

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

SEPTEMBER 19, 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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September 19, 2021

AFTER-FEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

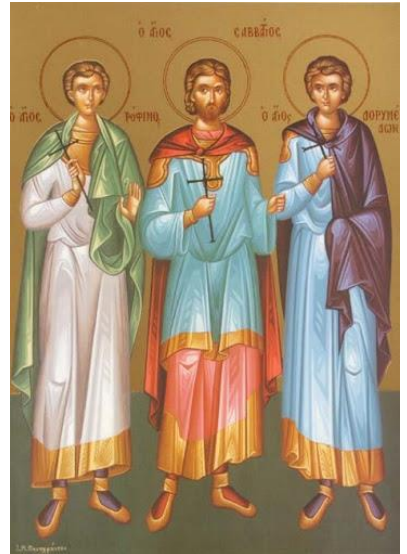
On September 19 in the Holy Orthodox Church we continue the celebration of the Elevation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross, and we commemorate the holy Martyrs Trophimos, Dorymedon and Savvatios.

*O Trophimos, Dorymedon and Savvatios, but one in spirit,
Ye are by sword and irons adorned with meed and trophies.
On the nineteenth fell Trophimos with fellow contenders.*

In 278, during the reign of Probus, Trophimos and Savvatios came to Antioch, and seeing the city celebrating the festival of Apollo at Daphne lamented the blindness of the people. They presented themselves as Christians to Atticus the Governor and refused to take part in the revelry. Atticus subjected each man to cruel tortures: Savvatios gave up his spirit during sufferings, but Trophimos was imprisoned in various places and beaten at each stop. At Synnada, Dorymedon, a counselor and a pagan, came to the prison and cared for Trophimos. When another pagan feast came, Dorymedon also refused to sacrifice to the idols, proclaimed himself a Christian, and was also imprisoned. The torturer ordered Trophimos and Dorymedon to be thrown to the wild beasts, but the animals would not touch them. They were eventually beheaded and all three martyrs now reign in Heaven.

On this day, we also commemorate the Hieromartyr Januarios of Benevento and his companions.

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



RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FOUR

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS IN TONE ONE

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

KONTAKION OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS IN TONE FOUR

Do Thou, Who of Thine own good will was lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow Thy bounties upon the new Nation which is called by Thy Name; make glad in Thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

THE EPISTLE

*How magnified are Thy works, O Lord. In wisdom hast Thou made them all.
Bless the Lord, O my soul.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (2:16-20)

Brethren, knowing that a person is not justified by the works of the Law, but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the Law; for by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified. But if, while we sought to be justified in Christ, we ourselves also were found sinners, is Christ then a minister of sin? God forbid! For if I build up again those things which I destroyed, I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself up for me.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (8:34-9:1)

The Lord said, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God come with power."

WISDOM

Nothing Strikes Fear in the Person Whose Hope is in God, by St. John Maximovitch

“Where can I go from Thy Spirit, and where can I escape from Thy presence? If I go up into heaven, Thou art there; if I go down into hades, Thou art present there. If I take up my wings toward the dawn, and make mine abode in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall Thy hand guide me, and Thy right hand shall hold me.” (Psalm 138: 7-10)

These divinely inspired words of the Psalmist David should be particularly in our thoughts during these days, when the entire world is literally quaking, and from every direction comes news of all kinds of distress, shocks and calamities. In vain do “the representatives of the nations consult in order to find a remedy for the common affliction. They encourage one another and others, saying, ‘peace, peace,’ when there is no peace.” (Jeremiah 6:14; 8:11) ...

It would seem that there is no place on the globe in recent times that remains a peaceful and calm haven from troubles in the world. Everything has become complicated: politically, economically, socially. “Danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brethren,” as the Apostle Paul wrote (2 Corinthians 11: 26). And to these dangers in our days we must add also, “danger in the air and danger from the sky,” which are especially frightful.

But when all the dangers listed by the Apostle Paul were endured by this glorious Chief of the Apostles, he had a great consolation. He knew that he was suffering for Christ and that Christ would reward him for these sufferings. “For I know Whom I have believed, and I am sure that He is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me” (2 Timothy 1: 12). ...

These current catastrophes are so terrible for us, because they have come upon us because we are not firm in the Faith, and because we are not enduring them for the sake of Christ. For that reason, we have no hope of receiving crowns for them. And what is even worse, and leaves us powerless in our efforts to counteract our misfortunes, is that we do not strengthen ourselves with the power of Christ. We put our hope, not in God, but in human powers and means. We forget the words of the Sacred Scriptures: “Put not your hope in princes, in the sons of men, in whom there is no salvation. Blessed is he whose hope is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God” Psalm 145: 3, 5). And again: “Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain; unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman keeps awake in vain” (Psalm 126: 1).

We keep trying to find a firm foundation apart from God. And so, we suffer what was foretold by the prophet: “This sin will become for you like the sudden collapse of the wall of a strong city under siege,” and which is then immediately vanquished (Isaiah 30: 13).

Woe to those who are leaning against those walls! Just as a collapsing wall crushes those who are leaning on it, in the same way, with the destruction of false hopes, all those who placed their trust in them will perish. Their hope will be like a “staff of reed.” “When they grasped you with the hand, you broke, and pierced their shoulders; and when they leaned upon you, you broke, and injured their loins” (Ezekiel 29: 7).

It is entirely different with those who seek the help of God. “God is our refuge and strength, our helper in the troubles that grievously befall us. So we will not fear though the earth should rock and mountains be hurled into the heart of the sea” (Psalm 45: 2-3). Nothing is fearful for the person whose hope is in God. He does not fear men who work evil. “The Lord is my light and my Savior: whom shall I fear? The Lord is the guard of my life; from whom shall I shrink?” (Psalm 26: 1).

The horrors of war are not fearful for him. “Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise against me, my hope is in Him” (Psalm 26: 3). He is calm when he lives at home. “He who dwells in the help of the Most High, will live in the protection of the God of Heaven” (Psalm 90: 1). He is ready to sail across the sea. “Thy ways are in the sea, and Thy paths in many waters” (Psalm 76: 20). ... He knows that if it pleases God to protect his life, “A thousand may fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand: but it will not come near you” (Psalm 90: 7).

Even death is not fearful for him, because, for the person whose life is Christ, death is gain (Philippians 1: 21). “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, ‘For Thy sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.’ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8: 35-39).

This is what the Lord says: “Loose the bonds of wickedness; forgive unjust debts; let the oppressed go free; tear up every unjust agreement. Share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house. When you see the naked, cover him, and do not mistreat your own people. Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and He will say, Here I am” (Isaiah 58: 6-9).

Lord, teach me to do Thy will and hear me on the day that I call upon Thee! May Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, for we have placed our hope in Thee.

-Humble John, Bishop of Shanghai, August 30, 1937, St. Alexander Nevsky

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Men's gathering: Next Thursday, September 23rd at 7pm, the men of St. John the Baptist Church will be gathering for fellowship, food, fun, and discussion, at the home of Paul Tate in Rathdrum (24406 N Teddy Loop, Rathdrum, ID 83858). More information to follow.

Sisterhood Dues: It is that time of year again for the Sisterhood to send in our dues to the diocese. The dues money is used for many benevolent projects. You may give me your dues of \$10. Each parish is expected to send their dues to the diocese by November 1. Thank you! Barbara Garbinski, Treasurer

Wanted! An experienced metal worker: to repair the bell clapper in our large bell outside the Temple. Please contact Fr. Mark or Fr. Nicholas if you, or someone you know, is able to help.

Kitchen news: The kitchen areas are being rearranged in effort to simplify agape meals and to meet the need for a place to keep tables and chairs. Many banquet items have been moved to the shed. Please cooperate by not leaving things in the kitchen. It might help to think "pack it in, pack it out" when setting up for anything. Thank you for your help! Contact Ignatius or Mary Chapman with any questions.

Preschool Registration Drive for Sunday School: Supplies are now being ordered, so if you have pre-school age children, please email Jeane Wood--plastinowood@gmail.com. (Even if you have signed up before, Jeane is asking that you email her to be sure she has everyone). If you have not had a chance to register the rest of your children, please use the sign-up sheet in the back of the Church or see Fr. Mark. Classes will be offered for everyone from preschool through 12th grade. Thank God we have over 60 signed up!

Snowplow for Saint Herman of Alaska and Saint Mary Magdalene Sketes: We are raising funds for a snowplow, winter tires and cables for the skete truck. The plow is \$7,500. Anyone wishing to donate may give a check or cash while visiting the skete or send a check to Saint Herman or Saint Mary Magdalene Skete, 4810 E 6th Ave, Spokane Valley, WA 99212. Donations may also be made via PayPal on our skete website. Please let us know that your donation is intended for the plow fund. Thank you for your prayers!! With love in Christ, Saint Herman of Alaska and Saint Mary Magdalene Sketes

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS [Calendar]

Saturday, September 18: Catechism 4:30pm; Great Vespers 6pm

Sunday, September 19: Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9am; Wedding of Marina Graham and David Fairbrother 4pm

Tuesday through Thursday, September 21 – 23: Deanery Retreat

Wednesday, September 22: *No Vespers*

Thursday, September 23: Men's Gathering at Tates' 7pm

Friday, September 24: Spiritual Circle 9:30am; Greek Festival

Saturday, September 18: *No Catechism*; Great Vespers 6pm

Sunday, September 19: Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9am

EPISTLE READER

9/19 Reader Silouan

9/26 Rob Schannep

10/3 Aaron Plew

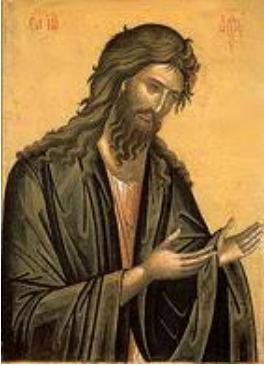
10/10 Paul Tate



PRAYERS FOR THE LIVING: Nick, Lindsey and their baby, Eugenia, Mary and Craig, Loren, Theo, Caitlin and Ben, 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), 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: Charalambos (Mary Welsh's father), Jean, Andrew, Wanda (Lavonne Ayoub's mother), Baby of Caitlin (Kh. Joanna's friend), 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.