

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

January 23, 2011



Hieromartyr Clement the Bishop of Ancyra

The Hieromartyr Clement was born in the Galatian city of Ancyra in the year 258, of a pagan father and a Christian mother. He lost his father when he was an infant, and his mother when he was twelve. She predicted a martyr's death for him because of his belief in Christ.

A woman named Sophia adopted him and raised him in the fear of God. During a terrible famine in Galatia several pagans turned out their own children, not having the means to feed them. Sophia took in these unfortunates, and fed and clothed them. St Clement assisted her in this. He taught the children and prepared them for Baptism. Many of them died as martyrs for Christ.

St Clement was made a reader, and later a deacon. When he was eighteen he was ordained to the holy priesthood, and at age twenty he was consecrated Bishop of Ancyra. Soon afterwards the persecution against Christians under Diocletian (284-305) broke out.

Bishop Clement was denounced as a Christian and arrested. Dometian, the governor of Galatia, tried to make the saint worship the pagan gods, but St Clement firmly confessed his faith and valiantly withstood all the tortures.

They suspended him on a tree, and raked his body with sharp iron instruments so that his entrails could be seen. They smashed his mouth with stones, and they turned him on a wheel and burned him over a low fire. The Lord preserved His sufferer and healed his lacerated body.

Then Dometian sent the saint to Rome to the emperor Diocletian himself, with a report that Bishop Clement had been fiercely tortured, but had proven unyielding. Diocletian, seeing the martyr completely healthy, did not believe the report and subjected him to even crueller tortures, and then had him locked up in prison.

Many of the pagans, seeing the bravery of the saint and the miraculous healing of his wounds, believed in Christ. People flocked to St Clement in prison for guidance, healing and Baptism, so that the prison was literally transformed into a church. When word of this reached the emperor, many of these new Christians were executed.

Diocletian, struck by the amazing endurance of St Clement, sent him to Nicomedia to his co-emperor

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS

Sunday, January 23 – Orthros 9:00am; Divine Liturgy 10:00am; Sunday School following Liturgy; Lunch following

Tuesday, January 25 – Inquirer's/Catechism Class at the Townsends 7:00pm

Wednesday, January 26 – Vespers 6:00pm

Friday, January 28 – Spiritual Circle 9:30am

Saturday, January 29 – Great Vespers 6:00pm

Sunday, January 30 – **Three Hierarchs** - Orthros 9:00am; Divine Liturgy 10:00am; Sunday School following Liturgy; Lunch following

EPISTLE READERS

Jan 23 - Sbdcn. Barnabas Schaefer

Jan 30 - Tabitha Townsend

Feb 6 - Sbdcn. Mark (Eric) Townsend

Feb 13 - Reader Mark Fellegy

CHURCH CLEANING

Week of Jan 24 - Goolsby

Week of Jan 31 - Townsends

Week of Feb 7 - Fellegy/Holman

Week of Feb 14 - Corey/Rush

LUNCHEON & CLEANUP

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

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

Feb 6 - Team 3 - Garbinski, Tourous, Jenkin, Weddle, Kane, Ayres, O'Daniel

Feb 13- Team 4 - Townsend, Rush, Caldaroni, Sanman, Handeen

PRAYERS FOR THE LIVING:

Paul Truebenbach, Allyson Gross, Mike Kerr, Katrina (Mike Kerr's wife), Bartimaeus Butler, Bonnie (Jenny Dancy's Mother), Susan and parents Coo and Lou (friends of Jenny Dancy), 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, 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 Fellegy'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), Kathleen (Erin Laning's mother), 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

"LABOR with LOVE" - Parish Work Day - Jan 30th - please come!

Please mark your calendars now for Sunday afternoon, January 30th for our first "Labor with Love" Parish Work Day! Plan on joining your St. John Family for an afternoon of FELLOWSHIP, FUN, SERVICE + PIZZA! ALL AGES are needed to work on a variety of projects around the St. Johns – in the kitchen, banquet hall, downstairs, etc. We will begin after lunch and we will conclude our time working together with a PIZZA PARTY at 5pm. Please bring an extra set of clothes to change into after church. (Note to football fans – this is the by-week btwn playoff and the Super Bowl – we planned it specifically on this day so you are FREE – yeah!) Please see the attachment for more information. Questions? Please contact Barnabas Schaefer at nschaefer@abc-clio.com or 805.259.8477. We REALLY HOPE you can come! We truly need EVERYONE! (If you will be out-of-town or are unable to come, please consider donating towards the pizza for the workers.)



Pysanky Egg Workshop

We have an experienced Pysanky artist willing to come to St. John and teach a workshop on the traditional Ukrainian Orthodox art of Pysanky Eggs. She agreed to charge us a very reasonable amount—only \$45 per person, including ALL supplies, for 3 sessions (3 hours each session). The workshop would take place in March in preparation for Pascha. Please contact Diane Nolan ASAP to indicate your interest —

208.667.2222. The workshop would be limited to a max of 10 people, so Diane will be taking sign-up on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Thank you St. John's Family! Steve Wood would like to thank all the brethren of St. John's for their love and for making him feel so welcome in our parish. In addition, he is grateful for all the prayers for his mother both before and after her recent falling asleep in the Lord.



Project Safe Place - an Opportunity to Serve!

The Women of St. John have been involved in a community ministry for a few years now, and we wanted to open up this opportunity to the whole parish. Project Safe Place provides a safe environment for teens in the community - who may be homeless or struggling at home with issues of abuse or neglect. We have the opportunity to provide a nice home-cooked meal for 15 teens on the **LAST Wednesday of every month**. Currently, we have sign-ups for Jan, Feb and March, but we're taking volunteers for April on. If you'd like to sign-up - or maybe you'd like to work with another individual or family to provide the meal,

please contact our parish coordinator: Barbara Garbinski at bgarbin@roadrunner.com or 208.777.2666. For more information about the local and national organization, please see <http://www.nationalsafeplace.org>.

Maximian. On the ship, the saint was joined by his disciple Agathangelus, who had avoided being executed with the other confessors, and who now wanted to suffer and die for Christ with Bishop Clement.

The emperor Maximian in turn sent Sts Clement and Agathangelus to the governor Agrippina, who subjected them to such inhuman torments, that even the pagan on-lookers felt pity for the martyrs and they began to pelt the torturers with stones.

Having been set free, the saints healed an inhabitant of the city through the laying on of hands and they baptized and instructed people, thronging to them in multitudes. Arrested again on orders of Maximian, they were sent home to Ancyra, where the ruler Cyrenius had them tortured. Then they were sent to the city of Amasea to the proconsul Dometius, known for his great cruelty.

In Amasea, the martyrs were thrown into hot lime. They spent a whole day in it and remained unharmed. They flayed them, beat them with iron rods, set them on red-hot beds, and poured sulfur on their bodies. All this failed to harm the saints, and they were sent to Tarsus for new tortures. In the wilderness along the way St Clement had a revelation that he would suffer a total of twenty-eight years for Christ. Then having endured a multitude of tortures, the saints were locked up in prison.

St Agathangelus was beheaded with the sword on November 5. The Christians of Ancyra freed St Clement from prison and took him to a cave church. There, after celebrating Liturgy, the saint announced to the faithful the impending end of the persecution and his own martyrdom. On January 23, the holy hierarch was killed by soldiers from the city, who stormed the church. The saint was beheaded as he stood before the altar and offered the Bloodless Sacrifice. Two deacons, Christopher and Chariton, were beheaded with him, but no one else was harmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

House Blessings - Now that we have celebrated the Great Feast of Theophany and blessed the waters for a new year it is time for Theophany Houseblessings! If you would like to have your house blessed this year, please contact Fr. Basil either by email (frbasil@caldaroni.net) or by phone (208-818-2646) to set up an appointment.

Inquirer's/Catechism Class – Tuesday

Our 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. We hope to see you there!

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.

The Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese OF NORTH AMERICA

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January 4, 2010

Your Graces, Reverend Clergy and Faithful of this God-protected Archdiocese,

In North America, we have millions of unemployed, working poor, people who go to bed hungry, elderly who must choose between food and medicine, homeless, and so many others in need. FOCUS North America, which to us Orthodox is a Fellowship of Orthodox Christians united to serve, provides food, occupations, clothing, understanding and shelter for our most needy neighbors. It is a vehicle that provides a way for the faithful of all the Orthodox Churches in North America to give a common and powerful witness of our faith through social action ministries and love for our neighbor.

I commend to you and endorse the good works of FOCUS North America and strongly encourage all of our faithful to generously support and volunteer with this worthy ministry. It is my prayer that through God's mercy and the ministry of FOCUS North America that many hurting and hopeless men, women and children in this land will come to know the love of God and the hope offered through His Church.

Paternally yours,



Metropolitan PHILIP

Primate

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of North America