

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

OCTOBER 17, 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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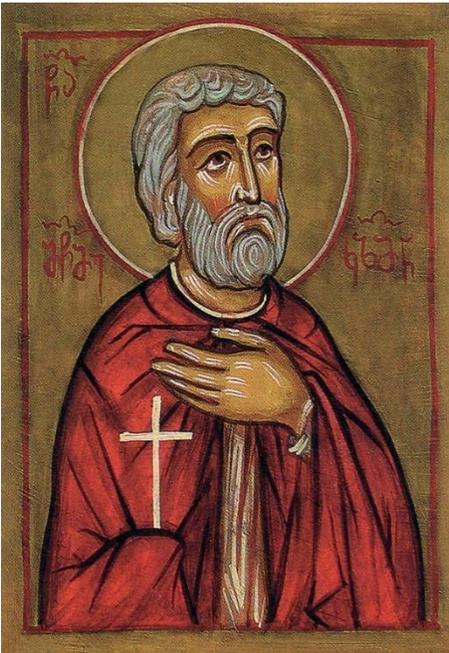
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OCTOBER 17, 2021

HOLY FATHERS OF THE SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL



On October 17 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy and glorious Prophet Hosea; and Venerable-martyr Andrew of Crete.

On this day we commemorate the holy and blessed Fathers who came together for the second time in Nicaea, during the reign of the pious and Christ-loving Sovereigns Constantine and Irene, against those who impiously, ignorantly and foolishly asserted that the Church of God worshippeth idols, and rejected the august and holy icons.

*Thy champions, O Word, with words as their weapons,
Turn to flight the foes of the venerable icons.*

The Council met in 787 to refute the Iconoclast heresy, whose camp believed that all depictions of Christ, His Mother and the saints should be destroyed. The iconophiles believed that icons served to preserve the doctrinal teachings of the Church; and they considered icons to be man's dynamic way of expressing the divine through art and beauty. The council decreed that the veneration of icons was not idolatry (Exodus 20:4-5), because the honor shown to them is not directed to the wood or paint, but passes to the prototype, or the person depicted. It also upheld the possibility of depicting Christ, Who became man and took flesh at His Incarnation. The Father, on the other hand, cannot be represented in His eternal nature, because "no man has seen God at any time" (John 1:18).

By the intercessions of the Holy Fathers, 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 HOLY FATHERS IN TONE EIGHT

Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise Who didst establish our Holy Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through them didst guide us unto the true Faith, O most merciful One, glory to Thee.

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

Blessed are Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.

For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done to us.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to St. Titus. (3:8-15)

Titus, my son, faithful is the saying, and concerning these things I desire you to affirm confidently, that those who have believed in God may be thoughtful of how to preside in honorable occupations. These things are good and profitable to men. But avoid foolish disputes, and genealogies, and contentions, and controversies about the Law; for they are unprofitable and vain. A man who is a heretic after the first and second admonition reject, knowing that such a one is subverted, and sins, being self-condemned. When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicós, give diligence to come to me to Nicopolis; for I have determined to winter there. Set forward Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey diligently, that they may be lacking in nothing. And let our people also learn how to preside in honorable occupations, so as to help in cases of urgent need, that they should not be unfruitful. All who are with me salute you. Salute those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (8:5-15)

The Lord spoke this parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." And when His Disciples asked Him what this parable meant, Jesus said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience." As Jesus said this, He called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

WISDOM

Through the incarnation of the Word the all-holy Virgin has been given to us as an all-powerful intercessor, who protects us from sins, misfortunes and disasters, praying for us day and night, our queen whose power no enemy—visible or invisible—can withstand, truly our mother by grace in accordance with the words uttered by Christ on the cross to the beloved disciple: *Behold thy mother!* And to her: *Behold thy son!*

... Truly she is most holy, firm, steadfast, immovable, unchangeable through all eternity in her most exalted God-given holiness; for the all-perfect God, her Son, has made her also all-perfect, on account of her great humility, of her love of purity and of the source of purity—God, of her entire abandonment of the world and entire attachment to the heavenly kingdom, and above all because she gave herself to him to be his Mother, bore him in her womb, and afterwards in her immaculate arms, nourished him with her immaculate milk—him, who feeds all creatures!—cared for him, caressed him, suffered and sorrowed for him, shed tears for him, lived her whole life for him alone, and was wholly absorbed in his Spirit, one heart and one soul with him, one holiness with him! How exalted, how wondrous, is the unity in love and holiness of the immaculate Virgin Mary with her Divine Son, the Lord Jesus Christ!

He who has adorned the heavens with stars, could he not still more beautifully adorn his chosen heaven, the immaculate Virgin his Mother? He who has adorned the earth with many coloured and fragrant flowers, could he not adorn his earthly Mother with all the flowers of virtue, making her fragrant with all spiritual perfumes? She is the temple of the Godhead, adorned with every beauty, and more fragrant than all earthly perfumes, may God in his mercy, at the prayers of his immaculate Mother, adorn me, who am disfigured by sin: may he make me, the unclean, fragrant.

... It was for our sake that the Lord was incarnate, suffered even unto the death of the cross, and rose from the dead. It was for our sake also that he adorned his Mother, the immaculate Virgin Mary, with all virtues, and endued her with every divine power, so that she, the most merciful, the most perfect, should be, after himself, everything to us. And therefore let us not waste God's grace with which our Lady is filled. Let us come with boldness and trust to the immaculate Virgin, ever-helpful, ever-protecting. If sins trouble us, let us pray to her, that she may cleanse us with the hyssop of her prayers from every impurity of flesh and spirit.

... If foes surround you, and you are in spiritual distress, call at once upon our most holy Lady. She is queen in order that she may reign, by her sovereign power, over the powers that oppose us, and may mightily succor us, for we are her inheritance.

When you are about to pray to our Lady, be firmly assured that you will not depart from her without mercy. It is meet and right so to think, so to have confidence in her. She is the all-merciful Mother of the all-merciful God, and her merciful gifts—incalculably great, innumerable—have been declared from all ages by the Church. To pray to her without such assurance would be foolish and insolent, for such doubt would offend her goodness, just as God's goodness is offended when people pray to him without hoping to get what they pray for.

When you feel yourself to be an ungodly, impure, wicked blasphemous sinner, and therefore unworthy to draw near to our Lady and pray to her, then is the very time to pray fervently to her, just because you feel yourself such a sinner. Do not sink in the mire of sin, but come to our Lady, stand before her image in sure hope of her presence, show her your sinful sores without shame, and your loathing for them and ask her to cleanse you from this spiritual leprosy—you will not be put to shame. The all-merciful one will not despise you, the immaculate and most speedy helper will cleanse you, as the Lord himself cleansed the ten lepers.

When you look upon the image of the Mother of God, with her Eternal Child, marvel how most truly the Godhead was united with human nature, glorify God's omnipotent goodness, and recognising your own dignity as man live worthily of your high calling in Christ—the calling of a child of God, an inheritor of eternal bliss.

Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee! So does holy Church address the all-holy Virgin Mother of God. But the Lord is also with every devout soul that believes in him; it is not only with her that he abides: *The Lord is with thee*—these words may be addressed to everyone who keeps the Lord's commandment.

-From *The Spiritual Counsels of Father John of Kronstadt*, ed. W. J. Grisbrooke

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS! And may God grant many years to the newly baptized: *John, Cassian, Nicholas, and Theophan!*

Lunch Teams have been established: 1st Sunday: Sarah Plew's team, 2nd Sunday: Joy Corey's team, 3rd Sunday: Lisa Gencarella's team, 4th Sunday: Riley Chapman's team, and 5th Sunday: potluck. We will begin the monthly rotation starting next Sunday, October 24 (the 4th Sunday). Please contact Ignatius/Riley Chapman if you have any questions.

The Men's Fellowship that was scheduled for Thursday, October 21, has been rescheduled for *Monday, October 18, at 7pm*. Tim Peterson will be hosting and providing the burgers. Please bring a side dish to share. Tim's address is: 6545 E. Buckboard Rd, Coeur d' Alene, ID 83814

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN FELLOWSHIP DATES AND ACTIVITIES

Sisterhood Book Club Begins in October: October 21, 2021, 7 - 8:30pm, at Lavonne Ayoub's home: 3223 N. Callary St., Post Falls, ID. BOOK: *Mary, As the Early Church Knew 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

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.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS *{Calendar}*

Saturday, October 16: Great Vespers 6pm

Sunday, October 17: Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9am; Baptism of Cassian, Nicolas & Theophan (*God grant you many years!*)

Monday, October 18: Men's Fellowship 7pm

Wednesday, October 20: Vespers & Catechism 6pm

Thursday, October 21: Women's Fellowship Night 7pm

Friday, October 22: Spiritual Circle 9:30am

Saturday, October 23: Great Vespers 6pm

Sunday, October 24: Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9am

EPISTLE READER *{Epistle Readers}*

10/17 Reader Silouan

10/24 Paul Tate

10/31 David Gencarella

11/7 TBD (Reader needed)

LUNCH TEAMS

10/17 Lane, Tate, and Schannep families

10/24 Chapmans

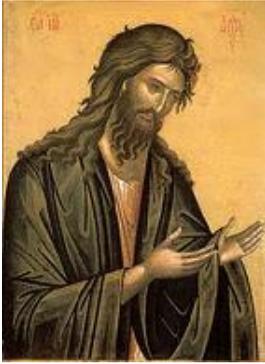
10/31 Potluck

11/7 Sarah Plew

PRAYERS FOR THE LIVING: Mark & Muriel (Kaitlin), Nick, Lindsey and their baby, Eugenia, Mary and Craig, Loren, Theo, Caitlin and Ben, Kieran and fellow soldiers, Hay family, Family of Jean Weingand, 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.