

# 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 26, 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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Church Website: <http://www.stjohnorthodox.org>

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

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**September 26, 2021**

## **REPOSE OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST AND THEOLOGIAN**

On September 26 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Translation of the holy and glorious Apostle and Evangelist, Bosom-friend, Virgin and Beloved John the Theologian.

*Thou standest before the beloved Word of the Father,*

*Thou who art beloved above all the disciples.*

*On the twenty-sixth the Son of Thunder passed unto God.*

John was the son of Zebedee the fisherman and Salome the daughter of Joseph, the betrothed of the Holy Theotokos. Called by the Lord Jesus, John immediately left his father and his fishermen's nets and, with his brother James, followed Christ. From then on, he was not separated from his Lord until the end. With Peter and James, he was present at the raising of Jairus' daughter and the Transfiguration of the Lord. At the Last Supper, he inclined his head on Jesus' breast. When all the other apostles had abandoned the crucified Lord, John and the Holy Mother of God remained beneath the Cross. In obedience to the Lord, he was as a son to the Holy Virgin Mary, and carefully served and watched over her until her Dormition. John then lived and labored mostly in Ephesus. By his inspired preaching and miracles, he converted many to Christianity and shook paganism to its foundation. The embittered pagans bound him and sent him to Rome, to face Emperor Dometian, who had him tortured and flogged, which did him no harm. This terrified the emperor and, thinking him immortal, Dometian sent him into exile to the island of Patmos. There John converted many to Christianity by words and miracles, and confirmed well the Church of God. He also wrote his Gospel and Revelation on Patmos. He was over one hundred years old when he went to the Lord, and we celebrate the anniversary of his repose today.

*Through his intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.*

## **RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE**

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

## **APOLYTIKION OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST IN TONE TWO**

O Apostle John, beloved of Christ our God, hasten to deliver a defenseless people. He that allowed thee to recline on His breast receiveth thee bowing in intercession. Implore Him, O Theologian, to dispel the persistent cloud of the heathen, and ask for us His peace and Great Mercy.

## **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**

*His voice has gone out into all the earth. The heavens declare the glory of God.*

**The Reading from the First Epistle of St. John. (4:12-19)** Brethren, no one has ever seen God. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. And we have seen, and do testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love which God has for us. God is love; and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. In this is love perfected with us, that we may have boldness in the Day of Judgment; because as He is, even so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear has torment; but he who fears is not perfected in love. We love God, because He first loved us.

## **THE GOSPEL**

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (19:25-27; 21:24-25)**

At that time, standing by the Cross of Jesus were His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing near, He said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your Son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own. This is the disciple who is bearing witness to these things, and who has written these things; and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things, which Jesus did; were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

## WISDOM

### *The Spiritual Counsels of Father John of Kronstadt, “Despondency in Prayer”*

When you are praying, watch over yourself, so that not only your outward man prays, but your inward man also. Though you be sinful beyond measure, still pray. Do not heed the Devil, who will craftily provoke you to despair, but overcome and conquer his wiles. Remember the abyss of the Redeemer’s mercy and love to mankind. The Devil will represent the Lord’s face to you as terrible and unmerciful, rejecting your prayer and repentance, but do you remember the Lord’s own words: Him that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out; and again: Come unto me, all ye that labour, and are heavy laden—with sins and offences, and the wiles and lying slanders of the Devil—and I will give you rest.

When during prayer your heart is overwhelmed with despondency and melancholy, be sure that these proceed from the Devil, endeavouring by every means to hinder you in your prayer. Be firm, take courage, and by the remembrance of God drive away this deadly feeling.

During prayer there sometimes occur moments of deadly darkness and spiritual anguish arising from unbelief in the heart (for unbelief is darkness). Do not let your heart fail you at such moments, but remember that if the divine light has been cut off from you, it always shines in all its splendour in God himself, in his church, in heaven and on earth, and in the material world, in which his eternal power and Godhead are visible. Do not think that truth has failed, because truth is God himself, and everything that exists has its foundation and reason in him. Only your own weak sinful and darkened heart can fail in the truth, for it cannot always bear the strength of the light of truth, is often not capable of embracing its purity, except that it be from its sins, the first cause of spiritual darkness. The proof of this you may find in yourself. When the light of faith or God’s truth dwells in your heart, only then is it calm, firm, strong, and lively; but when this is cut off, then your heart becomes uneasy, weak as a reed shaken by the wind, and lifeless. Do not pay any attention to this darkness of Satan. Drive it away from your heart by making the sign of the life-giving cross.

When you are praying alone, and your spirit is dejected, and you are wearied and oppressed by your loneliness, remember then, as always, that God the Holy Trinity looks upon you with eyes brighter than the sun; and so do all the angels, including your own guardian, and all the saints of God. Truly they do; for they are all one in God, and where God is there are they also. Where the sun is, thither also are all its rays. Try to understand what this means. Bear in mind with whom you are conversing. Men often forget with whom they are conversing during prayer, and who are witnesses of their prayer.



You are praying, your prayer is successfully accomplished, and you have inward proof that the Lord hears it, and accepts it favourably; your thoughts are at peace, and you feel light of heart; yet at the end of your prayer, through some slight weakness of your heart and thoughts, a heavy burden falls on your heart, and you feel an extreme difficulty in praying, and even a strong dislike for it, instead of the former lightness and desire to pray. Do not despair; these are only the snares of the enemy, who loves to mock at us, particularly at the end of our employment in prayer, so that we may fall into despondency, and consider all our labours in that holy work lost.

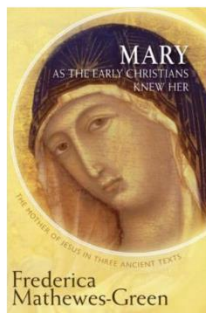
## ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN! BOOK CLUB BEGINS IN OCTOBER

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE 1ST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH.

PLACE: AYOUB'S  
3223 N CALLARY ST  
POST FALLS

TIME: 7 P.M-8:30 P.M.

DATE: OCT 21, 2021



*"MARY AS THE EARLY CHURCH KNEW HER"*

*Please see Kelly in the bookstore if you  
would like to order a book.*

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### OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP DATES:

NOV 6TH -LOCATION TBA

DEC 2ND - LOCATION TBA

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### "POP UP" ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

WATCH FOR FUN "POP-UP" ACTIVITIES  
THROUGH THE MONTH

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sunday School Picnic:** Tomorrow, 9/26, will be our first day of Sunday School/Christian Education. With it comes a *beginning of the school year picnic!* We will have a bouncy castle with an attached dry slide (too cold for the water slide). Additionally, we will have BBQ picnic food. We are asking for folks to bring a dessert dish or salad to share (or both if you desire), and any outdoor yard games.

If you have not registered your children yet, there is always time! We can take care of that on Sunday. Please see Jan Truebenbach or Jenny Jensvold.

## ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN FELLOWSHIP DATES AND ACTIVITIES

### **Sisterhood Book Club Begins in October**

October 21, 2021, 7 - 8:30pm

Lavonne Ayoub's home: 3223 N. Callary St., Post Falls, ID

BOOK: *Mary, As the Early Church New Her* by Fredricka Matthews-Green. Please see Kelly in the bookstore if you would like a copy of the book.

**Upcoming Women's Fellowship Gatherings** 6 - 8pm: November 6th- location TBA; December 2nd- location TBA

**Other Sisterhood Activities:** Watch for fun "pop-up" activities throughout the month!

**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

**Metal worker wanted!** 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.

**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 25:** *No Catechism*; Great Vespers 6pm

**Sunday, September 26, John the Theologian:** Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9am; Sunday School Picnic

**Wednesday, September 29:** Vespers 6pm

**Friday, September October 1:** Spiritual Circle 9:30am

**Saturday, October 2:** Catechism 4:30; Great Vespers 6pm

**Sunday, October 3:** Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9am

### EPISTLE READER {*Epistle Readers*}

9/26 Rob Schannep

10/3 Aaron Plew

10/10 Paul Tate

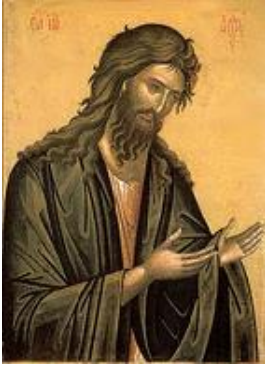
10/17 Reader Silouan



**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.*