



# 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 5, 2021**

## **PROPHET ZACHARIAH, FATHER OF THE FORERUNNER**

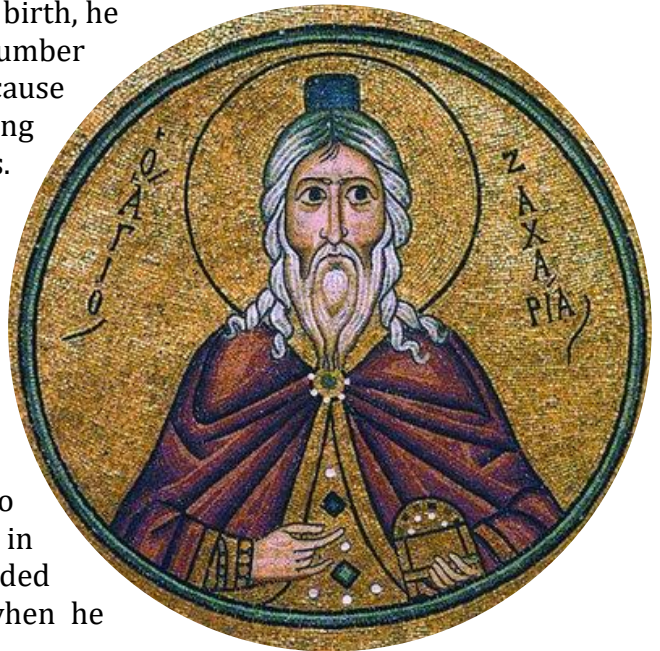
On September 5 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the glorious Prophet Zachariah, father of the Forerunner.

*For the Divine Lamb of God's sake, Zachariah*

*Is slain like a lamb in the midst of the temple.*

*On the fifth Zachariah lieth slain on the temple's floor.*

Herod and the Jews killed Zachariah between the temple and the altar (Matt. 23:35), first, because even after the Virgin Mary gave birth, he continued to refer to her as virgin and number her among the virgins; second, because Zachariah's son John was not found during the slaughter of the Innocents. Zachariah's wife Elizabeth had taken him and carefully hid him, while he was yet an infant, in an unnamed and hidden cave that sprung forth in her prayer to God. Zachariah's blood spilled over the marble and became as hard as stone, remaining as testament to Herod's wickedness. Forty days after Zachariah's death, blessed Elizabeth also entered into rest. The child John stayed in the wilderness, fed by an angel and guarded by God's providence, until that day when he appeared by the Jordan.



On this day, we also commemorate Obadiah, bishop of Persia; and the martyrdom of the Holy Passion-bearer Gleb.

*By the intercessions of Thy Saints, 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 OF THE PROPHET ZACHARIAH IN TONE FOUR**

In the vesture of a priest, according to the Law of God, \* thou didst offer unto Him well-pleasing whole-burnt offerings, \* as it befitted a priest, O wise Zachariah. \* Thou wast a shining light, a seer of mysteries, \* bearing in thyself clearly the signs of grace; \* and in God's temple, O wise Prophet \* of Christ God, thou wast slain with the sword. \* Hence, with the Forerunner, make entreaty that our souls find salvation.

### **KONTAKION OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR**

By thy holy nativity, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness; and Adam and Eve were delivered from the corruption of death; thy people do celebrate it, having been saved from the stain of iniquity, crying unto thee: The barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, who nourisheth our life.

### **THE EPISTLE**

*The Lord is my strength and my song. With chastisement hath the Lord chastened me.*

### **The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (9:2-12)**

Brethren, the seal of my apostleship are you in the Lord. My defense to those who would examine me is this: Do we have no authority regarding what to eat and what to drink? Do we have no authority to lead about a wife, who is a sister, as the rest of the apostles, even as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no authority to refrain from working? Which soldier ever served at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat the fruit thereof? Or who shepherds a flock and does not eat from the milk of the flock? Do I speak of these things according to human nature? Or does not the Law say the same also? For it is written in the Law of Moses: "Thou shalt not muzzle an ox which treads out the grain." Is it for oxen that God cares, or does He say it altogether for our sakes? Indeed, for our sakes it was written: because he who plows ought to plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope, so that the same might partake in hope. If we have sown in you spiritual things, is it a great matter if we should reap your carnal things? If others are partakers of this authority over you, are we not even more?

Nevertheless, we have not made use of this authority, but we endure all things, in order that we may cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ.

## **THE GOSPEL**

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (18:23-35)**

The Lord spoke this parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also My heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

## **WISDOM**

*St. Silouan the Athonite (Archimandrite Sophrony), “On the Mother of God”*

When the soul abides in the love of God—how good and gracious and festive all things are! But even with God’s love, sorrows continue and the greater the love, the greater the sorrow. Never by a single thought did the Mother of God sin, nor did she ever lose grace, yet vast were her sorrows; when she stood at the foot of the Cross her grief was as boundless as the ocean and her soul knew torment in comparably worse than Adam’s when he was driven from paradise, in that the measure of her love was beyond compare greater than the love which Adam felt when he was in paradise. That she remained alive was only because the Lord’s might sustained her, for it was His desire that she should behold His Resurrection, and live on after His Ascension to be the comfort and joy of the Apostles and the new Christian peoples. ...

What could I give our most holy sovereign Lady for coming to me and bringing enlightenment, instead of turning away in loathing for my sin? I did not behold her with

my eyes but the Holy Spirit gave me to know her through her words, which were filled with grace, and my spirit rejoices and my soul leaps to her in love, so that the mere invocation of her name is sweet to my heart. ...

My soul trembles and is afraid when I consider the glory of the Mother of God.

Small and of no account is my mind, poor and sickly my heart, but my soul rejoices and would fain set down if but a little concerning her.

My soul fears to touch upon this matter but love constrains me not to conceal my thankfulness for her compassion.

The Mother of God committed to writing neither her thoughts nor her love for God and her Son, nor her soul's suffering at the Crucifixion, because in any case we could not have understood, for her love for God is stronger and more ardent than the love of the Seraphim and Cherubim, and all the hosts of angels and archangels marvel at her.

And though the life of the Mother of God is hidden, as it were in holy silence, our Lord allows our Orthodox Church to know that she embraces the whole world in this love of hers, and in the Holy Spirit sees all the peoples of the earth, and like her Son pities all men and has compassion on them.

O, if we might only know the love of the most holy Mother of God for all who keep the commandments of Christ, and how she pities and sorrows over sinners who do not reform! I had experience of this myself. Of a truth I say, speaking before God, Whom my soul knoweth: in spirit I know the Most Pure Virgin. I never beheld her but the Holy Spirit gave me to know her and her love for us. Were it not for her compassion I would have perished long ago but she was minded to come to me and enlighten me, so that I should not sin. This is what she said: "It is painful for me to look upon thee, at what thou doest." And her words, soft, quiet and gentle, wrought upon my soul. Over forty years have gone by since then but my soul can never forget those sweet words, and I know not what return to make for such love towards my sinful self, nor how to give thanks to the good and forbearing Mother of God.

Verily is she our advocate before God, and alone the sound of her name rejoices the soul. But all heaven and earth, too, rejoice in her love.

Here is a wondrous thing which passes understanding: she dwells in heaven and ever beholds the glory of God, yet she does not forget us, poor wretches that we are, and spreads her compassion over the whole earth, over all peoples.

And this most pure Mother of His the Lord has bestowed on us. She is our joy and our expectation. She is our Mother in the spirit, and kin to us by nature, as a human being, and every Christian soul leaps to her in love.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Baby Marina arrived Wednesday, September 1!** Meal Train for Mackenzie Knoles: We would like to cover meals to help Mackenzie and her husband during the first two weeks. Please contact Lavonne Ayoub at (208) 277-7889, or [lavonne@lavonneayoub.com](mailto:lavonne@lavonneayoub.com) to be added as a meal provider. Thank you!

**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](mailto: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!

**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!

**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.

**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.

**Snowplow for Saint Herman of Alaska and Saint Mary Magdalene Sketes:** We are starting to raise funds for a snowplow and winter tires and cables for the skete truck. The plow is \$7,500. It will be used for plowing our driveway, roads, and parking areas. 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 be sure to 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 4:** Catechism 4:30pm; Great Vespers 6pm

**Sunday, September 5:** Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9am

**Tuesday, September 7:** Great Vespers and Orthros for Nativity of the Theotokos 6pm

**Wednesday, September 8:** Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of the Theotokos 6am; *No Vespers*; Parish Council 7pm

**Friday, September 10:** Spiritual Circle 9:30am

**Saturday, September 11:** Catechism 4:30pm; Great Vespers 6pm

**Sunday, September 12:** Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9am

## EPISTLE READERS

9/5 Rob Schannep

9/12 Riley Chapman

9/19 Reader Silouan

9/26 Rob Schannep

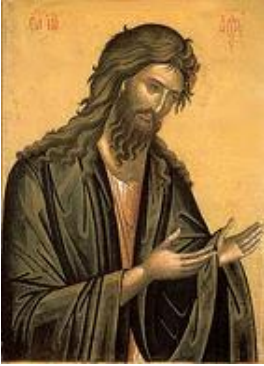
*\*If you would like to read the Epistle, please contact Aaron Plew. Sign up: **Epistle Readers***



**PRAYERS FOR THE LIVING:** 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), 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), 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.*