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THE DELIVERER

A Monthly Newsletter of St. George Upper Darby



JULY DATES TO REMEMBER

Elijah and Elisha (Who were they?)

By Fr. Joel Gillam

Elijah and Elisha were two of the most powerful of the Lord's prophets during the period of the kings. Elijah came first (1 Kings 17:1), with the younger Elisha called later to serve as his assistant (1 Kings 19:19-21). Upon Elijah's departure on a "chariot of fire" (2 Kings 2:11), Elisha was appointed to replace Elijah as the leader of the prophets (2 Kings 2:15), and to complete the mission that the Lord originally gave to Elijah.

To understand the Elijah story you must consider it on two levels, the biblical-historical and the human level. Because the writers of the Bible exhibit a conscious awareness that their material is more than just history, that it is also the story of God's redemptive action on earth, we must take the scripture seriously as salvation history. The text has to be interpreted in the context of its significance as a revelation of the redemptive action of God. All through the scriptures the theme of God's presence arises. In the loneliness of Elijah at the ravine we are reminded that God is there providing for his needs. God responds to his desperate cry at the bedside of the dead widow's son, which begs the unarticulated question is God still there. The question on Carmel to the people about their apathy concerning God results in a demonstration of his power and presence. Elijah himself receives further personal assurance on Horeb. The question resurfaces in Elijah's confrontation with Ahaziah's messenger sent to inquire of the god of Ekron. Finally it is articulated by the loud voice of Elisha as it echoes

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- Parish Life Conference - 6/29 - 7/3
- Parish Council - 7/10
- Fellowship of St. Moses the Black - 7/11
- Coffee Hour Potluck - 7/31

July Greeters and Readers

July 3

Greeters: San Chirico Family
Reader: Caroline Becker

July 10

Greeters: Ed and Karla Donahue
Reader: Kerry San Chirico

July 17

Greeters: Burke family
Reader: Ed Donahue

July 24

Greeters: Teen SOYO
Reader: Sheri San Chirico

July 31

Greeters: Cynthia Long and Michael Martin
Reader: Caroline Becker

Interested in being a greeter? Contact Ed Donahue at edjdonahue@gmail.com

Interested in being a reader? Contact Matt Gordon at msgordon2@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Coffee Hour Potluck - July 31

Coffee hour on Sunday, July 31 will be a potluck. Please bring a dish to share!

Parish Directory Update

We will be circulating an updated parish directory in early summer. If your information has changed, or if you would like to add your information to the directory, please contact the church office at office@saintgeorgeupperdarby.org.

Annual Calendar Planning Meeting

We will hold our annual calendar planning meeting on Saturday, August 13 from 11am - 12:30pm. All heads of ministries and Parish Council members are strongly encouraged to attend. If a ministry / committee lead cannot attend, please send a representative in your place.

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through the Jordan valley, "Where is God?" Every time there is evidence which points to God's continued presence and work. He feeds Elijah, raises the widow's son, rains fire down on the sacrifice, whispers assurance to Elijah, confirms the power of the prophet to Ahaziah and parts the water for Elisha. Although the kingdom of Israel had split north and south, and although the south enjoyed the benefit of the temple and continued covenant, God had not deserted the north by far. He still had at least 100 prophets, 7000 loyal followers and, in the court of the wicked king, a man who had served him from his youth. The purposes of God were alive and well among his people in spite of their lack of discernment.

But this is a hero narrative and it functions on a human level too as an example of how God's people should act. No better interpretation of the humanity of the story of Elijah as a hero narrative has been offered than that observation by James, "Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly..." (James 5:17). James meant that the account of Elijah showed that he was human, with human frailty, but he was a powerful man of God as well. He was a man who found that God's presence was equal to each task and each stage of his life, no matter how desperate it might be. Even when insecurity plagued him on the inside, Elijah can stand confidently on Carmel in the face of 450 prophets of Baal. Here is the message to God's people! There is power even in humanity's weakest moment. But this power depends upon the presence of God. Assurance is found not necessarily in the miraculous moments of great splendor and the demonstration of divine power but even when you are surrounded by loneliness and insecurity, especially at quiet moments of personal revelation from God.

The Elijah and Elisha story in the book of Kings may seem quite strange and different to us. That world was one where rivers part miraculously and chariots and horses of fire come down out of the sky. If we were to look at a bigger picture of that story, we would learn of bears coming out of the woods at the command of the prophet and a magic ritual that purifies a polluted spring. What we have seems to read like an interesting but very updated tale that has little or nothing to do with the twenty-first century and our lives. In fact, the opposite is true. Within this story of Elijah and Elisha is a very subtle message about the human situation of every generation.

[You can read the full article on the church website.](#)

July 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			Parish Life Conference: June 29 - July 3 at Antiochian Village			1 2 Reader Vespers 5pm Orthodoxy 101 6pm
3 Orthros & Liturgy 9:30am	4 Maintenance Committee 8pm	5 NO Matins Akathist 7pm Choir Practice 7pm	6	7 3rd Hour 9am 12 Baskets 8pm	8	9 Vespers 5pm Orthodoxy 101 6pm
10 Orthros & Liturgy 9:30am Parish Council 12pm	11 FSMB 7pm	12 Matins 9am Akathist 7pm Choir Practice 7pm	13 Bible study 7pm	14 3rd Hour 9am	15	16 Vespers 5pm Orthodoxy 101 6pm
17 Orthros & Liturgy 9:30am Hospitality Committee 12pm	18	19 Fr. Joel at Antiochian Village July 17 - July 30 NO Matins Akathist 7pm Choir Practice 7pm	20	21 NO 3rd Hour Icon Committee 7:30pm	22	23 Reader Vespers 5pm Orthodoxy 101 6pm
24 Orthros & Liturgy 9:30am	25	26 Fr. Joel at Antiochian Village July 17 - July 30 NO Matins Akathist 7pm Choir Practice 7pm	27	28 NO 3rd Hour	29	30 Vespers 5pm Orthodoxy 101 6pm
31 Orthros & Liturgy 9:30am Coffee Hour Potluck	<p>To view the full calendar, visit www.saintgeorgeupperdarby.org</p>					

Not on our mailing list? Contact Caitlin at office@saintgeorgeupperdarby.org to add your name to our mailing list.