

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

DECEMBER 19, 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

DECEMBER 19, 2021

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST (THE GENEALOGY)

On December 19 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Martyrs Boniface and Aglaïs of Rome; Boniface the merciful, bishop of Ferentino in Tuscany; and Martyrs Eutychios and Thessalonica and their companions.

On this day, the Sunday before the Nativity of Christ, we have been enjoined by our holy and God-bearing Fathers to make commemoration of all them that from the beginning of time have been well-pleasing unto God, from Adam even unto Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, according to genealogy, as Luke the Evangelist hath recounted historically; and likewise for the Prophets and Prophetesses, especially of Daniel the Prophet and the three holy youths.

It is also known as the Sunday of the Holy Genealogy. We remember the aforementioned names, those in the Old Testament who were related to Christ by blood, and those who spoke of His Birth as a man. In the Divine Liturgy, we shall read of Jesus Christ's lineage from the Gospel of Saint Matthew. In this way, the Church shows us that Christ truly became a man, taking on human nature. He was not a ghost, an apparition, a myth, a distant imagined god, or the abstract god of philosophers; such a god does not have a family tree. Our God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He has flesh and blood, human ancestors—many of whom sinned greatly, but like David, also repented greatly. Yet, all of these righteous ones in every age had been well-pleasing to God because they loved Him. By taking on human nature, the Son of God became like us in all ways, in flesh and blood, in mind and soul, and in heart and will. He differed from us in only one way: He could not sin. Since we know that Christ's human nature remained sinless, He is also fully divine, and He shows us the way in which we can avoid sin, and so improve and transform our human nature.

By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us and save 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 SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY IN TONE TWO

Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

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

*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 the Hebrews. (11:9-10, 32-40)

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (1:1-25)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, Who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ were fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and His Name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called His Name Jesus.

WISDOM

“Come, let us wonder at the virgin most pure, wondrous in herself, unique in creation, she gave birth, yet knew no man; her pure soul with wonder was filled, daily her mind gave praise in joy at the twofold wonder: her virginity preserved, her child most dear. Blessed is He who shone forth from her!”

— St. Ephraim the Syrian, *Songs of Praise*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Service Times for Archpriest Nicholas

Monday, December 20th at 7pm: Funeral Service for a Priest, followed by an all-night Vigil. Please contact [contact Sara Plew](#) to be on the reading list.

Tuesday, December 21st at 10am: Divine Liturgy followed by the Lay Funeral Service, Procession, Interment at the St. John Cemetery, and *Mercy Meal provided (open to all)* at the Coeur d'Alene Resort.

Khouria Malvi would like to extend her love and thanks to everyone for their support during this difficult time. She has asked that in lieu of flowers donations be made toward the [St. John the Baptist Building Fund](#) in loving memory of Fr. Nicholas.

To assist us with an accurate count for the Meal of Mercy, please [RSVP to Kh. Julianna](#) no later than Friday if you will be attending.

Snow Removal Teams Needed for Funeral Services: Rob Schannep is organizing teams to shovel snow and deice the walkway around the church. There will be processions around the building and out to the cemetery. We want to make sure it is safe for everyone young and old to walk around. Snow shoveling times will be Monday at 4pm & Tuesday at 7pm. We need more snow shovels, a snow blower, and a spreader. If you are able to help, respond to Rob (rob.schannep@gmail.com).

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.

CHRISTIAN CHARITIES OPPORTUNITIES:

Adopt a Local Family for Christmas!

There is a family of three in need this Nativity Season. What a blessing it would be to "adopt" them and give them a Merry Christmas!

- The girl wears 7/8 or girls medium and size 1 shoes. She would love a purple "FurReal walk-a-lot cat" and likes crafts and playing board games. She is interested in young-age appropriate makeup, like lip gloss, fun flavored lip balms, and would like a detailed coloring book with cats. She likes anything with cats.

- The boy wears 5/6 or boys small and size 12 shoes. He would love anything Legos, Transformers toys, and Magna-Tiles. He also likes T-Rex's and would like a Tonka Crane Truck.
- As for mom, she would love little succulent sized planters, and a curling iron.

Ecumenical Food Kitchen: St John's is responsible for making and serving meals to the homeless at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Coeur d' Alene on the following evenings:

Thursday March 31st, 2022

Thursday May 26th, 2022

Thursday June 30th, 2022

Warming Shelter: On Saturday evenings from Jan 1 to March 26, 2022, individual families are signing up to bring Pizza or Pasta to the warming shelter in Post Falls. Contact Jeane Wood if you would like to be included on the schedule. Jeane is offering to deliver the pizzas if that would help anyone. She will keep everyone informed as to the needs of families in the shelter for us to help and pray for them.

If you are able to help with any of these projects, contact Jeane Wood: text or phone at (208) 660-3046, or email at plastinowood@gmail.com

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](#)


If you have questions about the order, 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](#)

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



ORDER OF ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS *{Calendar}*

Saturday, December 18: Great Vespers 6pm

Sunday, December 19: Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9am

Monday, December 20: *Funeral Service for Archpriest Nicholas 7pm*

Tuesday, December 21: *Divine Liturgy (10am) followed by the Lay Funeral Service, Procession, Interment at the St. John Cemetery, and Mercy Meal provided (open to all) at the Coeur d'Alene Resort*

Wednesday, December 22: Vespers 6pm

Friday, December 24, Eve of the Nativity of Christ: Great Royal Hours, Typica & Vespers 9am; Festal Orthros & Divine Liturgy of the Nativity 11pm

Saturday, December 25: Great Vespers 6pm

Sunday, December 26: Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9am

EPISTLE READER *{Sign Up}*

12/19	Reader David Gencarella
12/26	Kh. Malvi Neyman
1/2	TBD
1/9	TBD

LUNCH TEAM

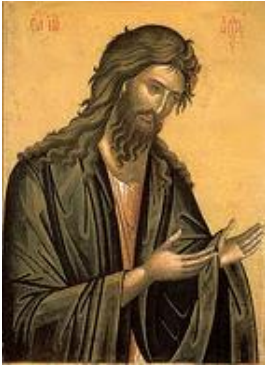
Lisa Gencarella's Team
Ignatius Chapman's Team
Sarah Plew's Team
Joy Corey's Team



PRAYERS FOR THE LIVING: Cassian & Lane family, Kh. Malvi and all the Neyman and Townsend families, 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: Fr. Nicholas, 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.