

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR ...

The health and salvation of –

Abducted Bishops Paul & John	Pauline
Hieroschemamonk Ambrose	Ann
Archpriest Eugene	Stefan
Archpriest Elias	John
Priest Kyrill & family	Vivian
Priest James	Jung Sook
Priest John	Thomas
Priest Alexander	Cheyenne
Subdeacon Peter	Nancy
Reader Aleksei	Randall
Monk Philaret	Rose
Matushka Mary	Don
Matushka Mary Sara	Norma
John • Euphrosynos	James
Virginia • Justina	
Thomas • John	
Luke	
Catechumen Rebecca	
Catechumen Jennifer	

The repose and salvation of –

Borca (August 6)

Please let Father know if there are any names you would like added to the list.

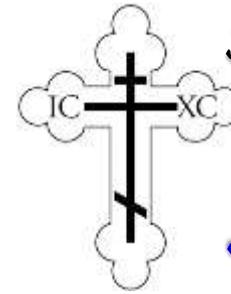
This Saturday, August 26, noon – Parish Picnic @ Sandbothe Estate

This Saturday, August 26, 5:30 PM – Great Vespers @ Sandbothe Estate

Wed., August 30, 6:30 PM – Small Compline & Saints of the Day

Wednesday, September 6, 6:30 PM – Small Compline & Saints of the Day

*A mission parish under the omophorion of His Eminence Benjamin,
Archbishop of San Francisco and the Diocese of the West,
Orthodox Church in America*



**ST TIKHON ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

Sunday, August 20, 2017

Prophet Samuel



The remains of the Church of St John the Baptist in Hebdomon (modern Bakırköy, Turkey), just before they were destroyed to build a hospital (1960).

**Sunday Hours & Divine Liturgy at 9:10 AM, followed by agape potluck
Other services as announced**

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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, and was the son of Elkanah from Ramathaim-Zophim of Mount Ephraim. He was born, having been besought from the Lord through the prayers of his mother Hannah (therefore he received the name Samuel, which means “besought from God”). Even before birth, he was dedicated to God. Her song, “My heart exults in the Lord,” is the Third Ode of the Old Testament (I Samuel/I Kings 2:1-10).

When the boy reached the age of three, 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, who at this time was a judge over Israel. The prophet grew in the fear of God, and at twelve years of age 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 when the Philistines, having slain in battle 30,000 Israelites (among them were also the sons of the High Priest, Hophni and Phinees), gaining victory and capturing the Ark of the Covenant. Hearing this, the High Priest Eli fell backwards from his seat at the gate, and breaking his back, he died. The wife of Phinees, upon hearing what had happened in this very hour, 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 Samuel/I Kings 4: 22).

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

Then the elders of Israel, wanting the nation of God to be “like other nations” (I Samuel/I Kings 8: 20), demanded of the Prophet Samuel that they have a king. The Prophet Samuel anointed Saul as king, but saw in this a downfall of the people, whom God Himself had governed until this time, announcing His will through His chosen saints. Resigning the position of judge, the Prophet Samuel asked the people if they consented to his continued governance, but no one stepped forward for him.

After denouncing the first king, Saul, for his disobedience to God, the Prophet Samuel anointed David as king. He had offered David asylum, saving him from the pursuit of King Saul. The Prophet Samuel died in extreme old age. His life is recorded in the Bible (I Samuel/1 Kings; Sirach 46:13-20).

In 406 A.D. the relics of the Prophet Samuel were transferred from Judea to Hagia Sophia in Constantinople. On October 5, 411, the relics were removed to a newly-built sanctuary dedicated to the Prophet near the Church of St John the Baptist in Hebdomon. The church collapsed during the earthquake of December 14, 557, and does not appear to have been rebuilt.

Also this week: Apostle Thaddens of the Seventy (August 21); Martyr Agathonicus of Nicomedia and his companions (August 22); Leavetaking of the Dormition; Martyr Lupus, slave of St Demetrius of Thessalonica (August 23); Hieromartyr Eutychius, disciple of St. John the Theologian (August 24); Holy Apostle Titus of the Seventy, Bishop of Crete (August 25); Martyrs Adrian, Natalia, and 33 companions (August 26).

** Regular fasting this week **

Epistle: I Corinthians 9:2-12 (Sunday)

Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35 (Sunday)

Troparion – Tone 2 (Resurrection)

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal, /
Thou didst slay hades with the splendor of Thy Godhead! /
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, /
All the powers of heaven cried out: ///
O Giver of Life! Christ our God! Glory to Thee!

Troparion – Tone 1 (Theotokos)

In giving birth thou didst preserve thy virginity. /
In falling asleep thou didst not forsake the world, O Theotokos. /
Thou wast translated to life O Mother of Life, ///
And by thy prayers thou dost deliver our souls from death.

Troparion – Tone 2 (Prophet)

We celebrate the memory /
Of Thy prophet Samuel ///
Through him, we implore Thee, O Lord, to save our souls.

Kontakion – Tone 2 (Resurrection)

Hades became afraid, O Almighty Savior, /
Seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! /
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee, ///
And the world, O my Savior, praises Thee forever.

Kontakion – Tone 8 (Prophet)

Thou wast a precious gift to God before thy conception /
And thou didst serve Him like an angel from thine infancy, O blessèd one; /
Thou wast granted the gift of prophecy and so we cry to thee; ///
Rejoice, great high-priest Samuel, thou prophet of God!

Kontakion – Tone 2 (Theotokos)

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.