory by email notifying us that “the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople at its monthly meeting on August 29, 2018 voted to elevate your Bishop to the rank of Metropolitan.” Please see the Pastoral Letter in the bulletin. Axios! Axios! Axios!

CHURCH SCHOOL INFO: Our Annual Church School Kickoff Breakfast will take place on Sunday September 16 following Divine Liturgy and classes beginning the following Sunday. Please use the form in this bulletin and bring it to the kick off to register your child for church school. Thank You!

MONTHLY PIROHI: Monthly Pirohi sales will start again this month. Due to the Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God falling on the 3rd Friday this month, we will have our sale on the 28th, the last Friday. Please use the form in the bulletin to place your order.

WEDNESDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES: Starting this month, we will serve a Moleben to St. Nectarios and to the Mother of God on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 7pm. In addition, there will be a “Hot Topics” class and a Scripture Study on the other Wednesdays. Please see the calendar and plan to attend. For those who do not drive at night, if there is enough interest, a late morning class can be added as well. Please let Fr. David know

Scripture Readings for Sunday

Epistle Reading

2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4

Brethren, it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has commissioned us; he has put his seal upon us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. But I call God to witness against me - it was to spare you that I refrained from coming to Corinth. Not that we lord it over your faith; we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith. For I made up my mind not to make you another painful visit. For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all. For I wrote you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 22:1-14

The Lord said this parable, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a marriage feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the marriage feast; but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, Behold, I have made ready my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves are killed, and everything is ready; come to the marriage feast.' But they made light of it and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the thoroughfares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find.' And those servants went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment; and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Parish Christmas and Easter Card

Each year the Jr. R Club/ACRY sends a Christmas and Easter card to all of the parishioners of the church. Sign up now to have your name included in both cards. Would you like your name included in the Parish Christmas and Easter Card? If so, please fill out the form below and leave form and payment in the basket in the church office. A \$20 suggested donation. Checks made payable to St. John's Church.

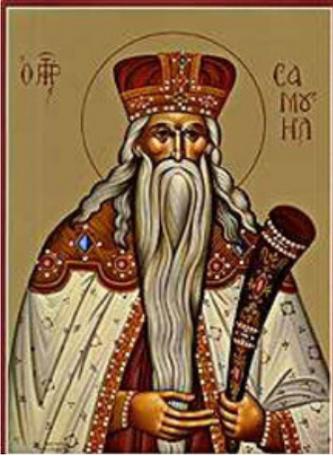
Yes, I want my name included in the Christmas (2018) and Easter (2019) card.

Name: _____

Donation: _____

Deadline: October 14, 2018.

The Prophet Samuel



This most holy man, a Prophet of God from childhood, was the last judge of the Israelite people, and anointed the first two Kings of Israel. He was born in the twelfth century before Christ, in the city of Armathaim Sipha, from the tribe of Levi, the son of Elkanah and Hannah (Anna). He was the fruit of prayer, for his mother, being barren, conceived him only after she had supplicated the Lord with many tears; wherefore she called him Samuel, that is, "heard by God." As soon as Hannah had weaned him, she brought him to the city of Silom (Shiloh), where the Ark was kept, and she consecrated him, though yet a babe, to the service of God, giving thanks to Him with the hymn found in the Third Ode of

the Psalter: "My heart hath been established in the Lord . . ." Samuel remained in Silom under the protection of Eli the priest. He served in the Tabernacle of God, and through his most venerable way of life became well-pleasing to God and man (I Kings 2: 26). While yet a child, sleeping in the tabernacle near the Ark of God, he heard the voice of God calling his name, and foretelling the downfall of Eli; for although Eli's two sons, Ophni and Phineas, were most lawless, and despisers of God, Eli did not correct them. Even after Samuel had told Eli of the divine warning, Eli did not properly chastise his sons, and afterwards, through various misfortunes, his whole house was blotted out in one day.

After these things came to pass, Samuel was chosen to be the protector of the people, and he judged them with holiness and righteousness. He became for them an example of all goodness, and their compassionate intercessor before God: "Far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you; yea, I will serve the Lord, and show you the good and the right way" (ibid. 12:23). When he asked them -- having God as witness -- if he ever wronged anyone, or took anyone's possessions, or any gift, even so much as a sandal, they answered with one voice: "Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, nor afflicted us, neither hast thou taken anything from anyone's hand" (ibid. 12:4). When Samuel was old, the people asked him for a king, but he was displeased with this, knowing that God Himself was their King. But when they persisted, the Lord commanded him to anoint them a king, saying, "They have not rejected thee, but they have rejected Me from reigning over them" (ibid. 8:7); so Samuel anointed Saul. But Saul transgressed the command of God repeatedly, so Samuel anointed David. Yet, since Samuel was a man of God, full of tender mercy, when the Lord told him that He had rejected Saul, Samuel wept for him the whole night long (ibid. 15:11); and later, since he continued to grieve, the Lord said to him, "How long wilt thou mourn for Saul?" (ibid. 16:1). Having lived blamelessly some ninety-eight years, and become an example to all of a God-pleasing life, he reposed in the eleventh century before Christ. Many ascribe to him the authorship of the Books of Judges, and of Ruth, and of the first twenty-four chapters of the First Book of Kings (I Samuel).

On Stewardship: Wasting on Wearing Wants



“Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests...”
(Revelation 1:5-6 RSV)

In the Biblical history of God’s dealing with His people in the Old Testament, we see God forming a people by telling them, over and over, what He had done for them and what He will do for them. “... you shall be my people, and I will be your God” (Jeremiah 30:22 RSV). God had created them; God had freed them from slavery; God had given them the Law and the way He wanted them to live. In all of this, unfaithful as the people were, God kept on being their God, saving, preserving, and, ultimately, sending His Son for the sake of their eternal salvation.

Having sent His Son, and having raised Him from the dead the focus in the New Testament is not so much on what God has done as it is on what His people can do for Him. What God chooses to do is to form His people into what St. John the Apostle reports to us in Revelation as a “kingdom of priests.”

A priest is one who sacrifices on behalf of some group or individual. Thus, this “kingdom” of priests, this nation of priests, is a collection of people who sacrifice on behalf of others. As early as Exodus 19:6 (RSV) God called Israel to be a “kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” This seems to be the plan of God all along. All people, given the nature of Christ, are to become as Christ is: one who sacrifices for others.

This nature of people being priests who sacrifice for others shows up from time to time – but, unfortunately, not often enough. The 2005 hurricanes Katrina and Rita found churches around the country mobilizing to help the devastated residents of Louisiana and Mississippi. They opened their checkbooks and church buildings to help displaced people from these natural disasters. Some churches provided permanent housing and health care for those who had homes no more. This was a kingdom of priests in action, sacrificing of themselves for those in need.

To be a part of that kingdom of priests, Christian stewards offer something that is dear to us. Christian stewards sacrifice not only in times of dire need, but all the time, in every situation, for anyone in need. We give not because someone has lost something, and we think they need it again. We give because God has offered us so much. We, as the people of God, respond to God’s great goodness by our continually being priests: those who sacrifice on behalf of others.

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

Monthly Pirohi Friday September 28

Name _____ Phone _____

How many dz. Potato? _____ How many dz. Cabbage _____

How many dz. Prune _____

Email _____

To place orders: Leave this form in the Church Office; Call Church office and leave message:(203) 334-5932; Call Carol Feduik (203) 520-0904 or E-mail: carolcfeduik@yahoo.com. Orders must be placed Sunday prior to sale.

St. Johns Seniors

Welcome back to Tuesdays.

Starting on Tuesday, September 11 we are back every Tuesday from
12 Noon until 3 pm.

We also have coffee and pastry about 1 pm together with a raffle.

All Seniors are welcome to join us for Bingo or to play cards.

Any questions, please call Lillian Jenci 203 378-9156.

Fr. Paproski 25th Anniversary Ordination

A celebration is taking place on September 9, 2018. Cost is \$65.00 for the luncheon at Vazzanos Four Seasons on Kenyon Street, Stratford, CT; Divine Liturgy with Bishop Gregory officiating is at 9 a.m. at our church. Please call/text Holly Bilcheck at (203) 415-6852 or Jean Lomme (203) 394-2746 to reserve a spot. Make your check in the amount of \$65.00 payable to St. John The Baptist Church and mail it to Holly Bilcheck, 20 Genesee Lane, Madison, CT 06443. We are accepting monetary gifts that will be applied to a nice anniversary present to be given to Fr. Peter at the dinner. Please add any monetary gifts to your dinner check. Thank you.



Office of the Bishop

*312 Garfield Street
Johnstown, PA 15906*

Protocol No. 12/2018
August 30, 2018

Glory to Jesus Christ!

To the Very Reverend Protopresbyters, Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers, and Faithful of our God-Protected Diocese:

Today I write to share with you my dear brother Priests and wonderful Laypeople (youth and adults) the news that the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople at its monthly meeting on August 29, 2018 voted to elevate your Bishop to the rank of Metropolitan.

I was stunned and nearly speechless (and still am) when His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Archdiocese who serves as the Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate here in America called yesterday afternoon. His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the Holy and Sacred Synod have honored all of us. I am truly greatly humbled.

Working in His Vineyard with much love ,

+ Bishop Gregory

+ Bishop Gregory of Nyssa

The American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the U.S.A.

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE

Church School News

Our Church school program will start back up with our annual Kickoff Breakfast on September 16th immediately following Divine Liturgy. Please plan to come and bring your children to meet the teachers and see everyone again! Classes will start the following Sunday. It is hard to overemphasize the need for our children to get a proper education and upbringing in the Church. Proverbs 22:6 tells us:

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

With this in mind, please fill out the registration form below and bring it to the Kickoff Breakfast on the 16th!

September is back-to-school time and the beginning of the Orthodox Liturgical year, so that means it is "BACK-TO-CHURCH SCHOOL TIME"!

We will be starting the year with our annual Kick-Off Breakfast on Sunday, September 16, right after Divine Liturgy, which begins at 9:00 AM. ALL FAMILIES please fill out the following Church School registration form, even if your children are "seasoned" students of our program. Thank you so much, and we are looking forward to a wonderful year!

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM

Last Name: _____

Child's First Name: _____ Grade: ____ Birthdate _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Please fill out and either: (1) e-mail to Chrissy Adzima (cadzima@hotmail.com) or Lynne Goetz (lynegoetz@optonline.net) ; (2) leave form in Church office or (3) mail to Chrissy Adzima: 23 Bryant Place Stratford 06614 or Lynne Goetz: 20 Mercer St., Stratford, CT 06614.