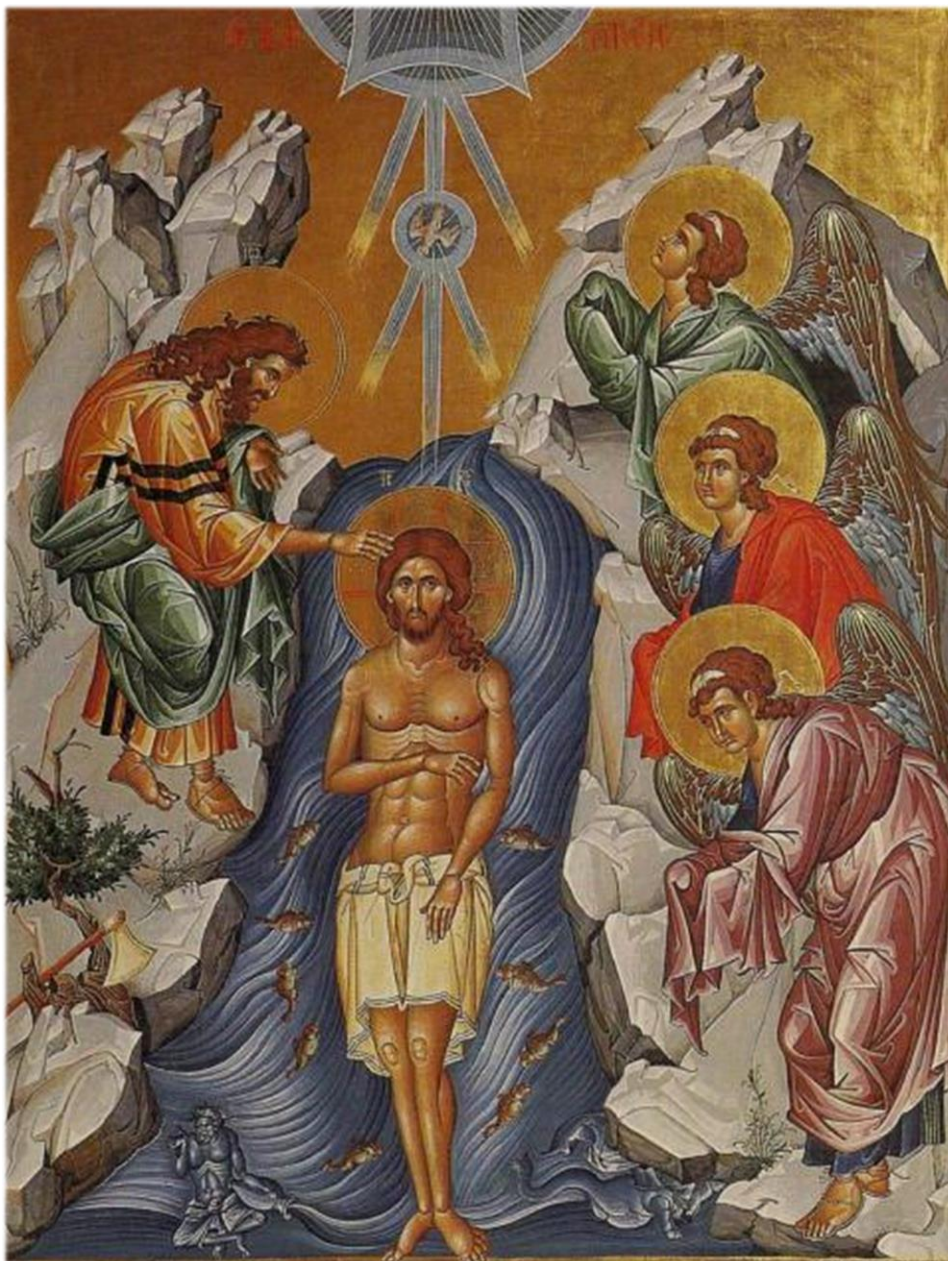


ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

JANUARY 9, 2022



St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

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

Mailing Address: 4718 Horsehaven, Post Falls, Idaho 83854-6668 - Church Phone: (208) 261-1010
His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

Fr. Mark Townsend: (208) 797-0748 - emtowndsend@gmail.com

Dn. Joseph Mannion: (208) 819-4255 - jemannion1@gmail.com

Dn. Michael Tubbs: (208) 219-4765 - michaeltubbs@gmail.com

Church Website: <https://www.stjohnorthodox.org>

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

JANUARY 9, 2022

AFTER-FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST

On January 9 in the Holy Orthodox Church, the third day of the After-feast of the Theophany of Christ, we commemorate the holy Martyr Polyeuktos of Melitene in Armenia.

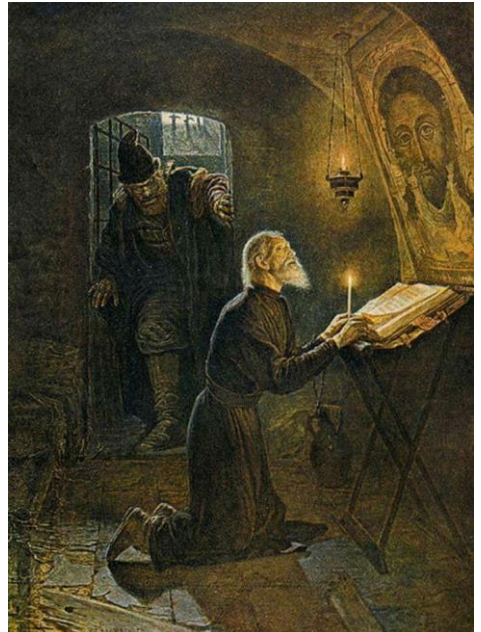
Polyeuktos, whose passion was beheading,

Through much prayer, O Word, had Thy grace to suffer.

On the ninth, O Polyeuktos, the glaive's stroke gave thee great glory.

There were in the town two friends who were officers: Nearchus and Polyeuktos, the former baptized and the latter unbaptized. When a decree went out from the Emperor Valerian that all Christians were to be killed, Nearchus prepared himself for death. On the following day, Polyeuktos related to Nearchus a dream: the Lord Himself had appeared to him in light, stripped his old clothing from him, clothed him in new and shining raiment and set him upon the saddle of a winged horse. Polyeuktos was baptized, and then went off to the town, tore up the royal decree on the persecution of Christians and smashed many statues of idols. The blood of Polyeuktos was spilled in the year 259. Nearchus later became a martyr for Christ in the fire.

On this day, we also commemorate the Venerable Eustratios the wonderworker; New-martyr Parthenas; and Philip, metropolitan of Moscow.



By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FOUR

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the likeness of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

KONTAKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST IN TONE FOUR

On this day Thou hast appeared * unto the whole world, * and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, * is signed on us who sing Thy praise * and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, * Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light unapproachable.

THE EPISTLE

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

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (4:7-13)

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it is said, "When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is He who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

THE GOSPEL

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (4:12-17)

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand."



We would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to clear the snow from the walkways and cemetery for +Archpriest Nicholas (Papa) Neyman's procession, burial, and funeral. We appreciate the great outpouring of beautiful prayers, the incredible drawings and letters from the children " You Are The Church," also from the parents, the many beautiful cards with comforting, caring, loving words, and prayers.

We send each and every one of you our most grateful thanks. Remember always how much my Precious, Dad, and Grandfather + Father Nicholas loved you all. May his memory be eternal.

**Much love and prayers,
Kh. Malvi (Sete) and family**



WISDOM

It is by offering our blessings back to God that He will be able to continue His forgiving, healing, liberating, empowering, transfiguring, loving ministry through the Church. For God, Infinite though He is, has chosen to work through us, through our gifts, to continue His saving work in the world today.

+Fr. Anthony M. Coniaris

Beloved Family of St. John the Baptist Church,

You are the Light of Christ in a changing world. The base from which we serve as the Light of Christ in this changing world is the parish. A strong parish provides opportunities for sharing the Good News of Christ, for welcoming those that are searching for a spiritual home, and a base from which we are sent out into the world. The parish also provides a place for worship, community and education in the faith. To be stewards of the Gospel, we need to be stewards of our parish. This requires the vision and inspiration to see the parish, not as it is, but as it could be. We are called to offer ourselves and our treasure to make our local Church all that it can be.

The love that Saint Paul describes in his letter to the Christians at Corinth is an expression of stewardship. Love and stewardship are inseparable when we consider God's blessings in our life and the way we use these gifts with love and compassion for others and to honor, worship and give thanks to God.

This past year we implemented our Operational, Communication, and Engagement plans. Along side this, our Antiochian Women and Antiochian Men have matured into successful fellowship, support, and ministry groups, and we have renewed vigor in our Youth Group, and so much more. In the coming months we expect to begin working in earnest on our new Temple building. This Theophany season, God willing, I will plan on personally visiting with all of our parishioners to share the current vision of our parish leadership and seek your participation in realizing this vision. We are to give, St. Paul says, "as God has prospered you" (1Cor.16:2). He teaches us clearly, "He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."

As I mentioned in our all-parish meeting, the time will come for each of us when we shall no longer be able to give. When death comes, our giving will be over. For all eternity God will be doing the giving to us. So, my beloved, the time for us to give is now. The time for us to love is now. The time for us to share what God has given us is now. As we give, remember that it is His hand we place our gift into—that nail pierced hand of our Savior "Who loved me and gave Himself for me".

[Please click here](#) to be taken to the confidential online stewardship page to commit your pledge. In addition to indicating your pledge amount(s), you will also have the option of setting up your pledge electronically. Printed forms are also available on the information table in the Narthex at Church. May your generosity be blessed! I offer you my joyful thanks for your dedication to our parish family and your participation in Christ's work of salvation.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Mark

Malachi 3:10 ~ "Return to this, [tithes and offerings] says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not open for you the floodgates of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it is overflowing."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Servers Meeting: This Saturday, January 8th, at 4pm, prior to Great Vespers, the Altar Servers (Acolytes) will meet to begin organizing into teams.

Antiochian Women book club: On Thursday, January 20th, the Antiochian Women will continue the book club discussion on *Mary, as the Early Church Knew Her* at 7pm.

It is house blessing season once again. Contact Fr. Mark for times beginning on January 10th. House blessings are not long—about a half hour—so Father should be able to do several per day, but remember the golden rule- "Please do not feed the priest" :-)

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.

Annual Chili Cookoff: On Sunday, January 16th, we are aiming for our 1st Annual Chili Cookoff at lunchtime! For further information and to sign up, please contact Aaron Plew at (805) 312-5810 or munkee@gmail.com

Spiritual Circle: Every Friday morning at 9:30am, Spiritual Circle meets at Joy Corey's home. See Joy for more information: (208) 660-0538 or joyinidaho@gmail.com

A Note from our Facilities Director:

Our Church building and facilities are a reflection of the care and intention that we put into them. It is a ministry to the people of the church and to visitors when it is well kept and maintained. To that end, I am putting together three teams.

- One team is winter snow removal, making sure that the sidewalks and entry are cleared before regular services and feast days.
- Another team would meet once a month and take care of projects inside the church building.
- A third team, after the snow melts, would go around and take care of the outside of the church and the church grounds.

If you feel called to be on one of these teams, if you have any skills or expertise, or connections that would help, please let me know. My number is: 714-388-4254 and my email is: rob.schannep@gmail.com. If you would like to know more about all of our ministry teams, and share your talent by joining a team, [click here](#) for more information.

Yours,

Rob Schannep, Facilities Director

CHRISTIAN CHARITIES OPPORTUNITIES:

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

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS {*Calendar*}

Saturday, January 8: Pizzas for Warming Shelter (See Jeane Wood); Altar Server Meeting 4pm; Great Vespers 6pm

Sunday, January 9: Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9am; Great Outdoor Blessing of the Waters at Gencarella's 2:30, following Liturgy

Wednesday, January 12: Vespers 6pm; Parish Council 6:45pm; No Catechism

Friday, January 14: Spiritual Circle 9:30am

Saturday, January 15: Pizzas for Warming Shelter (See Jeane Wood); Great Vespers 6pm

Sunday, January 16: Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9am

LUNCH TEAMS

2nd Sunday, January 9: Joy Corey's team

3rd Sunday, January 16: Lisa Gencarella's team (Annual Chili Cookoff?)

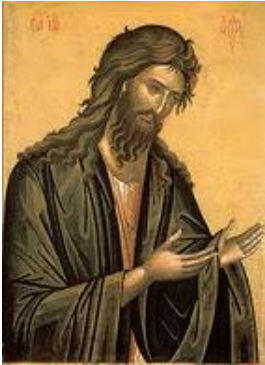
4th Sunday, January 23: Riley Chapman's team

5th Sunday, January 30: POTLUCK

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 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.