

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

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

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September 24, 2017 Great-Martyr Thekla



On September 24 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the holy Great-Martyr Thekla, equal-to-the-Apostles. She was born in Iconium of eminent but pagan parents. At age 18, she was betrothed to a young man named Thamyris at the same time that the Apostle Paul arrived in Iconium with Barnabas to preach the Gospel. Hearing Paul's testimony for three days and nights, Saint Thekla with all her heart came to love the Lord Jesus Christ, and she steadfastly resolved not to enter into marriage, but rather to devote all her life to preaching the Gospel. Her mother and fiancé complained to the prefect of the city about the Apostle Paul, accusing him of turning her against them. The prefect locked up Saint Paul in prison.

During the night Saint Thekla secretly ran away from her house, and she bribed the prison guards, and so made her way into the prison to the prisoner. For three days she sat at the feet of the Apostle Paul, listening to his fatherly precepts. Thekla's disappearance was discovered, and servants finally found her in the prison and brought her home by force. At his trial Saint Paul was sentenced to banishment from the city. Neither the tears and wrath of her mother, nor the threats of the prefect could separate Saint Thekla from her love for the Heavenly Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Providence of God preserved the holy martyr unharmed through many torments. Finally, they tied her to two oxen and began to chase her with red-hot rods, but the strong cords broke asunder like cobwebs, and the oxen ran off, leaving Saint Thekla unharmed. The people began shouting, "Great is the God of the Christians!" The prefect himself became terrified, realizing that the holy martyr was being kept safe by the Almighty God, Whom she served. He then gave orders to set free the servant of God Thekla.

With the blessing of the Apostle Paul, Saint Thekla then settled in a desolate region of Isaurian Seleucia and dwelt there for many years, constantly preaching the Word of God and healing the sick through her prayer. Saint Thekla converted many pagans to Christ, and the Church appropriately names her as "Equal- to-the-Apostles."

Finally, as a group of arrogant young men were about to catch Thekla, a large rock opened up and hid this holy virgin. This rock in Maaloula, Syria was her refuge and her tomb, and the site of the monastery which she founded, the oldest Christian convent in the world. Despite being damaged by Muslim terrorists in recent years, thousands of pilgrims flock to it yearly for healing of ailments.

WISDOM OF THE FATHERS - "When people are empty of Christ, a thousand and one other things come and fill them up: jealousies, hatreds, boredom, melancholy, resentment, a worldly outlook, worldly pleasures. Try to fill your soul with Christ so that it is not empty!" - *St. Porphrios*

APOLYTIKION OF ST. THEKLA THE PROTO-MARTYR IN TONE THREE

O glorious Thekla, companion of Paul the divine, thou wast enflamed with the love of thy Creator, by the teaching of the divine preacher. Thou didst despise the passing earthly pleasures, and offered thyself to God as an acceptable and pleasing sacrifice, disregarding all suffering. Intercede with Christ thy Groom to grant us His Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. SILOUAN THE ATHONITE IN TONE FOUR

By prayer thou didst receive Christ as thy teacher in the way of humility, and the Spirit bore witness to salvation in thy heart. Wherefore, all peoples called unto hope rejoice in this day of thy memorial, O sacred Father Silouan. Pray unto Christ our God for the salvation of our souls.

KONTAKION FOR ORDINARY SUNDAYS IN TONE TWO

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

THE EPISTLE - *God is wondrous among His saints. Bless ye God in the congregations.*

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (3:10-15) - Timothy, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet from them all, the Lord rescued me. Indeed, all, who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

THE GOSPEL - The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (5:1-11)

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, Jesus asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when Jesus had finished 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 Thy 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 that 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome, and Many Blessed Years! A very warm St. John welcome to Shawna (Anna) King who will be received into the Holy Orthodox Church by baptism following the Divine Liturgy today. Congratulations and many blessed years to Shawna and her family – husband Shawn, children Keona, Tarell, and Brooklyne, and God-mother Joy.

Holy Bread Offering - Today's Blessed Bread is offered in thanksgiving for the baptism of Shawna (Anna) King. WELCOME! AXIOS! It is also offered in honor of the Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry and the local prison ministry by Joy Corey. God bless you from Deacon Joseph and Susan Mannion.

Cleaning Team Needed – We are in need of one additional individual or team to join the cleaning rotation. Each team cleans the Nave, Narthex and bathrooms once every 5 weeks. Please contact Fr. Basil if you are able to help with this blessed ministry.

Antiochian Women Dues It is that time of year again for the Antiochian Women to send in dues to the diocese by the end of October. Please give your dues of \$10 to Barbara Garbinski. Thank you!

Parish Directory Update - Joy Corey is graciously doing an update of our Parish Directory and needs to be notified ASAP of any changes to any of your information. Please contact her directly at: joyinidaho@gmail.com or 208-660-0538.

A Christian Ending to Our Life

Christ is in our midst! It is with great joy and excitement that I announce the upcoming "End of Life" Seminar at Holy Myrrhbearers in Bonners Ferry (if one can be joyful and excited about this topic). The title is "A Christian Ending to Our Life" and it will include some spiritual and lots of practical advice and guidelines for death, funerals and burials. A flyer is attached and you are most welcome to advertise this seminar far and wide. Our special guest will be Mr. Walter Keathley, an Orthodox Christian from Kalispell, Montana, who has extensive experience in the funeral business.

The Seminar will be held at our parish on Saturday, September 30th, beginning at 10am and ending around 3pm. Lunch will be provided. There is no charge for this event, but please consider donating something for the expenses involved. Also, we would like to get a rough number of how many will be coming, so please let me know if you plan to attend that day.

This will be especially important for those who would like to take care of their own funerals and burials without the assistance of a funeral home. State and provincial law, as well as Orthodox teachings about burials will be discussed. There is much to consider and all questions are welcome!

Hope to see everyone on the 30th! In Christ's Holy Love, Fr. Gregory 208-304-3673

Wednesday Study Group - Just a reminder that our new Study Group covering the excellent work of NT Wright concerning the meaning of our Lord Jesus' Crucifixion, *The Day the Revolution Began: Reconsidering the Meaning of Jesus's Crucifixion*, continues on Wednesday evenings following Vespers. Vespers begins at 6:00 PM, so the study should begin sometime about 7:00 to 7:15pm. Each session of the study will consist of a short video of a talk by Dr. Wright himself on the material covered in the book, followed by discussion and questions. We look forward to seeing you there!

'The Fellowship of the Cross' Join us in **Ellensburg** October 20-21

"Whoever wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross,
and follow Me" (Matt. 16:24)



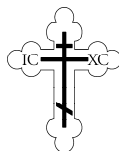
FRIDAY EVENING & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20-21, 2017 BEGINNING AT 6:00 PM WITH DINNER ON FRIDAY, AND THEN A TEACHING & FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER, FOLLOWED ON SATURDAY WITH THE AKATHIST OF THE CROSS @ 9:00 AM, BREAKFAST TOGETHER, AND THEN YOU ARE FREE TO PLAN THE REST OF THE DAY WITH YOUR OWN GROUP ACTIVITIES!

**ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN YOUNG ADULT GATHERING @
PROPHET ELIJAH ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX MISSION
107 So. Dennis St. Ellensburg, WA. 98926**

Join Fr. Paul Moses Jaroslaw, Fr. Michael Shanbour, Fr. David Hovik?, Fr. John Phelps, Subdn. Joseph Magnus Frangipani & young people your age! ...For a teaching time together on Friday night...and fellowship... and then an Akathist and breakfast on Saturday, & then more fellowship!!!

If you are interested in joining us, **RSVP to Fr. Paul @ frpaulmoses111@gmail.com** or call (907) 299-1087so we know how much food to prepare, and to find you a place to spend the night!!! Thanks!

Your quick RSVP is important, so we can properly prepare for the purchase of food, and where you will sleep!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



**Pacific Northwest
Orthodox Christian
gathering of young
people
(ages 16-25+)**

**We now have 140
young adults who
have participated!**

**Join us once a
month, this month
in Ellensburg
again!**

**Blessed by our
Metropolitan
JOSEPH**

**Please bring a sleeping
bag & pad!**

**\$5.00 suggested
donation for food**



Next Weekend!

82nd Annual Greek Dinner Festival

Let's get out and support our sister parish!

**Thursday, Friday
& Saturday
September 28, 29 & 30**

**Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
1703 N. Washington Spokane**

Greek Pastry, Taverna, Dancing and Deli

Pastry available daily from 11 AM

Dinner served 4:30 - 8:00

Dine in or carry out

Tickets in advance: \$15 adults

\$8 under age 12

Dinner price at the door: \$18 adults

Lunch menu at 11 AM - 2 PM daily

Souvlaki at the Grill nightly from 4:30



Our dinner menu features Beef Kapama, beef braised to perfection in an authentically Greek spiced tomato sauce – a parish favorite. Our imported Greek orzo pasta, tossed with browned butter and myzithra cheese, is true Greek “comfort food.”

Grill: Greek shish-kebabs (“souvlakia”) grilled and “baptized” in our special lemon and herb marinade. Also Greek salads and vegetarian plates.

Greek Pastry: Let us show you the many ways we can transform honey, nuts, butter, eggs and spices into delectable morsels!

Lunch: Gyro sandwiches, soups & salads

Book Store: Orthodox books and religious items.

Church tours: Experience a traditional ancient Christian place of worship. Have a question?
Just ask!

www.SpokaneGreekFest.org. – (509) 328-9310

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS

Saturday, Sept 23: Conception of St. John the Baptist - Great Vespers 6:00pm

Sunday, Sept 24: Orthros 9:00am, Divine Liturgy 10:00am, Baptism of Shawna King; Sunday School and Lunch following

Monday, Sept 25: Youth Swing 7:00pm

Wednesday, Sept 27: Vespers 6:00pm; Study Group 7:00pm

Thursday, Sept 28-Saturday, Sept 30: Greek Festival-Holy Trinity, Spokane, 11am-9:00pm daily

Friday, Sept 29: Spiritual Circle 9:30am

Saturday, Sept 30: *Christian Ending to Our Life* seminar at Holy Myrrhbearers, Bonners Ferry 10:00am-3:00pm; Great Vespers 6:00pm

Sunday, Oct 1: Orthros 9:00am, Divine Liturgy 10:00am, Sunday School and Lunch following

EPISTLE READERS

Sept 24 Joy Corey

Oct 8 Sbdcn. Barnabas Schaefer

Oct 1 David Gencarella

Oct 15 Josh Gallatin

LUNCH TEAM

Sept 24 Team 4: Kelly Peterson, Sandford family, Deacon Joseph and Susan Manion & Foster Caldaro

Oct 1 Team 1: Schaefer family, Gallatin family, Ebert family & the Phillips family.

Oct 8 Team 2: Victoria Purviance, Dale Ayoub & the Bardwell family

Oct 15 Team 3: Joy Corey, Tecca family, Roth family, David & Lisa Gencarella

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

Week of 9/24 Mary Jo Neyman

Week of 10/8 Joy Corey

Week of 10/1 Dn. Joseph & Susan Mannio

Week of 10/15 Jeanne Rickert

PRAYERS FOR THE LIVING: Kaitlin Weisman, Karen Karres, Helen Odell, Metropolitan Paul Yazigi and Metropolitan Youhanna Ibrahim (hostages in Syria), Suffering Christians throughout the Middle East

PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED: Bill Gencarella, 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.