

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

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

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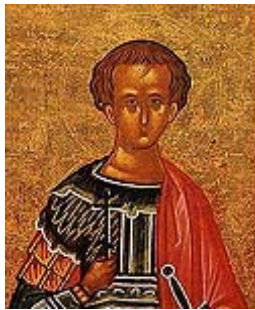
Fr. Basil Caldaroni: (208) 818-2646 – Email: frbasil@caldaroni.net

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

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

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

Sunday after the Theophany of Christ January 9, 2011



Martyr Polyeuctus of Melitene, in Armenia

Saint Polyeuctus was the first martyr in the Armenian city of Meletine. He was a soldier under the emperor Decius (249-251) and he later suffered for Christ under the emperor Valerian (253-259). The saint was friend also of Nearchos, a fellow-soldier and firm Christian, but Polyeuctus, though he led a virtuous life, remained a pagan.

When the persecution against Christians began, Nearchos said to Polyeuctus, "Friend, we shall soon be separated, for they will take me to torture, and you alas, will renounce your friendship with me." Polyeuctus told him that he had

seen Christ in a dream, Who took his soiled military cloak from him and dressed him in a radiant garment. "Now," he said, "I am prepared to serve the Lord Jesus Christ."

Enflamed with zeal, St Polyeuctus went to the city square, and tore up the edict of Decius which required everyone to worship idols. A few moments later, he met a procession carrying twelve idols through the streets of the city. He dashed the idols to the ground and trampled them underfoot.

His father-in-law, the magistrate Felix, who was responsible for enforcing the imperial edict, was horrified at what St Polyeuctus had done and declared that he had to die for this. "Go, bid farewell to your wife and children," said Felix. Paulina came and tearfully entreated her husband to renounce Christ. His father-in-law Felix also wept, but St Polyeuctus remained steadfast in his resolve to suffer for Christ.

With joy he bent his head beneath the sword of the executioner and was baptized in his own blood. Soon, when the Church of Christ in the reign of St Constantine had triumphed throughout all the Roman Empire, a church was built at Meletine in honor of the holy Martyr Polyeuctus. Many miracles were worked through the intercession of St Polyeuctus. In this very church the parents of St Euthymius the Great (January 20) prayed fervently for a son. The birth of this great luminary of Orthodoxy in the year 376 occurred through the help of the holy Martyr Polyeuctus.

St Polyeuctus was also venerated by St Acacius, Bishop of Meletine (March 31), a participant in the Third Ecumenical Council, and a great proponent of Orthodoxy. In the East, and also in the West, the holy Martyr Polyeuctus is venerated as a patron saint of vows and treaty agreements.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS

Sunday, January 9 – Orthros 9:00am; Divine Liturgy 10:00am; Sunday School following Liturgy; Lunch following

Tuesday, January 11 – Parish Council 7:00pm

Wednesday, January 12 – Vespers 6:00pm

Friday, January 14 – Spiritual Circle 9:30am

Saturday, January 15 – Great Vespers 6:00pm

Sunday, January 16 – Orthros 9:00am; Divine Liturgy 10:00am; Sunday School following Liturgy; Lunch following; Sisterhood meeting following lunch

EPISTLE READERS

Jan 9 - Reader Mark Felleggy

Jan 16 - Joy Corey

Jan 23 - Sbdcn. Barnabas Schaefer

Jan 30 - Tabitha Townsend

CHURCH CLEANING

Week of Jan 10 - Corey/Rush

Week of Jan 17 – Schaefer

Week of Jan 24 - Goolsby

Week of Jan 31 - Townsends

LUNCHEON & CLEANUP

Jan 9- Team 4 - Townsend, Rush, Caldaroni, Sanman, Handeen

Jan 16 - Team 5 - Poland, Schaefer, Gallatin, Nolan, Johnson

Jan 23- Team 1 - Tsalaky, Ayoub D., Ayoub M., Vlahos

Jan 30 - Team 2 - Corey, Tecca, Roth, Ranson, Holman

PRAYERS FOR THE LIVING:

Paul Truebenbach, Katrina (Mike Kerr's wife), Hannah Charles, Bill (Thomas Craffey's father), Elena & Vitaly w/reposed son Stefan (friends of Teccas), Russell & Samantha & newly reposed infant (Chelsea Stillman's brother & wife & baby), Teri Hundt (sister of Tiffany Gallatin), Robin and her unborn baby girl (Joanna Townsend's cousin), Inna Epling, Jim Ayres, Moses (Michael) Fillmore, Mark & Christina Bischoff (friends of Bartimaeus), Mike Allen, Bonnie Christensen, Tammy (cousin of Nanette Sanman), Jess Akins & her daughter Hallee (friends of Trudy Olinger), Bill Brisbane (Nanette's father), Jacob Hunter (Dan Monaghan's cousin in Afghanistan), Pamela Olsen, Mat. Michaela Fenn (wife of Fr. Mark Fenn), Fr. Michael Lewis, Jill Foss (friend of Jeane Wood), Nancy Corey (Ed Corey's sister), Moses Kemper, Jamie Landers, Nikolai Kupcow, Lynda (Michelle Felleggy's mother), George Kucera, Bonnie (Jenny Dancy's mother).

PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED:

Milic Milojevic, Wilma Young (Steve Wood's mother), Marvel (mother of Mary Jo Neyman), Celeste Botsaris, Joan (Allyson Gross' Mother), John Paras, Nikolay, (father of Oksana Johnson), Sam (Karen Karres' daughter's finance), Archbishop Augustinos of Florina, Devin Austin & Ryan Reinhardt (friends of John Charles and Nanette Sanman), George El Hayek, Fr. Matthew MacKay. Nathan Larson (friend of Tatiana & Jed Bartlett)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Beautiful Parish Ministry – Looking for a Volunteer! We are looking for a volunteer (or team of two who would like to work together) to change the seasonal decorations and tablecloths in the Parish Hall. This is a truly a ministry of encouragement, making our hall inviting and warm for all our members and visitors. Basically, everything is made already (although if someone would like to add their creativity to our present decorations, they would be welcome!). It simply requires changing the tables about five times a year – at the Church New Year (fall), Nativity, Valentine’s, Lent, and Pacha. Please contact Fr. Basil if you would consider taking over this important parish ministry. Thank you!

Sisterhood Meeting Next Sunday – There will be a meeting of the Sisterhood next Sunday following lunch. Please join us!

Post-Theophany/House-Blessing Party Today - There will be a Post-Theophany/House-Blessing party at the home of Thomas Craffey in the Newport area today at 4:00pm. Thomas has invited everyone from all of the Orthodox churches in the area. All who would like to come are invited! There will be great food and drink provided. All who are planning to come should RSVP Thomas if possible - his number is: 208 457 2010. Thomas will give out the specific directions when you call. (Maybe some car-pooling could be arranged among family and friends in order to save on gas money).

No Seeker's Class This Tuesday – The seeker's class that normally meets on Tuesdays at the Townsend's will not be meeting this week because of the Parish Council meeting – but will resume next week.

Shop our Bookstore! - Have you looked into St John's Bookstore recently? New selections of Bibles, books, icons and all manner of handmade Orthodox gifts from all over the world are being added weekly. We have hundreds of Orthodox books, ranging from coloring books for children to the deeply theological & philosophical for scholars. We offer lay-away and even gift certificates. If you have any requests, ask us and we will try to find it. And above all, remember that this is YOUR bookstore. When our bookstore makes money, so does St. Johns. Support your store - Support your parish.

Pilgrimage to Greece - You are invited to participate in a comprehensive tour/pilgrimage “ANCIENT AND HOLY IN GREECE” May 1-14, 2011. Pilgrimage will include visits to the Classical, Byzantine & Monastic Centers of mainland Greece along with a 4-day cruise of the Aegean (Patmos, Ephesus, Rhodes, Crete and Santorini). For more info please contact Jeane Wood at: 208-660-3046 or email at jeaneplastinowood@ymail.com or Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky at: ortours@gmail.com. All information about the pilgrimage is also available at: www.orthodoxtours.com.

The Polyeucte Overture of French composer Paul Dukas is only one of many pieces of classical music inspired by the saints. It premiered in January of 1892. French dramatist Pierre Corneille has also written a play, Polyeucte (1642), based on the martyr's life.

Wisdom of the Fathers - Nativity and Theophany – One Glorious Reality

“Now is the feast of the Theophany, and so also of the Nativity; for it is called both, since two names are ascribed to one reality. For God appeared to human beings through birth...The name is Theophany, since he has appeared, and Naitivity, since he has been born.”

+*St. Gregory the Theologian, Oration 38 On Theophany*

Spring Bake Sale

The Sisterhood will begin baking for this year’s Bake Sale in a couple of weeks so as to not interfere with Lent which begins on March 7th. We are ONLY baking our FIVE MOST POPULAR items (instead of 10 as in previous years) - Baklava, Kourembiethes, Melomacharona, Date Maloul, and Queen Elizabeth Cake. Although we’d previously considered not doing the Bake Sale this year, Fr. Basil requested we reconsider, due our parish’s financial need.

We NEED your help PLEASE! If anyone is interested in helping, please call Joy Corey at 660-0538 or 777-2863, email her at joyinidaho@gmail.com or catch her at Church to volunteer. Everyone has such a good time working together in fellowship while baking so it is not only a work party, but a social gathering. Come and join the fun! This is one event in which you can turn work into fun and make money for the Church at the same time. Glory to God for all things!

Items Needed for Bake Sale:

- Pitted Dates
- C&H Granulated Sugar
- Powdered Sugar
- Unsalted Sweet Butter
- Gold Medal Flour
- Brown Sugar
- Walnuts (lots and lots)
- Cocoanut
- Vegetable Oil
- Colored + Foil cupcake liners

Please bring these every week over the next six weeks. Thank you so much for your donations. If we can keep our costs down, especially this year in light of our having cut the number of bake sale items in half, it will help us maximize our net income. THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU! What a beautiful family we are at St. John's. **God is Good!**

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 form of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hath appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

KONTAKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST IN TONE FOUR

Today Thou hast appeared to the universe, O Lord, and Thy light hath been shed upon us, who praise Thee with knowledge, saying, Thou hast come and appeared, O unapproachable Light.

THE EPISTLE

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

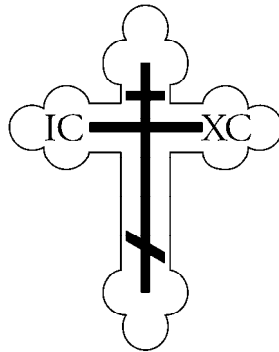
The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (4:7-13)

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 Zebulon and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulon 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."

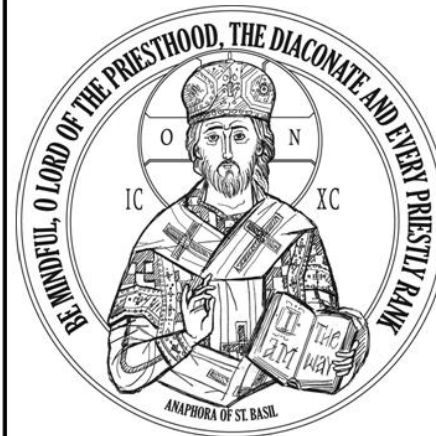


The Way ~ Kids Church School

This month: Remember to bring in a small printed icon of your patron Saint to put in the Mountain of Prayer.

January Memory verses:

1. **2 Timothy 4:5:** *But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*
2. O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth Who art everywhere and fillest all things.
3. Treasury of Blessings, and Giver of Life: Come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, And save our souls, O Good One.
4. **St. Gregory the Great** -Every virtue is a good thing, but most of all gentleness and meekness.



Creative arts Festival

Theme:

Be mindful O Lord of the Priesthood, the Deaconate and every priest rank.

Entry options:

Painting
Collages
Pictures
Photography
Sculptures
Poetry
Oratorical Composition

We are still waiting on firm deadlines for the entries – I have seen two, but it looks like it will be **April 15th**. If you would like to get started at home the details and rules for the Creative Festivals are on the bulletin board in the hall or can be found at http://www.antiochian.org/assets/asset_manager/cf2633b7a8cbd4563881f5b9cf5e93ee.pdf Also be watching for art and writing workshops...coming in February and March!

In Christ Love,
LaVonne Ayoub/ Christian Education