

# St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

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## January 14, 2018 Leave-Taking of the Theophany of Christ



On January 14 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we take leave of the Feast of Theophany, and we commemorate the holy Forty Fathers that were slain on Mount Sinai in the reign of Diocletian, and those slain in the days of Neilos the Wise.

There were two occasions when the monks and hermits were murdered by the barbarians. The first took place in the fourth century when forty Fathers were killed at Mt. Sinai, and thirty-nine were slain at Raithu on the same day.

Mount Sinai, where the Ten Commandments had been given to Moses, was also the site of another miracle. Ammonios, an Egyptian monk, witnessed the murder of the forty holy Fathers at Sinai. He tells of how the Saracens attacked the monastery and would have killed them all, if God had not intervened. A fire appeared on the summit of the peak, and the whole mountain smoked. The barbarians were terrified, and fled, while the surviving monks thanked God for sparing them.

That day, the Blemmyes (an Arab tribe) killed thirty-nine Fathers at Raithu (on the shores of the Red Sea). Igumen Paul of Raithu exhorted his monks to endure their suffering with courage and a pure heart.

The second massacres occurred nearly a hundred years later, and was also recorded by an eyewitness who miraculously escaped: Saint Nilus the Faster (November 12). The Arabs permitted some of the monks run for their lives. They crossed the valley and climbed up a mountain. From this vantage point, they saw the bedouin kill the monks and ransack their cells.

The Sinai and Raithu ascetics lived a particularly strict life: they spent the whole week at prayer in their cells. On Saturday they gathered for the all-night Vigil, and on Sunday they received the Holy

-Mysteries. Their only food was dates and water. Many of the ascetics of the desert were glorified by the gift of wonderworking: the Elders Moses, Joseph and others. Mentioned in the service to these monastic Fathers are: Isaiah, Sava, Moses and his disciple Moses, Jeremiah, Paul, Adam, Sergius, Domnus, Proclus, Hypatius, Isaac, Macarius, Mark, Benjamin, Eusebius and Elias.

## WISDOM OF THE FATHERS

“Brothers came to Abba Anthony, and said to him, Speak a word for us. How may we be saved? The elder said to them, You have heard the Scriptures. You have the means well enough. But they said, But we want to hear from you, Father. And the elder said to them, The Gospel says, If anyone strikes you on the right cheek, also turn to him the other. They said to him, We are not able to do this. The elder said to them, If you are not able also to turn the other cheek, then permit just one to be struck. They said to him, We cannot do this. The elder said, If you are not able to do this, do not give as you have received. And they said, We cannot do this. So the elder said to his disciple, Make them a little soup, for they are weak. If you cannot do this, and will not do that, what can I do for you? You need prayers.”

*-From the Sayings of the Desert Fathers*

"The goal of human freedom is not in freedom itself, nor is it in man, but in God. By giving man freedom, God has yielded to man a piece of His divine authority, but with the intention that man himself would voluntarily bring it as a sacrifice to God, a most perfect offering."

*-- St. Theophan the Recluse*

“The fruits of the earth are not brought to perfection immediately, but by time, rain and care; similarly, the fruits of men ripen through ascetic practice, study, time, perseverance, self-control and patience.

*-St. Anthony the Great*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Meals for the Townsends** - Please contact Shamassy Susan Mannion if you can help provide meals for our beloved Townsends as Kh. Joanna continues chemotherapy and beyond. Call or text Susan at 940-723-1726. Thank you!

### **Snow Removal for the Elderly**

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

Beloved, As the snow is now falling, the benevolence team at St. John Church has a new snow removal service to offer the elderly and infirm. If you are elderly or infirm and in need of snow removal at your home, please contact me and we'll do the rest!

Love in our Incarnate Lord, +Fr. Mark

## **THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF THE LEAVE-TAKING OF THEOPHANY**

Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord. The Lord is God and hath appeared unto us. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

## **RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SEVEN**

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

## **APOLYTIKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE**

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the likeness of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

## **KONTAKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST IN TONE FOUR**

On this day Thou hast appeared \* unto the whole world, \* and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, \* is signed on us who sing Thy praise \* and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, \* Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light unapproachable.

## **THE EPISTLE**

(For the Sunday after Theophany of Christ)

*Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (4:7-13)**

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it is said, "When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is He who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

## **THE GOSPEL**

(For the Sunday after Theophany of Christ)

### **The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (4:12-17)**

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulon and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulon and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand."

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

# CAMP SAINT MARY OF EGYPT

Held at beautiful Ross Point Camp, 820 S. Ross Point Rd., Post Falls, Idaho 83854

## July 16—21, 2018

Finding God, Finding yourself : a living experience of the Orthodox Faith.

\*Canoeing      \*Climbing Wall  
\*Campfire      \*Arts and Crafts  
\*Swimming      \*Physical Activities  
\*Miniature Golf      \*Christian Ed.

\*Orthodox Christian fellowship  
with new friends  
\*Daily Services, Confession  
\* Meaningful discussions

**\*\*Volunteer Counselors and Support Staff may apply online NOW**

**\*\*Camper Registration Opens:**  
Jan 15th for grades 9—12  
Feb 1st for grades 5—12

Register and Apply online  
at [www.campstmary.org](http://www.campstmary.org)  
follow link for easy forms

**2018 Tuition \$390 : \$90 deposit at Registration**

**\$300 balance due by June 1st**

**Scholarship assistance available, ask your Parish Priest**



ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE  
of North America

## Lenten Retreat

Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018



~ Speaker ~

**Fr. Noah Bushelli** is the Archpriest of St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church in Souderton, PA, and serves as the Director of the Department of Homeschooling for the Antiochian Archdiocese of North America. He and Kh. Elizabeth homeschool their eight marvelous children.

Fr. Noah spends his down time taking walks, reading theology, changing diapers, telling stories to his children, playing a little guitar.

~ Location ~

Prophet Elijah Antiochian  
Orthodox Mission  
107 S. Dennis St.  
Ellensburg, Washington 98926

~ Schedule ~

### Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>

- 6:00 PM – Dinner & Fellowship
- 7:00 PM – Young Adults 16-25+ (Fellowship of the Cross)  
Topic: "Raising Them Right"
- 9:00 PM – Little Compline and Akathist Hymn

### Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>

- 9:00 AM – Akathist (Nurturer of Children?)
- 10:00 AM – "Strong Marriages = Strong Families"
- 12:00 PM – Lunch
- 1:00 PM – "Homeschooling: A Path to Sanctity or Insanity"

**Sponsored by the Department of Homeschooling**

Website – <http://antiochian.org/department-homeschooling>

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS

**Saturday, Jan 13:** Mom's Book Club 9:30am; Great Vespers 6:00pm

**Sunday, Jan 14:** Orthros 9:00am, Divine Liturgy 10:00am, Sunday School and Lunch following

**Monday, Jan 15:** Youth Swing 7:00pm

**Wednesday, Jan 17:** Antiochian Women Fellowship Lunch 12:00pm; Vespers 6:00pm

**Thursday, Jan 18:** Just for Kix: 6:00pm

**Friday, Jan 19:** Spiritual Circle 9:30am

**Saturday, Jan 20:** Great Vespers 6:00pm

**Sunday, Jan 21:** Orthros 9:00am, Divine Liturgy 10:00am, Sunday School and Lunch following

## EPISTLE READERS

Jan 14 Joy Corey

Jan 28 Tabitha Townend

Jan 21 Reader David Gencarella

Feb 4 Reader Sebastian Horton

## LUNCH TEAM

Jan 14: Team 2: Victoria Purviance, Dale Ayoub & the Bardwell family

Jan 21: Team 3: Joy Corey, Tecca family, Roth family, David & Lisa Gencarella

Jan 28: Team 4: Kelly Peterson, Nicky Nolan; Sandford family, Deacon Joseph and Susan Mannion

Feb 4: Team 1: Schaefer family, Gallatin family, Ebert family & the Phillips family

## CLEANING ROTATION (nave, narthex, hallway and upstairs restrooms)

Week of 1/14 Dn. Joseph & Susan Mannion

Week of 1/28 St. Theophan Coop

Week of 1/21 Joy Corey

Week of 2/4 Jeanne Rickert

**PRAYERS FOR THE LIVING:** Marina (Jeane Wood's mother), Kh. Joanna Townsend, Sarah Slofford, Chaplain Larry Green, Kaitlin Weisman, Helen Odell, Barbara Schaefer, Metropolitan Paul Yazigi and Metropolitan Youhanna Ibrahim (hostages in Syria), Suffering Christians throughout the Middle East

**PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED:** Dennis (brother of Allyson Gross), Victims of Abortion, Departed Christians throughout the world who have died for their Faith.



### A Note Regarding Holy Communion

Since we understand Communion to mean that we have all things in common, sharing an identical Faith, only those who are members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and recent confession may participate in Holy Communion. (We invite all, however, to partake of the blessed bread which is distributed at the dismissal.) Please see the pastor for inquiries on how to become a member.