

A Prophet in the Shadows:

On **September 28** we remember the **Prophet Baruch**. He was the stalwart friend and secretary of the much more prominent and often-quoted prophet Jeremiah.

It was no small thing to be Jeremiah's companion and scribe. Not only did Baruch laboriously write thousands of words of prophecy dictated by his master, he also read the words that Jeremiah had "**spoken against Israel and Judah and all the nations**" to the very people against whom he had spoken them.

The 36th chapter of the Book of Jeremiah says that Baruch wrote on a papyrus scroll the warnings Jeremiah heard from God, telling the people of Jerusalem and Judah to turn from their evil ways. Then, at Jeremiah's direction, he read the scroll publicly in the Temple at Jerusalem, facing the very people who were accused by God of wrongdoing.

A group of royal officials asked Baruch to read the scroll again, privately, to them. They asked him how he had come to write the words, and he replied that Jeremiah had dictated them. The danger Baruch and his master faced is made clear by the officials' instructions to Baruch: "**Go and hide, you and Jeremiah, and let no one know where you are**" (36:19).

The king, Jehoiakim, also wanted to hear what was in the scroll. Sitting by a fire, he had a courtier named Jehudi read it, column by column. As Jehudi finished reading a column, the king would cut it off with a penknife and throw it into the fire. Not only did Jehoiakim refuse to heed God's warnings, but Baruch had to write the whole scroll, with more words added, all over again.

The disobedience of the kings and people finally led to the fall of Jerusalem. In Jeremiah 39:6-8 we read the grim results: "**The king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah [the king of Judah at that time] at Riblah before his eyes; and the king of Babylon slew all the nobles of Judah. He put out the eyes of Zedekiah and bound him in fetters to take him to Babylon. The Chaldeans burned the king's house and the house of the people, and broke down the walls of Jerusalem.**"

Baruch stood loyally by Jeremiah as the great prophet was imprisoned and persecuted. With Jeremiah, he grieved at the fall of Jerusalem. But we don't remember Baruch only as a witness to disheartening events. He also is a prophet, and in his writings we read: "**This is our God; no other can be compared to him! He found the way to knowledge, and gave her to Jacob his servant and to Israel whom he loved. Afterward she appeared upon earth and lived among men**" (Baruch 3:35-37). The Church Fathers saw in this a prophecy of the coming of Christ.

*You were worthy of the light of prophecy
Becoming a companion to Jeremiah.
You foretold the self-emptying of God the Word
Which he wrought for the salvation of the world.
Now all heirs of his kingdom honor you, O holy Prophet Baruch!*

Troparion - Tone 8

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Repose of Ven. Sergius

**Christ is in our
midst!**

**He is and always
will be!**

*Bound by the love of Christ, O venerable one, and following Him with unwavering desire,
you despised all carnal pleasures and you shone like the sun in your land.
Therefore, Christ has enriched you with the gift of miracles.
Remember us who venerate your most holy memory,
and who call out to you: "Rejoice, Sergius, made wise by God!"*

Kontakion – (Tone 8) Sergius of Rádonezh

On this day the Church remembers:

Repose of Ven. Sergius (Sérgij), Abbot and Wonderworker of Rádonezh (1392) • Ven. Euphrosyne of Alexandria (5th c.) • Ven. Euphrosyne of Suzdal' (1250) • Translation of the Relics of St. Herman, Archbishop of Kazan' (1595) • Martyr Paphnutius and 546 companions in Egypt (3rd c.)

September 25, 2011

Tone 6 of the Octoechos.

15th Sunday after Pentecost
1st Sunday of Luke

Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:**For eternal memory of:****Theodor Prinz**, offered by Lory Stefy**Pauline Prinz**, offered by Lory Stefy**Health of:****Olga Pavlova**, on her wedding day**Readings:**

- Galatians 5:22-26;6:1-2 (St Sergius)
 - Luke 6:17-23 (St Sergius)
 - **2 Corinthians 4:6-15**
 - **Luke 5:1-11**

Brethren, it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believed, and so we speak, knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

At that time, Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. And he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Summer Sunday service:**Hours - 9:40 AM****Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM****(General Confession on the first Sunday of each month)****Coffee hour after Liturgy**

We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy, downstairs, for Coffee hour.

Announcements:

- There will be a Parish Council meeting today, September 25th, after coffee hour.
- Sunday School will begin today, September 25th at 9:30 am.

Upcoming Sisterhood Events:

- The Sisterhood of the Mother of God will be having a covered dish luncheon next Sunday October 2nd in honor of their Feast Day. Cost is \$5.00 for adults. A sign-up sheet is posted.
- The next Sisterhood meeting will be next Sunday, October 9th, after coffee hour.

Special Announcements:

- Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored; this can be done with the signup sheet at the candle stand.
- Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org