

# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

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DECEMBER 12, 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

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**DECEMBER 12, 2021**

## **SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS OF CHRIST & SPYRIDON, BISHOP OF TRIMYTHOUS, THE WONDERWORKER**

On December 12 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate John, metropolitan of Zichnon; and Hieromartyr Alexander, archbishop of Jerusalem.

On this day, we commemorate our righteous Father Spyridon the Wonderworker, Bishop of Trimythous in Cyprus.

*Though Spyridon hath died, that worker of wonders,  
Ye he hath not ceased from working still more wonders.  
On the twelfth, Spyridon departed this life.*

Spyridon was of simple farming stock, and remained simple and humble to the end of his days. He married young and had children, but, when his wife died, he devoted himself entirely to the service of God. When he became Bishop of Trimythous, Spyridon did not change his simple style of life, taking charge of his cattle himself and tilling his own land. He consumed very little of his own produce, giving the greater part to the poor. Spyridon performed great wonders by God's power, making rain fall in a drought, stopping the course of a river, raising several of the dead, healing the Emperor Constans of a grave sickness, seeing and hearing angels, foreseeing future events and penetrating the secrets of the human heart. Spyridon was present at the first Ecumenical Council in Nicaea in 325, and, by his simple and clear expositions of the Faith, as well as by convincing miracles, brought back many heretics to Orthodoxy. He entered into rest in the Lord in 348, and his wonderworking relics now lie on the island of Corfu.

On this day we celebrate the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers (Ancestors) of our Lord Jesus.

*Receive joy, O Forefathers which lived aforetime,  
As now ye behold at hand Christ the Messiah.  
Be glad, O Abraham, for thou art shown to be the forefather of Christ.*

We remember all the holy Patriarchs of the Old Testament who prefigured or foretold Christ: Adam the first Father, Enoch, Melchizedek, Abraham, the friend of God, Isaac, the fruit of the Promise, Jacob and the twelve patriarchs. We then commemorate those who lived under the Law: Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Samuel, David, and the Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel; the twelve minor prophets; Elijah, Elisha, Zachariah, and John the Baptist; and finally the Virgin Mary, the intermediary between mankind and her divine Son. Indeed, the Lord Jesus did not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to redeem humanity which bemoaned the weight of evil since Adam; to realize the promise made to Abraham; to change the Law of Fear into the Law of Love; and to give Resurrection and Life to mankind. This feast prepares us for the Nativity of Jesus Christ, placing before us the anticipation and hope for His coming among us.

*By the intercessions of Thy Saints, 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 FOREFATHERS IN TONE TWO**

Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and it was she who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

### **APOLYTIKION OF ST. SPYRIDON IN TONE ONE**

Thou wast shown forth as a champion of the First Council and a wonderworker, O Spyridon, our God-bearing Father. Wherefore, thou didst speak unto one dead in the grave, and didst change a serpent to gold. And while chanting thy holy prayers, thou hadst Angels serving with thee, O most sacred one. Glory to Him that hath glorified thee. Glory to Him that hath crowned thee. Glory to Him that worketh healings for all through thee.

### **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**

*The saints shall boast in glory. Sing unto the Lord a new song.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (5:8-19)**

Brethren, walk as children of light—for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth—proving what is acceptable to the Lord; and have no communion with the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them; for it is a shame even to speak of the things which they do in secret. But all things when they are exposed are made manifest by the light, for everything that is made manifest is light. Therefore, he says: “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine upon thee.” See then that you walk circumspectly, not as unwise, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit; speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and chanting in your heart to the Lord.

## **THE GOSPEL**

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (14:16-24)**

The Lord spoke this parable: “A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for all is now ready.’ But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.’ And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

## **WISDOM**

*This Nativity night bestowed peace on the whole world;*

*So let no one threaten;*

*This is the night of the Most Gentle One – Let no one be cruel;*

*This is the night of the Humble One – Let no one be proud.*

*Now is the day of joy – Let us not revenge;*

*Now is the day of Good Will – Let us not be mean.*

*In this Day of Peace – Let us not be conquered by anger.  
Today the Bountiful impoverished Himself for our sake;  
So, rich one, invite the poor to your table.  
Today we receive a Gift for which we did not ask;  
So let us give alms to those who implore and beg us.  
This present Day cast open the heavenly doors to our prayers;  
Let us open our door to those who ask our forgiveness.  
Today the DIVINE BEING took upon Himself the seal of our humanity,  
In order for humanity to be decorated by the Seal of DIVINITY.*

— St. Isaac Syrian, Nativity Sermon

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

As of this afternoon (Dec. 11) Father Nicholas will be on Hospice care at home so he may pass in peace surrounded by family. Please pray for a peaceful passing. ***May our Lord have mercy on his servant the Archpriest Nicholas.***

**Honey for the Temple:** A supply of local honey harvested from our own property is currently available for sale ; 1lb for \$12 and 8oz for \$8 with 100% of the proceeds towards the new temple fund.

## **TEENS AND FAMILIES ICE SKATING:**

*Join us this Sunday, Dec. 12th.*

We are meeting at McEuen Park at 3:00, skating begins at 3:15 pm.

There will be a reserved igloo and 2 tables.



CDA On Ice, 504 E. Front Ave, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814 ; (208)428-4628

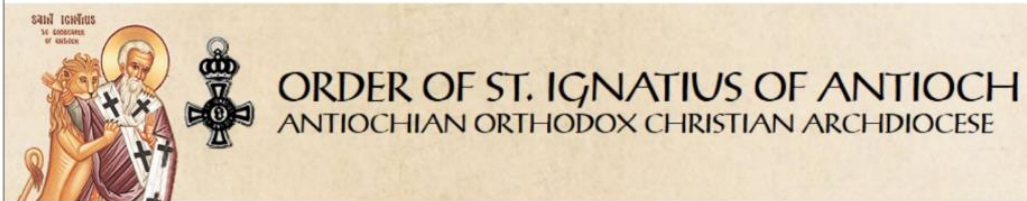
## December is Order of St. Ignatius Month (Dec. 20).

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 12<sup>TH</sup>** - TABITHA TOWNSEND

**DECEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>** - READER DAVID GENCARELLA

**DECEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>** - KH.MALVI NEYMAN

## **SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS *{Calendar}***

**Saturday, December 11:** Order of St. Ignatius Dockside Brunch **CANCELLED**; Great Vespers 6pm

**Sunday, December 12:** Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9am; Teens & Family Ice-skating 3pm

**Wednesday, December 15:** Vespers & Catechism (?) 6pm; *No Parish Council*

**Friday, December 17:** Spiritual Circle 9:30am

**Saturday, December 18:** Great Vespers 6pm

**Sunday, December 19:** Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9am

### **EPISTLE READER *{Sign Up}***

12/12	Tabitha Townsend
12/19	Reader David Gencarella
12/26	Kh. Malvi Neyman
1/2	TBD

### **LUNCH TEAM**

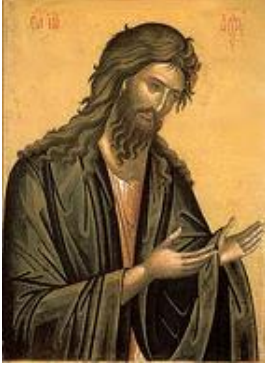
Joy Corey's Team
Lisa Gencarella's Team
Ignatius Chapman's Team
Sarah Plew's Team



**PRAYERS FOR THE LIVING:** Fr. Nicholas & Kh. Malvi and all the Neyman family, Mark and Michelle Bruto Da Costa, John/Steven Wood, Fr. Jeremiah Vollman, Thao, Gwenn, 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:** Michael, 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.*