

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

NOVEMBER 28, 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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Member Directory: <https://stjohnorthodox.org/directory.html> u: Faithful p: TheWay

NOVEMBER 28, 2021

VENERABLE-MARTYR STEPHEN THE NEW MARTYR IRINARCHOS OF SEBASTE AND THOSE WITH HIM

On November 28 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Venerable-martyr Stephen the New.

*Wounded, O Stephen, in the head with a cudgel,
A crown which never groweth old thou rightly foundest.
On the twenty-eighth the head of Stephen the New was crushed.*

As aforetime Hannah the mother of Samuel, so Anna the mother of Stephen prayed God to give her a son. When Anna had conceived Stephen, she asked the newly-elected Patriarch Germanus to bless the babe in her womb. He said, "May God bless him through the prayers of the holy First Martyr Stephen." At that moment Anna saw a flame of fire issue from the mouth of the holy Patriarch. Stephen struggled in asceticism from his youth in Bithynia at the Monastery of Saint Auxentius, and helped many who came to him. During the reign of Constantine Copronymus, Stephen showed his love of Orthodoxy in contending for the Faith. Besides being a fierce Iconoclast, Constantine raised up a ruthless persecution of monasticism. He held a council in 754 that anathematized the holy icons. Because Stephen rejected this council, the Emperor framed false accusations against him and exiled him. Nevertheless, Stephen performed healings with holy icons and turned many away from Iconoclasm. Later, he was stoned, like Stephen the First Martyr; wherefore he is called Stephen the New. Finally, he was struck with a wooden club on the temple and his head was shattered, and thus he gave up his spirit in the year 767.

On this day, we also commemorate the Martyr Irinarchos of Sebastia and those with him.

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

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SIX

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. STEPHEN THE NEW IN TONE FOUR

Trained on the mountain in ascetical-labors, * with the whole armor of the Cross thou didst vanquish * the spiritual arrays of unseen enemies; * and when thou hadst stripped thyself * with great courage for contest, * thou didst slay Copronymus * with the sword of the true Faith. * For both these things hast thou been crowned by God, * O righteous Martyr, blest Stephen of great renown.

KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY IN TONE THREE

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to * God the Word ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing * the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him * Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.



THE EPISTLE

*O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.
Unto Thee, O Lord, will I cry, O my God.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (2:4-10)

Brethren, God, being rich in mercy, through His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead through the trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you are saved—and raised us up together with Him, and made us to sit together with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages He would show the exceeding riches of His grace, in kindness toward us, in Christ Jesus. For by grace you are saved through faith, and that is not of yourselves: it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (18:18-27)

At that time, a man came testing Jesus and asking, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery. Do not kill. Do not steal. Do not bear false witness. Honor your father and mother.'" And the man said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the man heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus, seeing him sad, said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

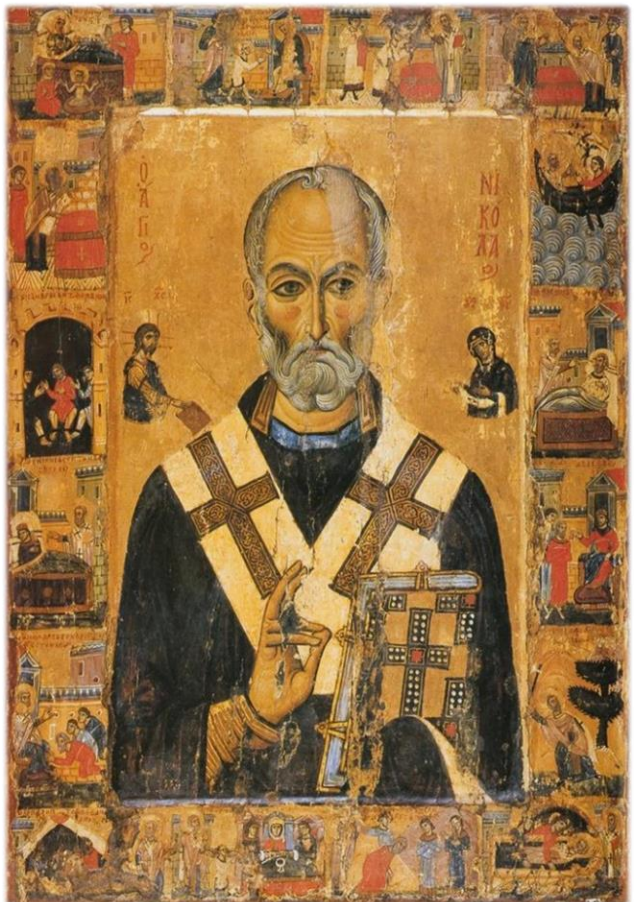
Come celebrate Archbishop St. Nicholas of Myra!

On Saturday, December 4th at the Church from 11am to 1pm, we will celebrate the remembrance of St. Nicholas with a tree decorating & pizza party. Each family is encouraged to bring a dozen ornaments for the tree.

St. Nicholas was a 4th century Archbishop who is known for his care for the poor. By his intercessions O Lord, may we humbly emulate his way of life.

Want to learn more about St. Nicholas? Click here:

[St. Nicholas Center](#)



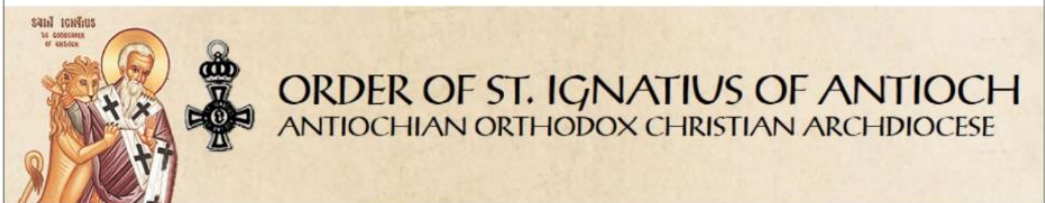
December is Order of St. Ignatius Month (Dec. 20).

Each year the Order picks a "project" and this year we have decided to raise money for new robes for altar boys. During coffee hour in December, we will be selling pastries, which make perfect Christmas gifts for neighbors and friends. To find out what other projects the Order sponsors, please read more here: [ORDER OF ST. IGNATIUS](#)

Our Guiding Principle

Let no man's place, or dignity, or riches, puff him up; and let no man's low condition or poverty abase him. For the chief points are faith towards God, hope towards Christ, the enjoyment of those good things for which we look, and love towards God and our neighbor.

- Saint Ignatius of Antioch



If you have questions about the order or if you are interested in joining, please speak with any of the following members: Khouria Malvi, Jeane Wood, Tabitha Townsend, Allyson Gross, David and Lisa Gencarella, Jeff and Jenny Tecca, Jan Truebenbach, and Sbdcn. David Angelich.

Stay tuned for more information about ways to get involved and consider becoming a member of the order yourself. [ORDER OF ST. IGNATIUS VIDEO](#)

Throughout the month, the members of the Order are asked to read the Epistle, pass the collection baskets, stand as greeters, and more. The following members have signed up to read the Epistle on each Sunday of December:

DECEMBER 5TH - LISA GENCARELLA

DECEMBER 19TH - READER DAVID GENCARELLA

DECEMBER 12TH - TABITHA TOWNSEND

DECEMBER 26TH - KH.MALVI NEYMAN

Antiochian Women's Social: POTLUCK

Date: December 2nd

Time: 7 PM – 9 PM

Location: Terri Izzy's Home,
842 N. Chase Road, Unit 102,
Post Falls, ID

PARKING INSTRUCTIONS: *Please park on Chase Street so as not to utilize the residents' parking spaces.*

842 is the South Bldg. Thank you! We look forward to seeing you there!

WISDOM

That the one whom you dislike and criticize is really a co-sufferer:

"It is a fearful thing to hate whom God has loved. To look upon another—his weaknesses, his sins, his faults, his defects—is to look upon one who is suffering. He is suffering from negative passions, from the same sinful human corruption from which you yourself suffer. This is very important: do not look upon him with the judgmental eyes of comparison, noting the sins you assume you'd never commit. Rather, see him as a fellow sufferer, a fellow human being who is in need of the very healing of which you are in need. Help him, love him, pray for him, do unto him as you would have him do unto you."

- St. Tikhon of Zadonsk (+1783)

Akathist of Thanksgiving: "Glory to God for All Things!"

-from Ikos 5

Priest: I see Thy heavens resplendent with stars. How glorious art Thou, radiant with light! Eternity watcheth me by the rays of the distant stars. I am small, insignificant, but the Lord is at my side. Thy right arm guideth me wherever I go:

- + Glory to Thee, ceaselessly watching over me; glory to Thee for the encounters Thou dost arrange for me.
- + Glory to Thee for the love of parents, for the faithfulness of friends.
- + Glory to Thee for the humbleness of the animals which serve me.
- + Glory to Thee for the unforgettable moments of life; glory to Thee for the heart's innocent joy.
- + Glory to Thee for the joy of living moving and being able to return Thy love.
- + Glory to Thee, O God, from age to age!

Choir: Glory to Thee, O God, from age to age!

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS *{Calendar}*

Saturday, November 27: Great Vespers 6pm

Sunday, November 28: Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9am

Wednesday, December 1: Vespers & Catechism 6pm

Thursday, December 2: Antiochian Women's Social (Potluck) 7pm

Friday, December 3: Spiritual Circle 9:30am

Saturday, December 4: St. Nicholas Commemoration & Tree Decorating 11am; Great Vespers 6pm

Sunday, December 5: Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9am

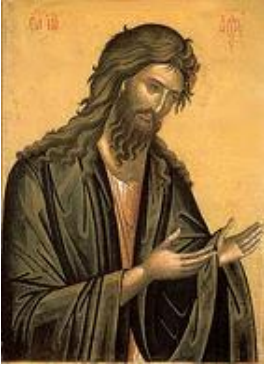
	EPISTLE READER <i>{Sign Up}</i>	LUNCH TEAM
11/28	Paul Tate	Ignatius Chapman's Team
12/5	Lisa Gencarella	Sarah Plew's Team
12/12	Tabitha Townsend	Joy Corey's Team
12/19	Reader David Gencarella	Lisa Gencarella's Team

PRAYERS FOR THE LIVING: John/Steven Wood, Fr. Jeremiah Vollman, Lilly & the children & mothers of the Hogar in Guatemala, 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: Andrew Mulford, Ernest (Kh. Mona's Father), 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.