

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

AUGUST 22, 2021



[The Dormition of the Mother of God, 1565-1567 by Domenikos Theotokopoulos. Holy Church of Koimisis tis Theotokou, Ermoupoli, Syros. (Credit: BCM)]

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

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

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August 22, 2021

AFTER-FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS

On August 22 in the Holy Orthodox Church, during the after-feast of the Dormition of our Lady the Theotokos, we commemorate the holy, glorious and right victorious Martyr Agathonikos of Nicomedia and those with him: Zoticus, Zeno, Theoprepus, Acindynus, Princes and Severian.

*Agathonikos' name, the pledge of goodness,
calleth his triumph by the sword very goodly.*

*These men enduring the most violent devices,
break the devices of the wicked deviser.*

On the twenty-second a sword killed Agathonikos.

Agathonikos turned the Greeks away from idolatry with great fervor, and instructed them in the true Faith. The imperial governor, on orders from the Emperor Maximian, persecuted Christians with great harshness. He seized Zoticus in a place called Carpe, crucified his disciples and took him off to Nicomedia, where he also seized and bound Agathonikos, Princes, Theoprepus, Acyndinus, Severian, Zeno and many others. In their captivity, Zoticus, Theoprepus and Acyndinus died from exhaustion and of their wounds. Severian was killed near Chalcedon and Agathonikos and the others were taken to Thrace, to a place called Silybria, where, after torture before the Emperor himself, they were beheaded with the sword and entered into eternal life and the joy of their Lord in the year 298.



By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE EIGHT

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF THE DORMITION IN TONE ONE

In thy birth-giving, O Theotokos, thou didst keep and preserve virginity; and in thy falling-asleep thou hast not forsaken the world; for thou wast translated into life, being the Mother of Life. Wherefore, by thine intercessions, deliver our souls from death.

KONTAKION OF THE DORMITION IN TONE TWO

Verily, the Theotokos, who is ever watchful in intercessions, and whose prayers are never rejected, neither tomb nor death could control. But since she is the Mother of Life, He Who dwelt in her ever-virgin womb did translate her to life.

THE EPISTLE

*Make your vows and pay them to the Lord our God.
God is known in Judaea; His Name is great in Israel.*

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (3:9-17)

Brethren, we are God's fellow workers; you are God's husbandry, God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise architect I laid a foundation, and another builds upon it. Let each one take heed how he builds upon it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; everyone's work will become manifest; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire itself will test each one's work of what sort it is. If anyone's work which was built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, yet so as by fire. Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone corrupts the temple of God, God will corrupt him. For the temple of God is holy, whose temple you are.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (14:22-34)

At that time, Jesus made the Disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds. And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone, but the Disciples' boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. But when the Disciples saw Jesus walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately He spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear." And Peter answered Him, "Lord, if it is Thee, bid me come to Thee on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out His hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "Truly, Thou art the Son of God." And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

WISDOM

The Spiritual Counsels of Fr. John of Kronstadt, on Thanksgiving:

With sincere Christians prayer is continual, because we continually sin; gratitude is perpetual, because every day, every moment, we receive fresh mercies from God, beside the old mercies, which are numberless. Praise is also perpetual, because we perpetually see the glory of God's works in ourselves and in the world, especially the glory of his infinite love towards us.

You have fallen of your own free-will, corrupted by sin: this ought to be your most powerful incentive to prayer. Daily you receive great mercy from God: this ought to be a powerful incentive to thank God. Daily you contemplate the works of God's omnipotence, wisdom and goodness: this also ought to be an incentive to daily praise.

How infinitely God loves men, and cares for them, having not spared even his only-begotten Son, whom he gave to save us, and to bring us to the heavenly kingdom. It is impossible not to praise God when you remember that you were created from nothing, that from the beginning of time you were predestined to eternal blessedness, entirely without cause, due to no merits of your own—when you remember what grace God has bestowed upon you throughout your live, that you may be saved, and what a countless multitude of sins are forgiven you, and this not once or twice, but time after time.

Thank God every day with your whole heart for having given to you life according to his image and likeness—an intelligently free and immortal life. Especially thank him for having restored you unto life eternal after you had fallen into eternal death, and for having so done not simply by his omnipotence, for this would not have been in conformity with his justice, but by giving his only-begotten Son to redeem us, who suffered for us even unto death. Thank Him also for bestowing new life upon you every day, upon you who have fallen countless times, of your own free-will, into sins, from life unto death, and for doing so as soon as you only say from your heart: Father, I have sinned against heaven and before thee!

Thank God also for often delivering you from sickness, you who imprudently throw yourself into danger and illness, the precursors of bodily death; for correcting your faults, and for not depriving you of earthly life, knowing that it is dear to you, and that you are not yet ready for the future life, life eternal. Thank him for all the means of existence, for all the joys and sorrows of life: for everything is from him, the all-merciful Father, the first origin of life, who has lent life to all.

Why should we thank God, and charitable persons, for everything? Primarily for our own benefit, to refine the feelings of our soul; to cultivate the feeling of dependence in all things upon God and good men, and grateful love towards them, and our inability to live without the help of kind people.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL TRAIN for Mackenzie Knoles (due date August 25): We would like to cover meals to help Mackenzie and her husband during the first two weeks after birth. Please contact Lavonne Ayoub at (208) 277-7889, or lavonne@lavonneayoub.com to be added as a meal provider. Once we have the meals planned it will be easy to implement once baby is born and Mackenzie is home. Thank you!

Assistance for Local Fire Victims: Jeane Wood is coordinating an effort to raise \$200 for a family whose apartment burned two days ago. During the fire, the heat caused something to malfunction in her Jeep and the ignition switch is not working and needs to be rekeyed, reprogrammed, or replaced. The mother has two special needs children, and the father is currently incarcerated, so having reliable transportation is important. If you can help, please contact Jeane at (208) 660-3046, or plastinowood@gmail.com

Vehicle Storage: In the long red barn next door is a white Ford car, and outside the barn is a blue Chevy pickup. If these are yours, or you know who they belong to, please contact Fr. Mark. If anyone is storing a boat, RV, or any other item next door, please touch base with Fr. Mark.

Appropriate Attire: Even though the hot weather is here, please dress modestly for Church. Adults and children alike, please do not wear shorts at any time in Church, even if cleaning. For the ladies, please remember to cover your shoulders (no spaghetti straps) and avoid short dresses and any excessive cleavage. If you are going somewhere after church where you need to dress casually, bring a change of clothing, and change after lunch. Remember, use your best judgment and good taste when dressing for Church. After all, you do not go to be seen by everyone else—you go to meet and worship God.

Help needed in the Cemetery: Anyone who wants to help with weeding, and general maintenance, please come! Thursday from 9:30am to noon. Bring your own tools, gloves, etc. See Eleni for details. Thank you!

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

St. John's IOCC August project 50 school-supply kits:

In most of the countries where IOCC works, there are children who do not have basic school supplies. Church World Service, collects school-supply kits, prepares them for shipment and works with IOCC and other partners to make sure kits reach children in need. We are collecting supplies to mail them by the end of August. There will be a box at church in the entry where supplies can be placed. Send questions to Jeane: plastinowood@gmail.com, (208) 660-3046.



Missing from the Narthex closet: One black inner cassock belonging to Reader David. If any clergy grabbed a cassock from the old Narthex closet, please double check you have the right one. Thank you! -Fr. Nicholas.

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.

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, August 21: Great Vespers 6pm

Sunday, August 22: Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9am

Wednesday, August 25: Vespers 6pm

Friday, August 27: Spiritual Circle 9:30am; Catechumen Class 6pm

Saturday, August 28: Great Vespers 6pm

Sunday, August 29, Beheading of St. John the Baptist: Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9am

EPISTLE READERS

8/22 Aaron Plew

8/29 TBD

9/5 TBD

9/12 TBD

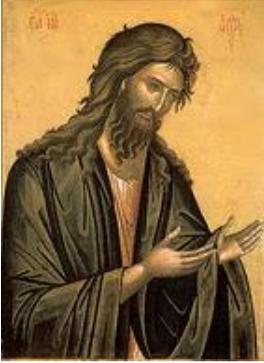
If you would like to read the Epistle, please contact Aaron Plew. Sign up: **Epistle Readers*



PRAYERS FOR THE LIVING: Kieran and fellow soldiers, Hay family, Family of Jean Weingand, Bill Sutherland, Marian, Douglas, Weaver family, John/Steven Wood, Khouria Joanna, 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: Jean, Andrew, Wanda (Lavonne Ayoub's mother), 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.

CONFESSIONS: Please remember to contact Fr. Mark to schedule confessions, even if you intend to confess after the evening services. This ensures that your confession is well prepared, and that everyone can be heard in an orderly fashion. Father is available to meet at the Church Tuesday through Saturday.



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.