

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

JULY 11, 2021



St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

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

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July 11, 2021

Third Sunday of Matthew

On July 11 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy Great Martyr, the all-famed Euphemia, who through a supernatural wonder upheld the Orthodox Tome of Faith at the Holy Fourth Ecumenical Council.

*Though dead, judge the definitions of the Faith, O Martyr,
And confirm that Faith for which thou with love hast contended.
On the eleventh, Euphemia setteth the wondrous definition of the Faith.*

Euphemia, a virgin martyr beautiful in soul and body, is commemorated on September 16, the day on which she suffered in 304. On this day we celebrate the miracle wrought by her precious relics, revealed at the time of the Fourth Ecumenical Council in Chalcedon in 451. This Council was summoned because of the heresy of Dioscorus, Patriarch of Alexandria, and Eutyches, an archimandrite in Constantinople, who falsely taught that there were in Christ not two natures, divine and human, but only one, a divine nature. To resolve the fight, Patriarch Anatolius of Constantinople suggested that the Orthodox and the heretics each write down their confession of faith, and place them into the coffin that contained the relics of St. Euphemia. Two confessions of faith, then, were written and placed in the hands of the great martyr. The coffin was closed and sealed with the imperial seal, a watch then being set over it. They then all spent three days in fasting and prayer. On the fourth day, when the tomb was opened, they saw the Orthodox confession of faith in the saint's right hand and the heretical one beneath her feet. Thus the conflict was resolved by God's power, on the side of Orthodoxy.

On this day, we also commemorate Olga (Helen), princess of Kiev.

By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE TWO

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION FOR ST. EUPHEMIA THE ALL-PRAISED IN TONE THREE

O Euphemia, Christ's comely virgin, * thou didst fill the Orthodox with gladness * and didst cover with shame all the heretics; * for at the holy Fourth Council in Chalcedon, * thou didst confirm what the Fathers decreed aright. * O all-glorious Great Martyr, do thou entreat Christ God * that His great mercy may be granted unto us.

ORDINARY KONTAKION 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

(For St. Euphemia the All-Praised)

God is wondrous in His saints. In the churches, bless ye God.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (6:1-10)

Brethren, since we are fellow workers, we entreat you also not to receive the grace of God in vain—for He says, “At an acceptable season I hearkened unto thee, and in a day of salvation I helped thee”; behold, now is “the acceptable season”; behold, now is “the day of salvation”—giving no occasion of stumbling in anything, that the ministry is not blamed, but in everything commending ourselves, as ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in vigils, in fasts, in purity, in knowledge, in longsuffering, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in love unfeigned, in the word of truth, in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

THE GOSPEL

(For Third Sunday of Matthew)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (6:22-33)

The Lord said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is evil, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore, I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink; nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not the soul more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of heaven: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his stature? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon himself in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore, do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

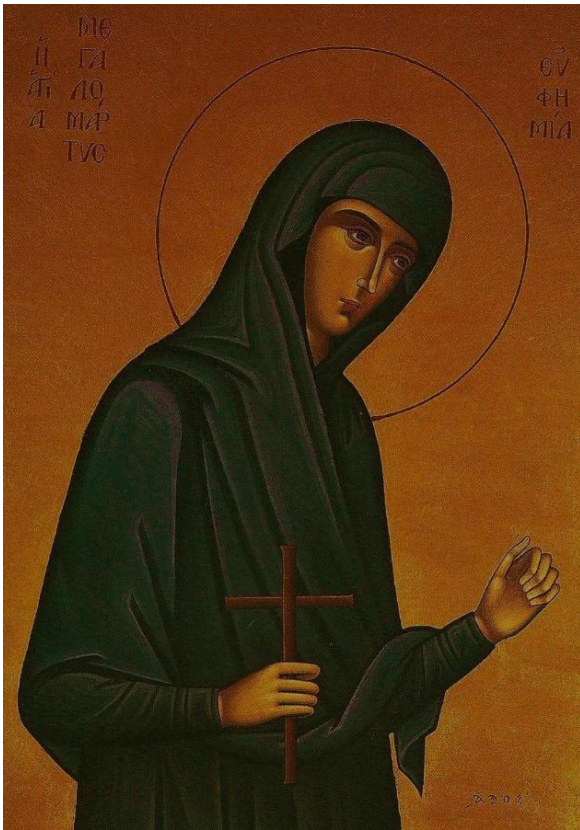
WISDOM

One day Father Paisios was going through a very difficult phase. A problem was created in the Church at that time and many bishops had gone to him to ask for his help. However, it was a very complicated problem and even if he wanted to, he was unable to assist; as he said, no matter from which side you look at the problem, you come face to face with a spiritual impasse. So, he decided to turn his efforts to solve the problem with prayer. During that time, Father Paisios constantly prayed for God to give solution to the Church's problem; he prayed especially to

St. Euphemia, "St. Euphemia, you who miraculously solved the serious problem the Church was facing then, take the Church out of the present impasse!"

One morning, at nine o'clock, when Father Paisios was reading the service of the third hour, he suddenly heard someone discreetly knocking on his door. The Elder asked from inside, "Who is it?" Then, he heard a woman's voice answering, "It is me, Euphemia, Father."

"Which Euphemia?" He asked again. There was no answer. There was another knock on the door and he asked again. "Who is it?"



The same voice was heard saying: “It is Euphemia, Father.”

There was a third knock and the elder felt someone coming inside his cell and walking through the corridor. He went to the door and there he saw St. Euphemia, who had miraculously entered his cell through the locked door, and she venerated the icon of the Holy Trinity, which the Elder had placed on the wall of his corridor, on the right-hand side of the church’s door. Then the Elder told the Saint, “Say, Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” St. Euphemia clearly repeated those words, and immediately

Father Paisios knelt and venerated the Saint. Afterwards, they sat and talked for quite a while; he could not specify for how long, as he has lost all sense of time while being with St. Euphemia. She gave the solution for all three matters he had been praying for and in the end he said to her, “I would like you to tell me how you endured your martyrdom.”

The Saint replied: “Father, if I knew back then how eternal life would be and the heavenly beauty the souls enjoy by being next to God, I honestly would have asked for my martyrdom to last forever, as it was absolutely nothing compared to the gifts from the grace of God!”

Towards the end of June, the doctors informed Elder Paisios that he had about 2-3 weeks left to live. On Monday, July 11, on St. Euphemia’s feast day, Father Paisios received Holy Communion for the last time, kneeling in front of his bed. During the last 24 hours, he was very serene, and even though he suffered, he did not complain at all. He did not wish to take any more medication. The only medicine he accepted was cortisone, because, according to the doctors, it would not prolong his life span, but it would only give him some strength. On Tuesday, July 12, Elder Paisios humbly and peacefully rendered his soul to God, whom he had deeply loved and served since his early childhood.

from [Mystagogy Resource Center](#) by John Sanidopoulos

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

{To include an announcement in the bulletin, please email Fr. Mark, or Simon by Thursday evening.}

The Rush family is moving to Ireland. Sadly, this will be their last Sunday with us! They will be leaving Monday morning, so this is our last opportunity to say goodbye. After Divine Liturgy, we will have a small going-away for them. They will be greatly blessed by your presence! There will be a basket for those who want to leave a card or gift. The family will be greatly missed, but glory to God, they will continue to be with us through the unity of the Faith and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Please keep them in your prayers for safe travels.

Confessions: Beloved of St. John, please remember to contact Fr. Mark to schedule confessions even if you intend to confess after the evening services. This helps ensure that your confession is well prepared, and that everyone can be seen (heard) in an orderly fashion. Father is available to meet at the Church Tuesday through Saturday. Of course, he is available for those urgent times when confession is needed outside of a schedule.

Right To Life Booth, Kootenai County Fair (Aug. 20 – 29): Volunteers are needed! Please call Lacy at 208-731-7278 to sign up for a shift, and state that you are from St. John's Orthodox Church. The shifts are Mon-Friday 11-3, 3-7, 7-10; Saturday/Sunday 10-2, 2-6, 6-10. There are 2 people per shift. *They have a particular need for Aug. 22nd and Aug. 23rd.* Jeane Woods would be happy to join anyone if you let her know: (208) 660-3046, plastinowood@gmail.com.

Men's Gathering: Thursday July 22nd at 7pm at the Molloy home. We'll plan our first service project with the help of Rob Schannep. Please bring a "finger food" to share for our Tapas themed meal. Call Aaron Plew (805) 312-5810 with questions.

ON-GOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Help needed in the Cemetery: Eleni is setting aside every Wednesday from 10am to noon to work in the cemetery, weeding, and general maintenance. ANYONE WHO WANTS TO HELP, PLEASE COME, bring your own tools, gloves, etc. Thank you!

Teachers are needed for preschool through 5th grade. If you are interested in teaching our children after liturgy on Sundays, *please talk with Jen Jensvold or Jan Truebenbach.*

Parents, please tell your children that the downstairs is off limits unless an adult is with them at all times. We are preparing the space for our Christian Education programs and the children may get into things.

Help keep our Church beautiful! We need volunteers for Church clean up. The areas requiring cleaning are the nave, narthex, hallway, upstairs restrooms, and hall floor. To sign up, please go to <https://signup.com/go/NcUVdjr>

FREE Lumex Adult Folding Walker with Wheels. Teresa Chala has a brand-new adult walker to give to anyone who needs it. For more information, call: (509) 475-0671

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS [Calendar]

Saturday, July 10: Virtual PLC; Teen YA Retreat in Bonner's Ferry; Great Vespers 6pm

Sunday, July 11: Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9am; Neena Rothstein Baptism

Wednesday, July 14: Vespers 6pm; Parish Council 7pm

Friday, July 16: Spiritual Circle 9:30am; Catechumen Class 6pm

Saturday, July 17: Great Vespers 6pm

Sunday, July 18: Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9am; Herman Hannan Concert 2pm

EPISTLE READERS

7/11 Rob (Herman) Schannep

7/18 TBD*

7/25 Rob (Herman) Schannep

8/1 Riley (Ignatius) Chapman

If you would like to read the Epistle, please contact Aaron Plew. Sign up: **Epistle Readers*

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

Week of 7/11 Plew Family

Week of 7/18 TBD, Volunteers Needed*

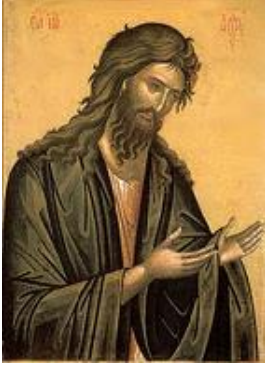
Week of 7/25 TBD, Volunteers Needed*

Week of 8/1 TBD, Volunteers Needed*

Volunteers needed! Sign up at **Church clean-up! Or contact Sh. Susan: (940)723-1726.*

PRAYERS FOR THE LIVING: Weaver family, Khouria Joanna, John/Steven Wood, Korbin (friend of Alyson Gross), Charalambos and Eugenia (Mary Welsh's parents), James & Helen Odell, those suffering with the Covid-19 virus and those caring for the sick and suffering, victims of injustice and social unrest, Metropolitans Paul and John (hostages in Syria), the suffering Christians throughout the Middle East.

PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED: Bryce (Jeane Wood's cousin), Victims of abortion, Victims of the Covid-19 virus, Victims of injustice and social unrest, the departed Christians throughout the world who have died for the Faith.



Troparion of St. John the Baptist

The memory of the just is celebrated with hymns of praise, but the Lord's testimony is enough for thee, O Forerunner. For thou wast shown to be more wonderful than the prophets since thou wast granted to baptize Him whom thou didst proclaim. Then having endured great suffering for the truth thou didst rejoice to bring even to those in hades the good tidings, that God who hast appeared in the flesh, takes away the sins of the world, and grants us great mercy.