

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

JANUARY 23, 2022



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

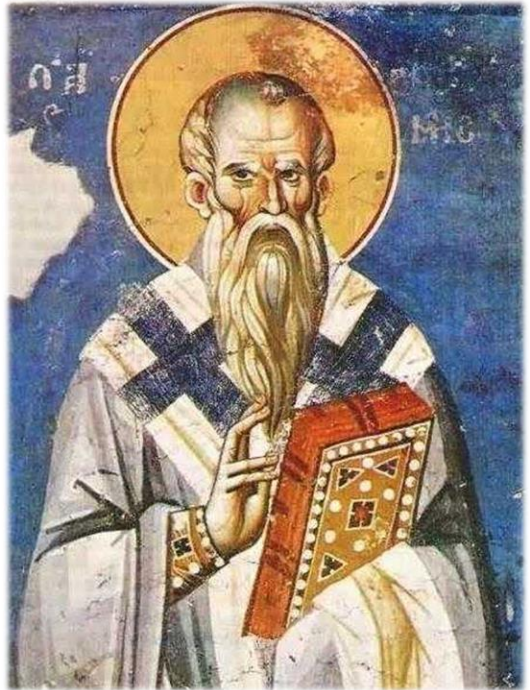
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HIEROMARTYR CLEMENT, BISHOP OF ANCYRA

On January 23 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy Hieromartyr Clement, Bishop of Ancyra, and the holy Martyr Agathangelos.

The thirst of the inclement sword hath been sated on the blood of Agathangelos and Clement. Ye were felled on the twenty-third, O Agathangelos and Clement.

Clement was born in 258 in the city of Ancyra in Galatia of a pagan father and a Christian mother. Clement was so famous because of his virtuous living that he was elected bishop of Ancyra at the age of 20. In his young years, he attained the wisdom of a mature adult, and by great restraint he tamed and conquered his body. During the reign of Diocletian, he was tortured so horribly and spent 28 years in difficulties and in dungeons. Clement considered it a great honor to be tortured because, as he said, "even the mouth of my Lord Jesus Christ was also beaten and struck in the face and behold, I, the unworthy, now became worthy of that!" Finally, he and Saint Agathangelos of Rome were beheaded together in 312.



On this day, we also commemorate Paulinos, bishop of Nola.

By their holy intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us and save 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. CLEMENT OF ANCYRA IN TONE FOUR

Thou didst blossom forth for the faithful, O most sacred Clement, as a branch of holiness, a staff of contest, a most sacred flower, and a sweet God-given fruit. But as a fellow-sufferer of martyrs and a fellow-prelate of hierarchs, intercede with Christ our God that our souls be saved.

KONTAKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

THE EPISTLE

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

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (1:15-17)

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners; but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display His perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in Him for eternal life. To the King of Ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory to the ages of ages. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (18:35-43)

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to Him; and when he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

WISDOM

In the practical life, asceticism is of the utmost importance. Yet even though asceticism is a spiritual means to a spiritual end, it remains a virtue of the body. There are many different kinds of ascetic practices, such as the “guarding of the mind,” but this is purely an activity, an exercise: it is not itself an element of the spiritual life. It is something that by itself is incomplete; it is something that takes place on the level of human effort. Asceticism is not an end in itself. It is not something that enables me to stand before God; in fact it ensures me no place before God. All it can do is attract God, if I may put it this way. Any form of asceticism not undertaken for this purpose will remain outside the field of divine encounter; it will never enable me to receive God. My asceticism therefore must always take place in relation to God, in order to attract God and draw Him closer to me. And I attract God when I confess, by means of my asceticism, my sinfulness and my weakness and my incapacity; when I acknowledge that, on my own, I am absolutely unable to do anything spiritual.

If I should receive divine contemplations, then my asceticism has the following meaning and makes me say: “God, you gave me this experience of grace, this contemplation, but I am still who I am: I am earth, ash, clay, soil, flesh, naked, nothing at all. It is only you who make me rich. My life without you is like the world without light: nothing has form or shape, nothing is clearly visible; I can’t see anything anywhere, things vanish from before my eyes, they are lost, and I am lost without you. I find the substance of my being, the meaning of my life, only in the light of your grace, only when you bestow upon me these spiritual insights and contemplations, which is the revelation of your presence, the contemplation and vision of you.”

Thus it is through ascetic practice that I discover my identity; it is through asceticism that I come to recognize who I am, my nature, that I am earth and ash. And I express my humble condition by being grateful for the gift that God has given me. And when God sees my gratitude, He is moved to give me even more. But asceticism by itself is not able to raise me up even a little bit above the earth if I do not have the experience of ongoing contemplations.

The Mystical Marriage: Spiritual Life according to St. Maximos the Confessor
Elder Aimilianos of Simonopetra

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monthly Mother's Fellowship: We are pleased to announce a new Mother's Fellowship every first Friday from 10am noon. This will be a regular time for mothers of all ages and stages and their children to connect and build community. We hope you can join us! Coffee, tea and snacks will be provided. Feel free to bring something to share. Our first gathering will be February 4 at the Plew home (112 S. Linden St., Post Falls). For more information contact Sara Plew at: (562) 458-2780

IT IS HOUSE BLESSING SEASON!

Contact Fr. Mark to get on the schedule. Blessings are about a half hour, so Father should be able to do several per day. Remember: "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. 100% of the proceeds will go towards the new temple fund.

2021 donation receipt and letter for tax purposes have been placed in your family mail slot in the hallway. If you do not have a mail slot the documents have been mailed to you. Call Jenny Tecca with any questions.

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



The Molloy's are expecting their baby this week. In lieu of a baby shower please consider a purchase of diapers, any brand size 1-3, or wipes for baby. An online meal-train will be published upon arrival. (Keep in mind mom is dairy free.) If you have questions or do not wish to use online meal-train, contact Kelly Peterson: 208-929-2771.

Facilities Teams: Our Church building and facilities are a reflection of our care and intention. It is a ministry to the church family and visitors when they are well kept. Facilities Director Rob Schannep is assembling teams:

- One team is winter snow removal before regular services and feast days.
 - Another team would take care of projects inside the building once a month.
 - A third team would 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, contact Rob: 714-388-4254, rob.schannep@gmail.com.



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



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS *{Calendar}*

Saturday, January 22: Right to Life March Cd'A 10am; Pizzas for Warming Shelter (See Jeane Wood); Great Vespers 6pm

Sunday, January 23: Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9am; 40-day Memorial for †Archpriest Nicolas 11:30am

Wednesday, January 26: Vespers & Catechism 6pm

Friday, January 28: Spiritual Circle 9:30am

Saturday, January 29: Special Moses Lake Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9am; Pizzas for Warming Shelter (See Jeane Wood); Great Vespers 6pm

Sunday, January 30: Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9am; Memorial for Paul Truebenbach

LUNCH TEAMS

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

5th Sunday, January 30: POTLUCK

1st Sunday February 6: Sarah Plew's team

2nd Sunday February 13: Joy Corey's team

3rd Sunday, January 16: Lisa Gencarella's team

EPISTLE READERS If you are interested in reading the Epistle, please sign up: *{Sign Up}*.

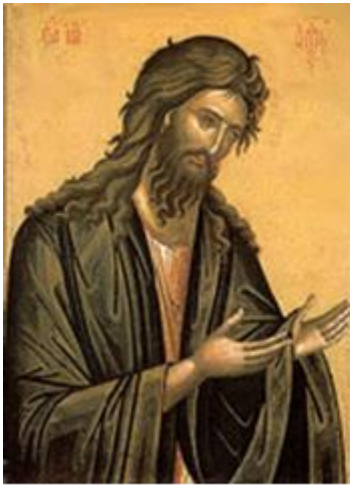
January 23: Lydia Bardwell

January 30: TBD

PRAYERS FOR THE LIVING: Sampson, Adam & Hannah, Claude & Christina, Ron, 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, 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.