

Sunday 20th of August 2023

**AFTERFEAST OF THE DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF
GOD**

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:23-35

Troparion – Tone 1

**In giving birth you preserved your virginity, / in falling asleep
you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos. / You were
translated to life, O Mother of Life, / and by your prayers, you
deliver our souls from death.**

We pray for our entire church family and those who do not have a family or church family, and our special prayers are for the sick and suffering and for the health and salvation of others:

The Archpriests Samuel and Joseph, Archimandrite Joseph, Protopresbyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Mark Benda, Matushka Ellen, Emily Anastasia, Gabriel, Zoe, Matushka Svetlana, Karen, Edward, Nadine, Michelle, Alexander, Luis Ramon, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Konstance Engelsman, Maria Higginbotham, Valentina Bobrowski, Anna Konoleva, Erika Dobrzynski, Douglas Dobrzynski, Andrew John Lihou, Marie Biancarelli, Joshua and Daniel Buccieri, Emma Matthews, Stephanie, Kristy, Victor Szemetylo, Helen, Bonnie Shaffner, Helen Schweizer, Zoran Pejovic, Sunny Hunsicker, Ioana, Carmen, Michael, John, Sarah, Linda, Pamela Anne and Kimberly Marie, JoAnne, Beatrice, Christina, Orestes, Julia and Adrian. Sonya, Karen and Biljana. Amen!

***** To amend the prayer list, speak with Mary Osinski*****

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www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

<https://www.holyspiritorthodox.org/>

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THE WEEKLY BULLETIN
HOLY SPIRIT
ORTHODOX CHURCH

www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

August 20th, 2023

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 Old Testament ode of the Canon (1 Sam/1 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 Hophni and Phinees, the sons of Eli the High Priest), gained victory and captured 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” (1 Sam/1 Kgs 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” (1 Sam/1 Kgs 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 “judges,” 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 (1 Sam/1 Kgs; Sirach 46:13-20). In the year 406 A.D. the relics of the Prophet Samuel were transferred from Judea to Constantinople.

Service Schedule

Great Vespers: 5pm Saturdays

Hours: 9:45am Sundays

Divine Liturgy: 10:00am Sundays

Confessions: Will be heard every Saturday evening after Vespers or by appointment.

Call, text or email Father Michael at (848)228-1563 or holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com

Monthly calendar at www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

Dates to Remember

Saturday 19th of August

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 20th of August

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Saturday 26th of August

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 27th of August

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Saturday 2nd of September

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 3rd of September

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Visitors Welcome

After Sunday's Divine Liturgy, you are invited to join us for light refreshment in the parish hall. You'll find a friendly welcome, good conversation and ask any questions you may have.

A Message from Father Michael

On behalf of myself, Nadine and Michael Olsen, Mark Benda, NJ State Fair Chairpersons, and HSOC's Council members, please accept our gratitude and thanks as we shared many wonderful times at the NJ State Fair, August 4-12, 2023, and the recent gathering at the Firehouse to make the delicious cabbage casseroles. Our thanks to the individuals who worked at the firehouse and to those who funded the rental fee for the firehouse, and all who worked and gave time to this major fundraiser event for our church. Your dedication, participation and support of our church is a blessing. The amount derived from this event will be forthcoming shortly. Our blessings and God Grant You Many Years!

Distinguished Diocesan Benefactor's Appreciation Dinner

You are cordially invited to attend a New Jersey Deanery Appreciation Dinner for the 2022 Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, hosted with gratitude by His Eminence, Archbishop Michael. The event will take place on October 8, 2023, at 5 pm at Saint Peter and Paul Orthodox Church, Manville NJ. For more information, please see attached flyer.

Catechesis – Learning the Faith at all Ages

The workshop: "Catechesis – Learning the Faith at all Ages," will take place on Saturday, October 21st at Holy Resurrection Church in Wayne, NJ. His Eminence Archbishop Michael directs that each priest sends someone from the parish to this event. If you are interested in participating, please talk with Father Michael. For more information please see attached flyer.

Offerings to HSOC

Although it's summer and many of us are enjoying time away, the expenses of the church continue. Please remember to make regular offerings to the parish.

Food Donation Cart

The need to continue to assist those in need continues and we ask that when you are shopping, please remember those who are less fortunate and purchase one or more items for the donation cart. If you would like to know the current needs of the Sussex Help Center, please talk with Dan Taylor. Our thanks to you and God Bless!

Have an item for the bulletin?

Please email Father Michael at holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com or Mary Osinski at mary.osinski@gmail.com