

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

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

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Send announcements for the bulletin and/or website to bulletin@stjohnorthodox.org

Send announcements to be emailed to all members to announce@stjohnorthodox.org

After-Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos August 22, 2010



The Martyrs Zoticus, Agathonicus, Theoprepus, Acindynus, Severian, Zeno, and others who suffered under Maximian

The Martyrs Zoticus, Agathonicus, Theoprepus, Acindynus, Severian, Zeno and others accepted death for Christ during the reign of the emperor Maximian (284-305). The Martyr Agathonicus was descended from the illustrious lineage of the Hypasians, and he lived at Nicomedia.

Having become well versed in Holy Scripture, he converted many pagans to Christ, including the most eminent member of the Senate (its "princeps" or leader). Comitus Eutolmius was sent to the Pontine (lower Black Sea) region, where he crucified the followers of the Christian Zoticus, who had refused to

offer sacrifice to idols. Zoticus himself, he took with him.

In Nicomedia, Eutolmius arrested the Martyr Agathonicus (together with the princeps), and also Theoprepus, Acindynus and Severian. After tortures, Eutolmius ordered that the martyrs be taken to Thrace for trial by the emperor.

But along the way, in the vicinity of Potama, the Martyrs Zoticus, Theoprepus and Acindynus were unable to proceed further behind the chariot of the governor because of wounds received during torture. Therefore, they were put to death. The Martyr Severian was put to death at Chalcedon, and the Martyr Agathonicus together with others was beheaded with the sword by order of the emperor, in Selymbria.

The relics of the Martyr Agathonicus were in a church named for him at Constantinople, and were seen in the year 1200 by the Russian pilgrim Anthony. And in the fourteenth century Philotheus, the archbishop of Selymbria, devoted an encomium to the Martyr Agathonicus.

Hieromartyr Athanasius the Bishop of Tarsus in Cilicia

The Hieromartyr Athanasius, bishop of the Cilician city of Tarsus, who baptized the holy Nun Anthusa, was beheaded by the sword under the emperor Aurelian (270-275).



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS

Sunday, August 22 – After-Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos – Orthros 9:00am; Divine Liturgy 10:00am; Lunch following Liturgy

Tuesday, August 24 – Inquirer's/Catechism Class at the home of Eric & Joanna Townsend 7:00pm

Wednesday, August 25 – Vespers 6:00pm

Friday, August 27 – Spiritual Circle 9:30am

Saturday, August 28 – Great Vespers 6:00pm

Sunday, August 29 – Beheading of the Forerunner and Baptist John – Orthros 9:00am; Divine Liturgy 10:00am; Lunch following Liturgy

EPISTLE READERS

Aug 22 - Reader Mark Felleggy

Aug 29 - Joy Corey

Sep 5 - Sbdcn. Mark (Eric) Townsend

Sep 12 - Tabitha Townsend

CHURCH CLEANING

Week of Aug 23 - Schaefer

Week of Aug 30 - Goolsby

Week of Sept 6 - Townsends

Week of Sept 13 - Felleggy/Holman

Week of Sept 20 - Corey/Rush

*Contact Adam Roth if you would like to help.

LUNCHEON & CLEANUP

Aug 22 - Team 4 - Dancy, Goodsen J., Caldaroni, Brisbane, Sanman, Handeen

Aug 29 - Team 5 - Poland, Townsend, Schaefer, Gallatin, Nolan, Milojevic, Johnson

Sep 5 - Team 1 - Tsalaky, Ayoub M., Holmen, Goolsby, Vlahos, Felleggy

Sep 12 - Team 2 - Corey, Tecca, Roth, Ranson

*Contact Mark Ayoub if you would like to join a lunch team, or have questions or comments.

PRAYERS FOR THE LIVING:

Paul Truebenbach, Sam (friend of Karen Karres' daughter), Mike Allen, Bonnie Christensen, Jess Akins & her daughter Hallee (friends of Trudy Olinger), Johanna Barnett, Lois (Mary Jo Neyman's sister), Steve Kane (working in Alaska for the summer), Heather and her mother (friends of Chelsea Stillman), Bill Brisbane (Nanette's father), Jacob Hunter (Dan Monaghan's cousin in Afghanistan), Angelica Mamalakis (mother of Philip Mamalakis), Mat. Michaela Fenn (wife of Fr. Mark Fenn), Fr. Michael Lewis, Mary-Claire Roth, Loraine Gross (grandmother of Mary Claire Roth), Jill Foss (friend of Jeane Wood), Deacon John Tershay, Peggy Humby (Trish Bartlett's mother), Annie Cusella (friend of Caldaroni's), Joan (Allyson Gross' Mother), Nancy Schrom (Mary Charles' mother), Nancy Corey (Ed Corey's sister), Wanda (Mother of Lavonne Ayoub), Jason Remington, Moses Kemper, Nikolay (Oksana Johnson's father), Jamie Landers, Nikolai Kupcow, Cheyenne, Lynda (Michelle Felleggy's mother), George Kucera, Bonnie (Jenny Dancy's mother).

PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED:

Jim Parker (Chammy Ott's father), Fr. Matthew MacKay

ANNOUNCEMENTS

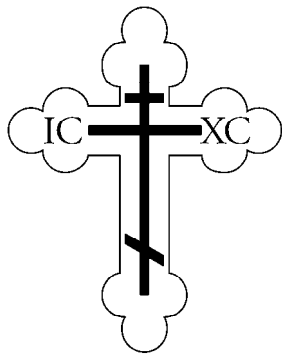
Inquirer's/Catechism Class - Tuesday

Our new Inquirer's/Catechism Class meets each Tuesday at 7:00 P.M. at the home of Eric & Joanna Townsend! All are invited to please attend! This is an opportunity to learn (or re-learn!) the basics of Holy Orthodoxy in the context of a discussion format. Fr. Basil will be teaching the Symbol of our Faith, the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed which we confess every Sunday just before the Holy Anaphora in the Divine Liturgy. We hope to see you there! **Townsend Residence: 4471 E. Canvasback Ave. Post Falls.**



This week (and next week) homeless families from the community (through Family Promise) will have our church building as their home. Please respect the families' privacy and do not enter downstairs classrooms without specifically speaking to Jordan Schaefer.

Overnight hosts for our week (August 29th – September 4th) are still needed. If you have not had the privilege of helping in this ministry, please contact Jordan Schaefer (elvenatheart@gmail.com or 208-964-3410) to get involved. Thank you to all the volunteers and benefactors who make this ministry possible!



St Anthusa, a native of the city of Seleucia (in Syria), was the daughter of illustrious pagans. Learning of the teachings of Christ, she under pretense of visiting her benefactress, journeyed instead to Tarsus to St Athanasius and received Baptism from him.

Her parents were enraged at their daughter for becoming a Christian. She received monastic tonsure from St Athanasius, then settled in the desert, where she spent 33 years at ascetic deeds. She died at the end of the third century while she was praying. The Martyrs Charisimos and Neophytus, who had been baptized together with the Nun Anthusa, were her servants, and they too accepted death for Christ.

Wisdom of the Fathers: On the Wonder of the Mother of God

“On her account there were divine predictions by prophets inspired of God. Miracles foreshadowed the great future wonder of the world, the ever-virgin Mother of God. Nations and circumstances were transformed to make way for the fulfilment of the new mystery concerning her. Spiritual ordinances prefigured in all sorts of ways the truth that was to be. The culmination, or rather the beginning and foundation of subsequent marvellous events, was the accomplishment of God's promise to Joachim and Anna, the most virtuous people of their day, that, although childless from their youth, they would have a child in their extreme old age, and that their daughter would bear without seed Him whom God the Father had begotten before all ages, outside time. In addition, those who were to become parents in this mysterious way vowed to give back the child, who was to give birth herself even more mysteriously, to the giver of the gift. In accordance with this worthiest of vows, the Mother of God left her father's house in extraordinary fashion while still an infant, to live in God's house. For the space of many years she stayed there, strange as it seems, in the Holy of Holies, provided with indescribable nourishment by attending angels: food, which Adam never reached the point of tasting, otherwise he would not have fallen away from life; as was the case with the all-pure Virgin, who now passes from earth to heaven- even though for Adam's sake and to show herself his daughter, she, like her Son, yielded for a short time to nature.”

+St. Gregory Palamas, *On the Dormition of the Mother of God*

Wisdom of the Fathers – On the use of Human Voices Alone vs. Instruments in Worship

EUSEBIUS "Of old at the time those of the circumcision were worshipping with symbols and types it was not inappropriate to send up hymns to God with the psalterion and cithara and to do this on Sabbath days... We render our hymn with a living psalterion and a living cithara with spiritual songs. The unison voices of Christians would be more acceptable to God than any musical instrument. Accordingly in all the churches of God, united in soul and attitude, with one mind and in agreement of faith and piety we send up a unison melody in the words of the Psalms." (commentary on Psalms 91:2-3)

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (16:13-24)

Brethren, be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, and be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. Now, brethren, you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints; I urge you to be subject to such men and to every fellow worker and laborer. I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have made up for your absence; for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such men. The churches of Asia send greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. All the brethren send greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss. I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (21:33-42)

The Lord spoke this parable: "There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. Afterward he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?'"

APOLYTIKION OF THE DORMITION IN TONE ONE

In thy birth-giving, O Theotokos, thou didst keep and preserve virginity; and in thy falling-asleep thou hast not forsaken the world; for living thou wast translated, being the Mother of Life. Wherefore, by thine intercessions, deliver our souls from death.

KONTAKION OF THE DORMITION IN TONE TWO

Verily, the Theotokos, who is ever watchful in intercessions, who is never rejected, neither tomb nor death could control. But being the Mother of Life, He Who dwelt in her ever-Virgin womb did translate her to life.

What are the "Twelve Great Feasts" of the Orthodox Church?

Feast day celebrations are "ranked" according to their importance. *Pascha (Easter)* is considered to be the "feast of feasts" and stands by itself in significance.

After Pascha, the next category are "Feasts of the Master," which are feasts celebrating main events in the life and ministry of Christ or are related to His ministry. Next are the "Feasts of the Mother of God" and are related to the life and ministry of the Theotokos. These two categories of feasts combined constitute the "Twelve Great Feasts" of the Orthodox Church. The specific feasts are as follows:

1st Class: Feasts of the Master (Christ)

1. 9/14: Elevation of the Precious Cross
2. 12/25: Nativity of Christ
3. 01/06: Theophany of our Lord
4. –/–: Palm Sunday (Sunday before Pascha. Date varies year to year based on the date of Pascha.)
5. –/–: Ascension (40 Days after Pascha. Date varies year to year based on the date of Pascha.)
6. –/–: Pentecost (50 Days after Pascha. Date varies year to year based on the date of Pascha.)
7. 08/06: The Transfiguration of Our Lord

2nd Class: Feasts of the Mother of God (the Theotokos)

1. 09/08: Nativity of the Theotokos
2. 11/21: Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple
3. 02/02: Meeting of the Lord in the Temple
4. 03/25: Annunciation of the Theotokos
5. 08/15: Dormition of the Theotokos

"Twelve Great Feasts" in Chronological Order for the Next Year

1. **Wed. 09/08/10:** Nativity of the Theotokos
2. **Tues. 9/14/10:** Elevation of the Precious Cross
3. **Sun. 11/21/10:** Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple
4. **Sat. 12/25/10:** Nativity of Christ
5. **Thurs. 01/06/11:** Theophany of our Lord
6. **Wed. 02/02/11:** Meeting of the Lord in the Temple
7. **Fri. 03/25/11:** Annunciation of the Theotokos
8. **Sun. 04/17/11:** Palm Sunday (Sunday before Pascha.)
9. **Thurs. 05/26/11:** Ascension (40 Days after Pascha.)
10. **Sun. 06/12/11:** Pentecost (50 Days after Pascha.)
11. **Sat. 08/06/11:** The Transfiguration of Our Lord
12. **Mon. 08/15/11:** Dormition of the Theotokos