

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

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

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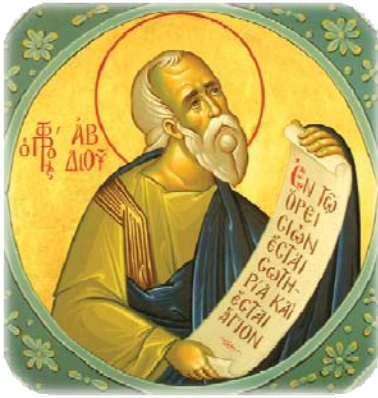
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Member Directory: <https://stjohnorthodox.org/directory/members.pdf> u: Faithful p: TheWay

November 19, 2017

Holy Prophet Obadiah



On November 19 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Holy Prophet Obadiah.

Obadiah lived at the court of King Ahab of Israel, but when the king turned away from true worship and bowed down to idols, Obadiah did not follow the king, but continued to serve the one, true God. When the evil Queen Jezebel raised a persecution against all the prophets of God, Obadiah gathered one hundred of them, hid them in two caves, and fed them to the end of the persecution (I Kings 18:4). A contemporary of the great Prophet Elias, Obadiah revered him greatly and served him in all things, as his follower and disciple. He lived 900 years before Christ and entered peacefully into rest.

On this day, we also commemorate the **Martyr Barlaam of Antioch**. The Holy Martyr Barlaam was from Antioch in Syria. Though elderly in age, he openly confessed Christ and was arrested and brought before the governor of Antioch. Because he could not be persuaded to sacrifice to the idols, he was brought to an altar for the idols, and it was ordered that he be forced to spread forth his right hand. On this hand was put burning coals and incense. By this the governor thought that he would not be able to endure the heat of the coals, and therefore would drop the coals and the incense onto the altar, and in this way it would appear that he sacrificed to the idols.

The athlete of Christ stood there with great bravery, unmoved and unshaken, giving his right hand no movement whatsoever. By this he showed himself to be stronger than brass and iron. This went on until the coals made a hole in his consumed flesh, and he fell to the ground. The noble one preferred to struggle with bravery and a firm mind for truth, by having his hand consumed in the flames, rather than to be shaken, and by this showing unbelievers that he did not offer incense and sacrifice to the demons. By



enduring this torment, he delivered his soul into the hands of God, and received from Him a crown of martyrdom.

This noble athlete was also honored with rhetorical encomium's by both Basil the Great and the divine Chrysostom. Basil the Great said of Barlaam: "He had a right hand more powerful than fire: although the coal burned his hand, his hand still held the fire as if it were ash." And Chrysostom said: "The angels looked from the heights. The archangels beheld. The scene was majestic, in truth transcending human nature. Behold, who would not wish to see a man who made such an ascetic endeavor, yet did not feel that which is characteristic of men to feel; a man who was himself both the altar of oblation and the sacrifice and the priest?"

And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. (Matthew 5:30)

On this day, we also commemorate the Martyr Azi the wonderworker of Isauria in Asia Minor and 150 soldiers with him; Martyr Agapios of Caesarea in Palestine; Martyr Heliodoros of Magidum in Pamphylia; and Venerable Abbot Barlaam of the Kiev Caves. By their intercessions, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

The Akathist Hymn: "Glory to God for All Things" - Excerpts

This Akathist, also called the "Akathist of Thanksgiving," was found among the effects of Protopresbyter Gregory Petrov upon his death in a prison camp in 1940. The title is from the words of Saint John Chrysostom as he was dying in exile. It is a song of praise from amidst the most terrible sufferings attributed to Metropolitan Tryphon of Turkestan. We will be praying this beautiful hymn together on the eve of Thanksgiving.



Everlasting King, Thy will for our salvation is full of power. Thy right arm controls the whole course of human life. We give Thee thanks for all Thy mercies, seen and unseen. For eternal life, for the heavenly joys of the Kingdom which is to be. Grant mercy to us who sing Thy praise, both now and in the time to come. Glory to Thee, O God, from age to age.

I was born a weak, defenseless child, but Thine angel spread his wings over my cradle to defend me. From birth until now Thy love has illumined my path, and has wondrously guided me towards the light of eternity; from birth until now the generous gifts of Thy providence have been marvelously showered upon me. I give Thee thanks, with all who have come to know Thee, who call upon Thy name.

Glory to Thee for calling me into being
Glory to Thee, showing me the beauty of the universe
Glory to Thee, spreading out before me heaven and earth
Like the pages in a book of eternal wisdom

Glory to Thee for Thine eternity in this fleeting world
Glory to Thee for Thy mercies, seen and unseen
Glory to Thee through every sigh of my sorrow
Glory to Thee for every step of my life's journey
For every moment of glory
Glory to Thee, O God, from age to age

Why is it that on a Feast Day the whole of nature mysteriously smiles? Why is it that then a heavenly gladness fills our hearts; a gladness far beyond that of earth and the very air in church and in the altar becomes luminous? It is the breath of Thy gracious love. It is the reflection of the glory of Mount Tabor. Then do heaven and earth sing Thy praise: Alleluia!

When Thou didst call me to serve my brothers and filled my soul with humility, one of Thy deep, piercing rays shone into my heart; it became luminous, full of light like iron glowing in the furnace. I have seen Thy face, face of mystery and of unapproachable glory.

Glory to Thee, transfiguring our lives with deeds of love
Glory to Thee, making wonderfully Sweet the keeping of Thy commandments
Glory to Thee, making Thyself known where man shows mercy on his neighbour
Glory to Thee, sending us failure and misfortune that we may understand the sorrows of others
Glory to Thee, rewarding us so well for the good we do
Glory to Thee, welcoming the impulse of our heart's love
Glory to Thee, raising to the heights of heaven every act of love in earth and sky
Glory to Thee, O God, from age to age

I was born a weak, defenseless child, but Thine angel spread his wings over my cradle to defend me. From birth until now Thy love has illumined my path, and has wondrously guided me towards the light of eternity; from birth until now the generous gifts of Thy providence have been marvelously showered upon me. I give Thee thanks, with all who have come to know Thee, who call upon Thy name.

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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.

KONTAKION OF ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

The sacred treasury of God's holy glory, * the greatly precious bridal chamber and Virgin, * the Savior's most pure temple, free of stain and undefiled, * into the House of the Lord * on this day is brought forward * and bringeth with herself the grace * of the Most Divine Spirit; * her do God's Angels hymn with songs of praise, * for she is truly the heavenly tabernacle.

THE EPISTLE

The Lord will give strength to His people.

Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of God, ascribe to the Lord honor and glory.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (2:14-22)

Brethren, Christ is our peace, Who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in His flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the Cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And He came and preached peace to you, who were far off, and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in Whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in Whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (12:16-21)

The Lord spoke this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As He said this, Jesus called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Congratulations and May Blessed Years on the Arrival of Jacob Alexander Molloy! – Glory to God - a new Molloy was born into the world on Thursday, November 9th! Jacob Alexander Molloy came into the world at 10:30am weighing a mere 4 pounds and 13 ounces with no noticeable complications. Momma handled everything in stride and is recovering well.

Quilt Auction for Guatemala Mission Trip -

Pauline Harris (from Holy Myrrhbearers in Bonners Ferry) will be traveling to Guatemala during Great Lent and Pascha and we are sponsoring a "quilt raffle" to help her with the costs associated with her mission trip. She will be making a short presentation on an upcoming Sunday to sell tickets for the raffle for the beautiful hand-made quilt (by Gale Goodsen). The cost will be \$3 per ticket or 2 tickets for \$5 and the drawing will take place on Sunday December 17th.



A great idea for your Christmas baking and gift-giving needs:

Why not help fund the Benevolence Fund by purchasing either a Queen Elizabeth Cake or a Harvey Wallbanger Cake for only \$25.00 each. You will get 24 good-sized pieces out of each cake. This will help relieve some of the pressure from your busy Christmas schedule, and at the same time provide funds for those in need. If you, or someone you know, has benefited from the Benevolence Fund in the past, this might be one way to show appreciation for the help you or a loved one has received in the past and a way by which someone else might benefit in the future. Why not take advantage and give yourself, your family and friends an opportunity to help do some charitable outreach, while at the same time saving yourself the time and energy it takes to make these delicious cakes. A perfect hostess gift, an ideal Christmas gift for the person you are having trouble coming up with a gift for, and a special dessert that will make your Christmas meal extra special. If interested call Joy Corey at 208-660-0538 or send her an email at joyinidaho@gmail.com They freeze beautifully so feel free to order one right away. And thanks for helping to fund our Benevolence Fund! We never know when we, ourselves, may need to take advantage of such a fund. God is Good!

Swinging Support for St. Johns and Benevolence Fund – The weekly Monday night youth swing dances are a great opportunity for YOU to contribute to St. Johns and/or the benevolence fund. Here's how it works. If any adult (18 or older) is willing and able to chaperone one of our Monday evening youth swing dances in the hall from 6:30pm-10:30pm, the portion of the proceeds that goes to St. John's (which averages around \$60-\$100) will be donated directly to St. John's. You can designate the donation for the general fund, or the benevolence fund. If you are interested in helping out and supporting St. Johns with your time in this way, please contact Sbdcn. Barnabas at 805-259/8477 or nschaefer@abc-clio.com.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS

Saturday, Nov 18: Great Vespers 6:00pm

Sunday, Nov 19: Orthros 9:00am, Divine Liturgy 10:00am, Sunday School and Lunch following

Monday, Nov 20: Vespers Divine Liturgy for Entrance of the Theotokos 6:00pm; Youth Swing 7:00pm

Tuesday, Nov 21: Entrance of the Theotokos

Wednesday, Nov 22: Akathist of Thanksgiving 6:00pm

Thursday, Nov 23: Thanksgiving Day – Divine Liturgy (no Orthros) 9:00am

Friday, Nov 24: Spiritual Circle 9:30am

Saturday, Nov 25: Antiochian Women - Tour at the Plant Farm in Spokane Valley 10am (meet at St. Johns); Great Vespers 6:00pm

Sunday, Nov 26: Orthros 9:00am, Divine Liturgy 10:00am, Sunday School and Lunch following

EPISTLE READERS

Nov 19 Tabitha Townsend

Dec 3 Reader Mark Fellegly

Nov 26 Joy Corey

Dec 10 David Gencarella

LUNCH TEAM

Nov 19: Team 3: Joy Corey, Tecca family, Roth family, David & Lisa Gencarella

Nov 26 Team 4: Kelly Peterson, Sandford family, Deacon Joseph and Susan Mannion

Dec 3: Team 1: Schaefer family, Gallatin family, Ebert family & the Phillips family.

Dec 10: Team 2: Victoria Purviance, Dale Ayoub & the Bardwell family

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

Week of 11/19 St. Theophan Coop

Week of 12/3 Mary Jo Neyman

Week of 11/26 Jeanne Rickert

Week of 12/10 Dn. Joseph & Susan Mannion

PRAYERS FOR THE LIVING: Joanna Townsend, 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: Bishop ANTOUN, Victims of Abortion, Departed Christians throughout the world who have died for their Faith.

HOLY BREAD OFFERINGS: If you wish to offer Holy Bread for the good health or in memory of loved ones and are unable to make the actual bread you can allocate a donation to the church instead. Please contact Fr. Nicholas if you are interested.



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.