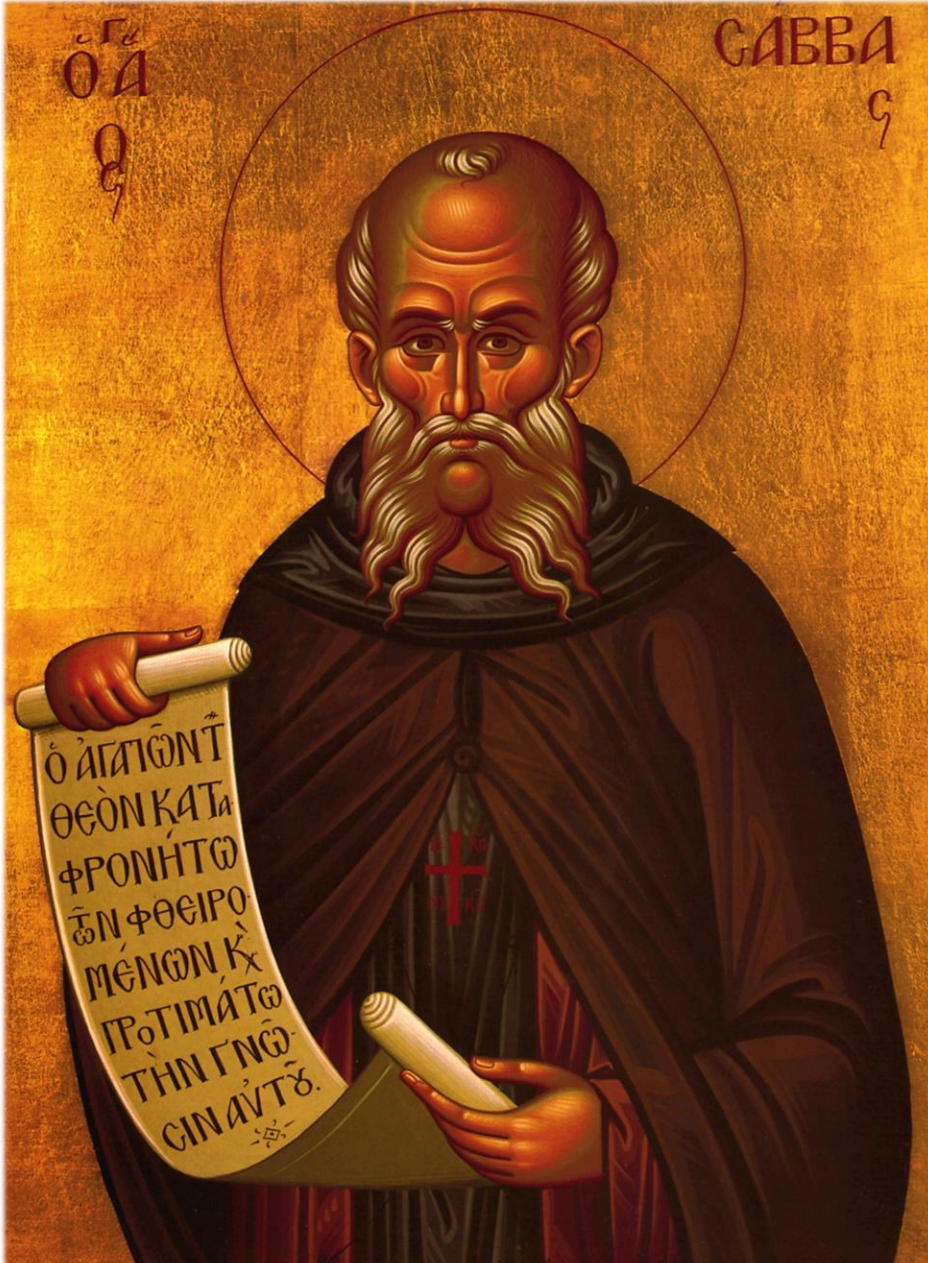


# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

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DECEMBER 5, 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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Church Website: <https://www.stjohnorthodox.org>

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

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**DECEMBER 5, 2021**

## **GOD-BEARING FATHER SABBAS THE SANCTIFIED**

On December 5 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our righteous Father Sabbas the Sanctified.

*Since he clave after God in soul all his lifetime,  
Sabbas in His presence now standeth before Him.  
On the fifth, Sabbas was led up within the divine vault.*

Sabbas was born in 439 in Moutalaska, a small village of Cappadocia. He entered the arena of the monastic life at age the age of eight and was under that master trainer of monastics and teacher of the desert, Euthymius the Great. Sabbas became the spiritual father of many monks and an instructor for the monasteries in Palestine, and was appointed archimandrite of the desert-dwellers there by the Patriarch of Jerusalem. In his old age, he went to Constantinople, to the Emperors Anastasius and Saint Justinian the Great, in behalf of the Orthodox Faith and the dogmas of the Council of Chalcedon. Sabbas reposed in 533 at age 94. Among all his good works, his greatest was the first Order of Services for use in monasteries, now known as the Jerusalem Typikon.

On this day, we also commemorate the Martyr Diogenes; Venerable Nektarios of Yagaris Kelli and Philotheos of Karyes on Athos; Guriors, missionary bishop of Kazan; and Venerable Nektarios of Bitol in Bulgaria.

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



## **RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SEVEN**

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

## **APOLYTIKION OF ST. SABBAS THE SANCTIFIED IN TONE EIGHT**

The barren wilderness thou didst make fertile with the streams of thy tears; and by thy deep sighing thou hast given fruit through thy struggles a hundred-fold. Accordingly, thou hast become a star for the universe, sparkling with miracles. Therefore, O righteous Father Sabbas, intercede with Christ God to 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**

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

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (5:22-6:2)**

Brethren, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control: against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with the passions and the lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become vainglorious, provoking one another, envying one another. Brethren, if a person is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore such a one in a spirit of meekness; looking to yourself, lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

## **THE GOSPEL**

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (13:10-17)**

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrite! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" As Jesus said this, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.

## WISDOM

“When you have been insulted, cursed, or persecuted by someone, do not think of what has happened to you, but of what will come from it, and you will see that your insulter has become the cause of many benefits to you, not only in this age, but in that which is to come.”

*St. Mark the Ascetic, Homilies, 1.114*

“It is joyful to feel that we do not and cannot have any enemies among men, but only unhappy brethren, who are deserving of pity and help, even when, through misunderstanding, they become our enemies and fight against us. Woe! They do not understand that the enemy is found within ourselves, and that first of all one must cast him out of oneself, and then also help others to do the same. We have only one enemy: the devil and his evil spirits. But man, no matter how far he has fallen, never loses certain sparks of light and goodness which may be blown into a bright flame. But for us there is no reason to fight against people, even when they consistently send against us all kinds of blows and rebukes... To fight against people is to take a false position of our enemies. Even if we succeed, we gain nothing from this fight, but rather become estranged from our own success.”

*Hieromartyr Roman Medved, Letter to His Daughter from the Gulag, 1932*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Comę 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](#)

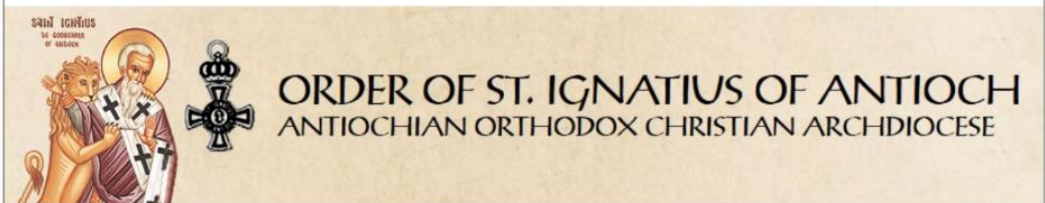
## **December is Order of St. Ignatius Month (Dec. 20).**

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 5<sup>TH</sup> - LISA GENCARELLA**

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

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

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

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

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

**Sunday, December 5:** Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9am

**Monday, December 6, ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA.**

**Wednesday, December 8:** Vespers & Catechism 6pm; Parish Council *Postponed*

**Friday, December 10:** Spiritual Circle 9:30am

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

**Sunday, December 12:** Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9am

	<b>EPISTLE READER <i>{Sign Up}</i></b>	<b>LUNCH TEAM</b>
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
12/26	Kh. Malvi Neyman	Ignatius Chapman's Team



**PRAYERS FOR THE LIVING:** 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.

St. John the Baptist

# December 2021

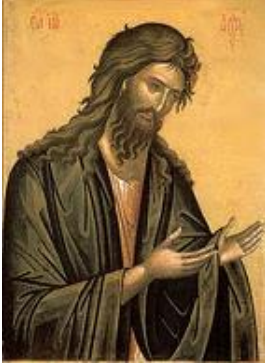
November '21

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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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28	29	30				

January '22

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	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					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1 Vespers & Class 6pm	2 Antiochian Women's Fellowship 7pm at Terri Izzi's	3 Spiritual Circle 9:30am	4 St. Barbara the Great Martyr St. Nicholas Day Celebration & Decorating- 11am Great Vespers 6pm
5 10th Sunday of Luke Orthros 9am Divine Liturgy 10am followed by lunch Antiochian Women's Meeting	6 Nicholas the Wonderworker	7 Bp. Ambrose of Milan	8 Vespers & Class 6pm No Parish Council	9 Conception of Anna	10 Spiritual Circle 9:30am	11 Great Vespers 6pm
12 11th Sunday of Luke Orthros 9am Divine Liturgy 10am followed by lunch	13 Herman of Alaska	14	15 Hieromartyr Eleutherios Vespers & Class 6pm	16	17 Daniel the Prophet Spiritual Circle 9:30am	18 Martyr Sebastian Great Vespers 6pm
19 Sunday before Nativity Orthros 9am Divine Liturgy 10am followed by lunch	20 Ignatius of Antioch	21 Juliana of Nicomedia	22 Martyr Anastasia Vespers 6pm - No Classes	23 Martyr Anastasia Vespers 6pm - No Classes	24 Eve of Nativity of Christ Great Royal Hours, Typica, Vespers Divine Liturgy - 9am Festal Orthros/Divine Liturgy and Festal Meal - 11pm	25 Nativity of Christ Readers Vespers 6pm
26 Sunday after Nativity	27 Archdeacon Stephen	28	29 14,000 Infants Slain	30	31 Apodosis of Nativity	1 New Years Day
<b>Fr. Mark &amp; Family out of town</b>						
Orthros 9am Divine Liturgy 10am followed by lunch			Readers Vespers 6pm No Classes			Circumcision of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
2	3	<b>Legend for Fasting Days:</b> Abstain from meat, fish, dairy, eggs, alcohol, olive oil Abstain from meat, fish, dairy, eggs Abstain from meat, dairy, eggs Abstain from meat			<a href="https://stjohnorthodox.org">https://stjohnorthodox.org</a>  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.*