

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

OCTOBER 24, 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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OCTOBER 24, 2021

GREAT-MARTYR ARETHAS (AL-HAARITH) & COMPANIONS IN ARABIA

On October 24 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy, glorious and right-victorious Great-martyr Arethas (al-Haarith), Abraham, Ruhayma, Habsa, Hayya, Hayya, and the multitude martyred with them in Najran of Arabia Felix (present-day Yemen) in the year 524.

*Martyr Arethas offered God, when beheaded, multitudinous Martyrs beheaded likewise.
On the twenty-fourth thou wast felled with thy friends, O Arethas.*

When Dhu Nuwas, ruler of the Himyarite tribe in southern Arabia, and a Judaizer, took power, he sought to blot out Christianity, especially at Najran. Led by Arethas—who was 95 years old—thousands of martyrs, including women, children, and babies, valiantly withstood his threats, and were beheaded and burned. After Arethas and the men had been slain, all the free-born Christian women of Najran were brought before the tyrant and commanded to reject Christ or die; yet they rebuked the persecutor with such boldness that he said even the men had not insulted him so viciously. The Ethiopian King Elesbaan—whom we also commemorate today—liberated Najran from Dhu Nuwas soon after and raised up churches in honor of the Martyrs. Najran became a place of pilgrimage until the rise of Islam a century later. At the end of his life King Elesbaan, who was also called Caleb, retired into solitude as a hermit.



On this day, we also commemorate the Martyr Sebastiana of Heraclea.

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

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE ONE

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. ARETHAS (AL-HAARITH) & COMPANIONS IN TONE ONE

Be Thou entreated for the sake of the sufferings of Thy Saints which they endured for Thee, O Lord, and do Thou heal all our pains, we pray, O Friend of man.

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

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (9:6-11)

Brethren, the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Let each one do according to what he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly, or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you; that you, having always all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work. As it is written: "He has scattered abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever"; now He, who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food, will supply and multiply your seed for sowing, and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in all things for every generosity, which works through us thanksgiving to God.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (8:26-39)

At that time, Jesus arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And as He stepped out on land, there met Him a man from the city who had demons; for a long time he had worn no clothes, and he lived not in a house but among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, and said with a loud voice, "What hast Thou to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beseech Thee, do not torment me." For Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. [For many a time it had seized him; he was kept under guard, and bound with chains and fetters, but he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the desert.] Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. And they begged Jesus not to command them to depart into the abyss. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside; and they begged Jesus to let them enter these. So He gave them leave. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled, and told it in the city and in the country. Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. And those who had seen it told them how he who had been possessed with demons was healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gadarenes asked Jesus to depart from them; for they were seized with great fear; so He got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with Jesus; but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare all that God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city all that Jesus had done for him.

WISDOM

A boy was watching his grandfather writing a letter. At one point he asked, "Are you writing a story about what we've done? Or is it a story about me?"

His grandfather stopped writing his letter, smiled and said to his grandson, "I am writing about you, actually, but more important than the words is the pencil I'm using. I'd like you to be like this pencil when you grow up."

Intrigued, the boy looked at the pencil. It didn't seem very special. "But it's just like any other pencil I've ever seen!"

"That depends on how you look at things. It has five qualities which, if we manage to keep, will make us always be at peace with the world. First, you are capable of great things, but you must never forget that there is a hand guiding our steps. We call that hand God, and He always guides us according to His will. Second, every now and then, I have to stop

writing and use a sharpener. That makes the pencil suffer a little, but afterwards, it's much sharper. So you, too, must learn to bear certain pains and sorrows, because they will make you a better person. Third, the pencil always allows us to use an eraser to rub out any mistakes. This means that correcting something we did is not necessarily a bad thing; what it matters is that we should keep our way straight. Fourth, what really matters in a pencil is not its wooden exterior, but the graphite inside. So always pay attention to what is happening inside you. Finally, the pencil's fifth quality, it always leaves a mark. In the same way, you should know that everything you do in life will leave a mark, so try to be aware of your every deed."

[The parable of the pencil – AthoniteTestimony.com](http://AthoniteTestimony.com)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POTLUCK THIS SUNDAY! *Temporary change in the Lunch-Team schedule:* This Sunday (the 4th of the month) will be Potluck. Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share. Next Sunday, October 31, will be Chapman's Team. Our regular Lunch-Team schedule will resume in November:

1st Sunday: Sarah Plew's team

2nd Sunday: Joy Corey's team

3rd Sunday: Lisa Gencarella's team

4th Sunday: Riley Chapman's team

5th Sunday: potluck

Please contact Ignatius/Riley Chapman if you have any questions.

Our Metropolitan Archbishop will be in the Pacific Northwest area from November 5th through the 14th. Saturday, 11/13, he will be visiting Christ the Savior in Spokane Valley, WA for Hierarchical Orthros & Divine Liturgy. Orthros is scheduled for 9am followed by the Divine Liturgy about 10am. All are invited. All area Antiochian clergy will be in attendance and will have a local clergy meeting immediately afterward. His Eminence is NOT scheduled to visit St. John the Baptist this year. Sunday, 11/14, Metropolitan JOSEPH will be at Holy Myrrhbearers in Bonners Ferry for Hierarchical Orthros and Divine Liturgy. *ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH WILL BE OPEN FOR SERVICES AS USUAL THAT SUNDAY.*

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 23, James the Apostle, Brother of our Lord: Great Vespers 6pm

Sunday, October 24: Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9am; POTLUCK LUNCH 11:30am

Wednesday, October 27: Vespers & Catechism 6pm

Friday, October 29: Spiritual Circle 9:30am

Saturday, October 30: Great Vespers 6pm

Sunday, October 31: Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9am, Robertson Baptism

EPISTLE READER {<i>Epistle Readers</i>}		LUNCH TEAM	
10/24	Paul Tate	10/24	POTLUCK
10/31	David Gencarella	10/31	Chapman's Team
11/7	TBD (Reader needed)	11/7	Sarah Plew's Team
11/14	Paul Tate	11/14	Joy Corey's Team

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.

October '21

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

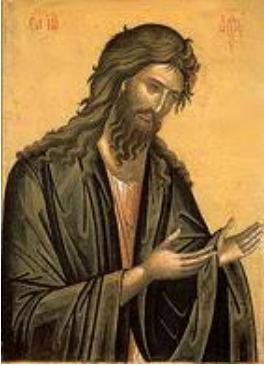
St. John the Baptist

November 2021

December '21

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Orthros and Divine Liturgy 9am	1	2	3 Vespers & Catechism 6pm	4 Joannicius the Great	5 Metropolitan JOSEPH Visits PNW Deanery	6 Great Vespers 6pm
7 Daylight Savings	8 Synaxis of Archangels	9 St. Nektarius	10	11 Veterans Day	12 St. John the Merciful	13 St. John Chrysostom
Orthros and Divine Liturgy 9am	Metropolitan JOSEPH Visits PNW Deanery (Locations Listed Below Each Day)	Vespers & Parish Council 6pm (No Catechism)	Vespers & Parish Council 6pm (No Catechism)			Hierarchical Orthros/Liturgy @ CTS Great Vespers 6pm
St. Paul Lynwood	Holy Cross Yakima	(Yakima)	Prophet Elijah Ellensburg	3 Holy Hierarchs Wenatchee	Joachim/Anna Goldendale	
14 St. Philip the Apostle	15 Nativity Fast Begins	16 Apostle Matthew	17 Gregory the Wonderworker	18	19	20 Great Vespers & Litia 6pm
Orthros and Divine Liturgy 9am			Vespers & Catechism 6pm			
Holy Myrrhbeaters ID						
21 Entrance Theotokos	22	23	24	25 Thanksgiving	26	27 Great Vespers 6pm
Orthros and Divine Liturgy 9am			Akathist of Thanksgiving 6pm No Catechism			
28	29	30 Apostle Andrew	1	2	3	4 Martyr Barbara
Orthros and Divine Liturgy 9am						
5	6 Nicholas of Myra	Legend for Fasting Days: Abstain from meat, fish, dairy, eggs, alcohol, olive oil Abstain from meat, fish, dairy, eggs Abstain from meat, dairy, eggs Abstain from meat			https://stjohnorthodox.org email: priestmark@stjohnorthodox.org	



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.