

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

January 15, 2012

Venerable Paul of Thebes



Saint Paul of Thebes was born in Egypt around 227 in the Thebaid of Egypt. Left orphaned, he suffered many things from a greedy relative over his inheritance. During the persecution against Christians under the emperor Decius (249-251), St Paul learned of his brother-in-law's insidious plan to deliver him into the hands of the persecutors, and so he fled the city and fled into the wilderness.

Settling into a mountain cave, St Paul dwelt there for ninety-one years, praying incessantly to God both day and night. He sustained himself on dates and bread, which a raven brought him, and he clothed himself with palm leaves.

St Anthony the Great (January 17), who also lived as an ascetic in the Thebaid desert, had a revelation from God concerning St Paul. St Anthony thought that there was no other desert dweller such as he. Then God said to him, "Anthony, there is a servant of God more excellent than you, and you should go and see him."

Anthony went into the desert and came to St Paul's cave. Falling to the ground before the entrance to the cave, he asked to be admitted. The Elders introduced themselves, and then embraced one another. They conversed through the night, and St Anthony revealed how he had been led there by God. St Paul disclosed to St Anthony that for sixty years a bird had brought him half a loaf of bread each day. Now the Lord had sent a double portion in honor of St Paul's visit. The next morning, St Paul spoke to Anthony of his approaching death, and instructed him to bury him. He also asked St Anthony to return to his monastery and bring back the cloak he had received from St Athanasius. He did not really need a garment, but wished to depart from his body while St Anthony was absent.

As he was returning with the cloak, St Anthony beheld the soul of St Paul surrounded by angels, prophets, and apostles, shining like the sun and ascending to God. He entered the cave and found Abba Paul on his knees with his arms outstretched. St Anthony mourned for him, and wrapped him in the cloak. He wondered how he would bury the body, for he had not remembered to bring a shovel. Two lions came running from the wilderness and dug a grave with their claws.

St Anthony buried the holy Elder, and took his garment of palm leaves, then he returned to his own monastery. St Anthony kept this garb as a precious inheritance, and wore it only twice a year, on

Pascha and Pentecost.

St Paul of Thebes died in the year 341, when he was 113 years old. He did not establish a single monastery, but soon after his end there were many imitators of his life, and they filled the desert with monasteries. St Paul is honored as the first desert-dweller and hermit.

In the twelfth century St Paul's relics were transferred to Constantinople and placed in the Peribleptos monastery of the Mother of God, on orders of the emperor Manuel (1143-1180). Later, they were taken to Venice, and finally to Hungary, at Ofa. Part of his head is in Rome.

St Paul of Thebes, whose Life was written by St Jerome, is not to be confused with St Paul the Simple (October 4).

How to Know and Recognize a Holy Man or Saint

The blessed Prince Vladimir resembled the holy kings David the Prophet, King Hezekiah, the very blessed Josiah and the great Constantine, they having chosen and preferred God's law above all else and having served God with all their hearts and having received the grace of God and inherited Paradise and obtained the Kingdom of Heaven and having gone to rest with all the saints who pleased God: so did the blessed Prince Vladimir, having served God with all his heart and soul. Let us not be surprised, beloved ones, if he performs no miracles after his death; many righteous saints performed no miracles, and still they are saints. St. John Chrysostom speaks about it somewhere: how shall we know and recognize a holy man, by miracles or by deeds? And he replies: he shall be known by deeds, not by miracles. Even soothsayers have performed miracles by devilish inspiration; there were holy Apostles and there were false Apostles; there were holy prophets and there were false prophets, servants of the devil; by a miracle Satan himself can be transformed into an angel bright. But a saint should be known by his deeds, as the Apostle said: 'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, patience, faith, goodness, meekness and temperance, against such there is no law.

+Jacob the Monk, Russian Chronicler, Contemporary of St. Vladimir

APOLYTIKION OF ST. JOHN THE HUT-DWELLER IN TONE FOUR

Since thou hadst with fervor longed after the Lord from thy youth, thou leftest the world with its delights and nobly didst strive in valiant ascetic deeds. Thou didst pitch thy hut before the gates of thy parents; thou didst break the demons' snares, O all-blessed Father. And therefore, as is meet, hath Christ glorified thee, O John.

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, how manifold are Thy works; in wisdom hast Thou made them all.
Bless the Lord, O my soul.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians. (3:4-11)

Brethren, when Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices, and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (17:12-19)

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When He saw them, He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And He said to Him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

Memory Eternal! Shirley Jenkin

Dear Brethren,

Christ is in our midst!

Our dear sister, Shirley Jenkin, went to be with our Lord last evening after a week of great struggle and suffering. She passed away just as Joanna Townsend was singing Vespers to her -- in fact, just at the time of the Prayer of St. Simeon:

"Lord, now let your servant depart in peace according to your word ..."

What a blessing!

We will celebrate a memorial Trisagion for her this morning after Liturgy.

May her memory be eternal!

Love in Christ, our Resurrection and Life,

+Fr. Basil



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Taking Down the Christmas Decorations

We need to get the Christmas trees down and would like to do it right after (or even during) coffee hour this Sunday. If you'd like to help, many hands make light work!

Sisterhood Meeting Next Sunday, January 22nd

Will be having a Sisterhood meeting a week from Sunday (1-22-12). I'd like to meet with all the ladies for about 15 minutes and then with the officers for the rest of the time. We have had a suggestion regarding meetings that I think would be very effective and streamline our work, but I feel that everyone should have the opportunity to weigh in on it before we implement it.

Please come and give your input. I would also like to set a schedule for social meeting for the next 6 months and encourage you to bring your calendar. Please consider whether you might be willing to host a get-together at your home or bring an idea for an outing for the group.

If you've never participated in the Sisterhood or haven't been in a while, come and join us! Let's set up some fun activities for the coming months!

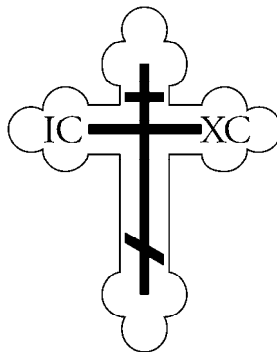
See you Sunday.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Allyson

Iconography Workshop, January 23-27

St. John's will be hosting an Iconography workshop, taught by Eleni Schumacher & Dianne Nolan the week of January 23rd through the 27th. Please register early, as space is limited. To register, contact Dianne at 208-667-2222.



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS

Saturday, January 14 – Great Vespers 6:00pm

Sunday, January 15 – Orthros 9:00am; Divine Liturgy 10:00am; Sunday School & Lunch following

Monday, January 16 – Friday, January 20 – Fr. Basil & Deacon Mark away at Clergy Seminar.

Saturday, January 21 – Great Vespers 6:00pm

Sunday, January 22 – Orthros 9:00am; Divine Liturgy 10:00am; Sunday School & Lunch following

EPISTLE READERS

January 15 - Sbdcn. Barnabas Schaefer

January 22 - Owen Rush

January 29- Reader Mark Fellegly

CHURCH CLEANING

Week of Jan 16 - Schaefer

Week of Jan 23 - Goolsby

Week of Jan 30 - Townsends

LUNCHEON & CLEANUP

January 15 - Team 1 - Tsalaky, Ayoub D., Ayoub M., Vlahos

January 22 - Team 5 - Poland, Schaefer, Gallatin, Johnson

January 29 - Team 2 - Corey, Tecca, Wood, Roth, Holman

PRAYERS FOR THE LIVING:

Rebecca Ebert & family, Paul Truebenbach, Oksana Johnson, Adam Roth, Celia (sister of Lucille Horton), Jean (Fr. Basil's mother), Jim Ayres, Mike Kerr, Tim Peterson's grandfather, Bob Rutherford, Ed Mattmiller, Sarah Riccio, Cameron (son of Michelle Parge), Jon Paul, Bobby Clark (friend of the Olinger's), Karen Kares, Emmet (friend of Nanette's), James Bentley (Bryne's grandfather), Bob (Owen's father), Baby Girl Sunny Fox & mother Tiffany, Terri (Dianne Nolan's sister), Katrina (Mike Kerr's wife), Rita & Kent Little (friends of Trudy Olinger), Bonnie (Jenny Dancy's mother), Lou Papachristos (friend of Karen Karres), Teri Hundt (sister of Tiffany Gallatin), Inna Epling, Moses Kemper, Pam, Susan, Marc (Jenny Dancy's sister-in-law and friends), Crystal, Riley, Emily, Boston, Caleb, Nancy Corey (Ed Corey's sister), Jamie Landers, Nikolai Kupcow, George Kucera.

PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED:

Shirley Jenkin, Diantha Ebert, Fr. Michael Lewis, Fr Basil Steiger, Fr. Thomas O'Dea, Charlotte, Carla Scherer (Hannah's grandmother), Bill Goolsby (Steve's father), Wisdom Gonzalez (Bartimaeus' cousin), Nina Bergoltseva, John Schrom Sr. (father of Sbdcn. John Schrom). William Brisbane (Nanette's father), Jack and Steve (Dianne Nolan's father and brother-in-law), Milic Milojevic, Wilma Young (Steve Wood's mother), Vasso Papachristos.