



НТЫЕИФ
ЛЕСМЕЗЕ
ЫЛЕНДО
БАНЕБОДЕ
ШНХУДА
БЕСНА

~::~~ ~::~~ **THE PROPHET MICAH** ~::~~ ~::~~

The Prophets of the Old Testament were divinely inspired preachers. Their vocation was *NOT* centered on foretelling the future, but rather on emphasizing the holiness of God, criticizing the moral decadence of their times and teaching a way of life that was more pleasing to the Lord.

On this morning's Church Bulletin, the **PROPHET MICAH** is depicted. Micah lived in the 8th century B.C. He is viewed by the Church as one of the **TWELVE MINOR PROPHETS**. Micah lived in the province of Judah, being a contemporary of other famous prophets, namely, Isaiah, Amos and Hosea. From his writings, we can clearly see that the quiet countryside region that was home to him was infected with the same sins that plagued the urban areas of the kingdom of Israel. Micah strongly denounces the rulers and priests of the Hebrew nation, deploring their dishonesty and their exploitation of the poor. He foretells the wrath of God falling upon Samaria and Jerusalem because of the prevailing weakness and sinfulness that exists there.

The message of the Prophet Micah, however, is not without hope. He also speaks of a glorious future for Jerusalem, where it will become the religious center of the world. Perhaps Micah's most powerful and best remembered prophecy concerns the birth of the Messiah: *"BUT YOU, BETHLEHEM, IN THE LAND OF JUDAH, ARE NOT THE LEAST AMONG THE RULERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL."* As long as the Nativity of Christ is celebrated, the words of this humble prophet will live on!

St. Mary's Orthodox Church
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OUR WEBSITE...www.stmarysnativity.org

Rector: V. Rev. James Weremedic
Retired Attached: V. Rev Paul Ropitsky
Reader Hours: Mat. Lisa Weremedic

Sunday, August 13, 2023

Choir Director: Wash King
Reader Epistle: Edward Pierson

10th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Leavetaking of the Transfiguration, St. Tikhon, Bishop of Voronezh

Tone 7 Troparion (Feast)

You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ God, / revealing Your glory to Your Disciples as far as they could bear it. / Let Your everlasting Light also shine upon us sinners!
/ through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Giver of Light, glory to You!

Tone 7 Kontakion (Feast)

On the mountain You were transfigured, O Christ God, / and Your Disciples beheld Your glory as far as they could see it; / so that when they would behold You crucified, / they would understand that Your suffering was voluntary, / and would proclaim to the world / that You are truly the Radiance of the Father!

Services:

Sunday, August 13 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy (Parish Council Meeting)
Monday, August 14 5:00 PM – Vespers with Litya (Dormition of the Theotokos)
Tuesday, August 15 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy (Dormition), Blessing of Flowers & Herbs
Saturday, August 19 4:30 PM – Parastas

In memory of **Michael & Jennie Harb** offered by Jeanne & John Cannon

In memory of **Michael Bolinski** offered by Michael & Natalie Bolinsky

In memory of **John Sidoriak** offered by Eleanor Sidoriak

Saturday, August 19 5:00 PM – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sunday, August 20 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship
Saturday, August 26 2:00 PM – Baptism, Kasandra Anne Buchanan
Saturday, August 26 5:00 PM – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sunday, August 27 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship

We welcome all our visitors today! We want to let you know that we are so glad you came to pray with us. Please come again; join us after the Divine Liturgy in the parish hall for fellowship. If you do not have a home church, we invite you to become a part of our parish family. Only those Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves may approach the Chalice and receive Holy Communion.

Prayer List*:

Fr. James Weremedic, Matushka Lisa Weremedic

Ashley Buchanan and her newborn child, Kasandra Anne

Theodore Bogosh, Elizabeth Brennan, Stephanie Chmel, Ilene Devine, Julia Forte, Michael & Julia Harahus, Karen & Rose Harkins, Nancy King, Olga Kushnir, Nancy Lorchak, Anna Marie Mantey, Dorothy & Joseph Macenka, Melissa Schmitt, Helen Sheers, Olga Sidoriak, Martha Stafiniak, Elizabeth Warcholak, Russell Wishousky, Russell Yallas, & Marie Yurchak.

* Names will cycle off approximately every 30 days. You may request to have your name or the name of a loved one placed back on the list at any time by contacting Fr. James directly.

If anyone is in need of a priest, please call Father James Weremedic at 570-645-2772.

Visitation of the Sick and Infirm: If you are going into the hospital for any reason, please inform Fr. James at the Rectory. Emergency Calls: Please call the Rectory (570-645-2772) anytime (day or night) in an emergency.

Candles (August 13)

7-day Vigils-Altar...In memory of **Mary & Albert Yelsh** offered by William Yelsh

Altar Candles... In memory of **Helen Scheese** offered by Niece, Barbara Teno

Eternal Lamp... In health of **Rose Harkins & Family** offered by Alice "Roshac" Styer

7-day Vigils-Tetrapod... In memory of **Marion Pickenheim** offered by William Yelsh

Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory **Lillian Yelsh** offered by William Yelsh

Vigil Crosses...In memory of **Michael & Julia Roshac** offered by Alice "Roshac" Styer

Candles (August 15-Dormition)

7-day Vigils-Altar...In memory of **Marie Sidoriak Hefflefinger** offered by Sister Olga Sidoriak

Altar Candles... In memory of **Mother Mary Lutash** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak

Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory **Andrew & Mary Bybel Family** offered by Family Members

Flowers-Tetrapod ...In memory of **all departed parishioners** offered by anonymous

August Birthdays:

5- Rose Harkins, 9- Samuel Buchanan, 14- David King, 15-Kaitlyn Dmytrow, 21-Rowan Buchanan, 22- Nancy Lorchak, Amy Beamesderfer, 24- John Law

August Anniversaries:

14-Ashley & Samuel Buchanan, 20-Dennis & Geri Vavra, 23-Mary & Richard Hertzog

Financials 8/6//2023: *Operating Acct:* Weekly Envelopes \$479, Non-envelope \$250, Holy Day \$110, Altar Candles \$460, Candles \$66

Fellowship Hour Hosts:

August 13 Helen King

August 27 Michael Tatusko

August 20 Russell King

September 3 John Evetushick

10th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Tone 1 Leavetaking of the Transfiguration.
St. Tikhon, Bishop of Vorónezh, Wonderworker of Zadónsk and All Russia.
Martyr Hippolytus of Rome and those with him: Martyr Concordia, Irenæus, and
Abundius. The Icon "PASSION" of the Mother of God.

1 Corinthians 4:9-16 (Epistle)

For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.

We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored!

To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. And we labor, working with our own hands.

Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now.

I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

Silent Prayer before the Gospel:

Illumine our hearts, O Master Who lovest mankind, with the pure light of Thy divine knowledge. Open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of Thy gospel teachings. Implant also in us the fear of Thy blessed commandments, that trampling down all carnal desires, we may enter upon a spiritual manner of living, both thinking and doing such things as are well-pleasing unto Thee. For Thou art the illumination of our souls and bodies, O Christ our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father, Who is from everlasting, and Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Matthew 17:14-23 (Gospel)

And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him."

Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.

Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up." And they were exceedingly sorrowful.

Question

What about the sacraments? How many are there?
How does the Orthodox Church understand them?

Answer

First of all we must say that traditionally the Orthodox never counted the sacraments. The number of seven was adopted in Orthodoxy very recently under the influence of the Roman Catholic Church.

Traditionally the Orthodox understand everything in the Church to be sacramental. All of life becomes a sacrament in Christ who fills life itself with the Spirit of God.

The Orthodox baptize infants as well as adults as the new birth into the new life of Christ. Baptism is understood and celebrated as the person's participation in the death and resurrection of Christ. It is the person's Easter as he is born again into life eternal.

Chrismation (or confirmation) is the "sealing" of the new life in Christ by the life-creating Spirit. In Chrismation the person receives the "seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit" in order to have the power to live the new life in the new humanity of Christ. In this sense, chrismation is the person's personal Pentecost just as baptism is his Easter.

Holy Communion is the "sacrament of sacraments" in that it is the banquet of the Kingdom of God, the fulfillment of every other sacrament. In Holy Communion we partake of the Body and Blood of Christ, the Eternal Passover Lamb, Who makes us alive and holy with Himself. Through Holy Communion we become sons of God the Father, together with Jesus, filled with the "communion of the Holy Spirit."

Marriage in Christ allows our human love to become divine and unending. There is no "until death do us part". The point is just the opposite. Christ comes to our human love, frees it from sin and grants it everlasting joy in His Kingdom of love.

By our anointing of the sick in Christ's name, we consecrate our sufferings with the sufferings of Christ and we are healed by Him; if not for more time in this world, certainly for an eternity in the Kingdom of God. Thus by anointing with oil in Christ's name, our wounds become the way to Life and not to Death.

In confession, the sacrament of repentance, we come to Christ and receive His divine forgiveness. We are allowed once more to enter into Holy Communion with Him in the Church. We are reinstated into that life which we received in baptism and are renewed with that power which we were given in chrismation.

The one sacrament within the Church which guarantees the identity and continuity of the Church in all times and places is the sacrament of priesthood, the "holy orders," as they are called. The priesthood exists within the Church as the sign of the certain presence in the community of Christ Himself. Christ is not absent from the Church. He is present as its head and is manifested in the Body through the ministry of the priesthood. Thus the mystical life of the Church is fulfilled.