

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

June 26, 2011



Synaxis of the Saints of North America

On the second Sunday after Pentecost, each local Orthodox Church commemorates all the saints, known and unknown, who have shone forth in its territory. Accordingly, the Orthodox Church in America remembers the saints of North America on this day.

Saints of all times, and in every country are seen as the fulfillment of God's promise to redeem fallen humanity. Their example encourages us to "lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets us" and to "run with patience the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1). The saints of North America also teach us how we should live, and what we must expect to endure as Christians

Although it is a relatively young church, the Orthodox Church in America has produced saints in nearly all of the six major categories of saints: Apostles (and Equals of the Apostles); Martyrs (and Confessors); Prophets; Hierarchs; Monastic Saints; and the Righteous. Prophets, of course, lived in Old Testament times and predicted the coming of Christ.

The first Divine Liturgy in what is now American territory (northern latitude 58 degrees, 14 minutes, western longitude 141 degrees) was celebrated on July 20, 1741, the Feast of the Prophet Elias, aboard the ship Peter under the command of Vitus Bering. Hieromonk Hilarion Trusov and the priest Ignatius Kozirevsky served together on that occasion. Several years later, the Russian merchant Gregory I. Shelikov visited Valaam monastery, suggesting to the abbot that it would be desirable to send missionaries to Russian America.

On September 24, 1794, after a journey of 7,327 miles (the longest missionary journey in Orthodox history) and 293 days, a group of monks from Valaam arrived on Kodiak Island in Alaska. The mission was headed by Archimandrite Joasaph, and included Hieromonks Juvenal, Macarius, and Athanasius, the Hierodeacons Nectarius and Stephen, and the monks Herman and Joasaph. St Herman of Alaska (December 13, August 9), the last surviving member of the mission, fell asleep in the Lord in 1837.

Throughout the Church's history, the seeds of faith have always been watered by the blood of the martyrs. The Protomartyr Juvenal was killed near Lake Iliamna by natives in 1799, thus becoming the first Orthodox Christian to shed his blood for Christ in the New World. In 1816, St Peter the Aleut was put to death by Spanish missionaries in California when he refused to convert to Roman Catholicism.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS

Sunday, June 26 – Orthros 9:00am; Divine Liturgy 10:00am; Sunday School and Lunch following

Tuesday, June 28 - Vespers Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Ss. Peter & Paul 6:30pm

Wednesday, June 29 – Feast of Apostles Peter & Paul - Vespers 6:00pm

Friday, July 1 –Spiritual Circle 9:30am

Saturday, July 2 – Great Vespers 6:00pm

Sunday, July 3 – Orthros 9:00am; Divine Liturgy 10:00am; Sunday School and Lunch following

EPISTLE READERS

June 26 - Tabitha Townsend

July 3 - Sbdcn. Mark Townsend

July 10 - Joy Corey

July 17 - Sbdcn. Barnabas Schaefer

CHURCH CLEANING

Week of June 27 - Fellegy/Holman

Week of July 4 - Corey/Rush

Week of July 11 – Schaefer

Week of July 18 - Goolsby

LUNCHEON & CLEANUP

June 26 - Team 4 - Townsend, Rush, Calderoni, Sanman, Handeen, Stillman

July 3 - Team 3 - Garbinski, Tourous, Jenkin, Weddle, Ayres, O'Daniel

July 10 - Team 5 - Poland, Schaefer, Gallatin, Nolan, Johnson

July 17 - Team 6 - Ayoub, Wood, Bryant

PRAYERS FOR THE LIVING:

Fr. Basil, Paul Truebenbach, Alice Gallatin, Marcos Mamalakis, Cecilia (Tim Peterson's Grandmother), Vasso Papachristos, Terri (Dianne Nolan's sister), Levi (Fr. James Bernstein's grandson), Mike Kerr, Katrina (Mike Kerr's wife), Rita & Kent Little (friends of Trudy Olinger), Bonnie (Jenny Dancy's Mother), Susan and parents Coo and Lou (friends of Jenny Dancy), 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), Inna Epling, Moses Kemper, Pam, Susan, Marc (Jenny Dancy's sister-in-law and friends), Crystal, Riley, Emily, Boston, Caleb, Anders and Cindy (family of Bartimaeus), Patricia, David, Bonnie, Stori, Brooke and Endin (family of Trudy Olinger), Jacob Hunter (Dan Monaghan's cousin in Afghanistan), Pamela Olsen, Jill Foss (friend of Jeane Wood), Nancy Corey (Ed Corey's sister), Jamie Landers, Nikolai Kupcow, George Kucera.

PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED:

John Schrom Sr. (father of Sbdcn. John Schrom). William Brisbane (Nanette's father), Jack and Steve (Dianne Nolan's father and brother-in-law), Dominic & Pasquale (brother and brother-in-law of Lucille Horton), Milic Milojevic, Wilma Young (Steve Wood's mother), Gene (Sbdcn. Barnabas' Uncle) Gary Butler & Doris Owens (family of Bartimaeus)

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE/NEEDS LIST:

Rider mower for church property; playground play set for children's area

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Baptismal Candles Now Available in the St. John Bookstore – Please stop by the bookstore to see our beautiful collection of books, icons, and gifts of all kinds. The bookstore now has baptismal candles available as well, so drop by and take a look!

Hall Rental - St. John's needs your help! We have the hall rented out for Saturday, July 16th for a large wedding reception (200 people). We have another August 20th and yet another August 27th. Our beautiful hall is a great source of pride and revenue for the parish and we thank all of you who made the building of our hall possible. There are various ways you can help, so please contact Joy Corey if you are able to help! God bless you!

St. John Youth: Oratorical & CrossRoad

Thank you to those who have been able to contribute to help cover the costs to send Isaac Schaefer to represent St. John at the Parish Life Conference next weekend in Irvine, California, as well as his flights to and from Boston for CrossRoad at Holy Cross. If you would like to make a contribution, please drop it in the Offering box at St. John TODAY, marked "Isaac." Thank you! For more information, see below:

Congratulations to Isaac Schaefer who has been awarded a scholarship for the **CrossRoad Program this summer at Holy Cross Seminary in Boston**. There were many applicants this year; Isaac was one of only 60 chosen for two sessions. Isaac will be there for the second session during first half of July, where they will consider, **“What does it mean to travel the road of the Cross of Christ in your life, for your life?”** For two weeks, Isaac will be living in the HC dorms with other Orthodox youth ages 17 + 18 from all over North America – experiencing a full liturgical life, visiting historic Orthodox churches all over Boston, studying their faith with seminary professors, exploring future vocations, serving their neighbor through various outreach ministries and just having fun. The ultimate goal is to help each participant discern their life’s calling, matching their personal gifts with the needs of the world. For more information, check out the CrossRoad website at http://hellenic.hchc.edu/hellenic/campus_life/vocation/crossroad.html All Isaac’s expenses are covered while there, but Isaac and his family have to cover his airline tickets to and from Boston, which is pricey in July.

Please pray for Isaac as he travels. First he travels to California where he will be **representing St. John in the Oratorical Contest at the Western Reg Parish Life Conference**. He will participate in the Oratorical Festival, presenting his speech next Saturday (July 2nd) on the theme, **“Be mindful, O Lord of the priesthood, the diaconate and every priestly rank”** from the Anaphora of St. Basil. Please pray for Isaac. May our Lord give him the words to speak; may they bring honor to God, as well as the holy priesthood.

Thank you for helping support St. John’s son dear brethren!

Missionary efforts continued in the nineteenth century, with outreach to the native peoples of Alaska. Two of the most prominent laborers in Christ's Vineyard were St Innocent Veniaminov (March 31 and October 6) and St Jacob Netsvetov (July 26), who translated Orthodox services and books into the native languages. Father Jacob Netsvetev died in Sitka in 1864 after a life of devoted service to the Church. Father John Veniaminov, after his wife's death, received monastic tonsure with the name Innocent. He died in 1879 as the Metropolitan of Moscow.

As the nineteenth century was drawing to a close, an event of enormous significance for the North American Church took place. On March 25, 1891, Bishop Vladimir went to Minneapolis to receive St Alexis Toth (May 7) and 361 of his parishioners into the Orthodox Church. This was the beginning of the return of many Uniates to Orthodoxy.

St Tikhon (Belavin), the future Patriarch of Moscow (April 7, October 9), came to America as bishop of the diocese of the Aleutians and Alaska in September 1898. As the only Orthodox bishop on the continent, St Tikhon traveled extensively throughout North America in order to minister to his widely scattered and diverse flock. He realized that the local church here could not be a permanent extension of the Russian Church. Therefore, he focused his efforts on giving the American Church a diocesan and parish structure which would help it mature and grow.

St Tikhon returned to Russia in 1907, and was elected as Patriarch of Moscow ten years later. He died in 1925, and for many years his exact burial place remained unknown. St Tikhon's grave was discovered on February 22, 1992 in the smaller cathedral of Our Lady of the Don in the Don Monastery when a fire made renovation of the church necessary.

St Raphael of Brooklyn (February 27) was the first Orthodox bishop to be consecrated in North America. Archimandrite Raphael Hawaweeny was consecrated by Bishop Tikhon and Bishop Innocent (Pustynsky) at St Nicholas Cathedral in New York on March 13, 1904. As Bishop of Brooklyn, St Raphael was a trusted and capable assistant to St Tikhon in his archpastoral ministry. St Raphael reposed on February 27, 1915.

The first All American Council took place March 5-7, 1907 at Mayfield, PA, and the main topic was "How to expand the mission." Guidelines and directions for missionary activity, and statutes for the administrative structure of parishes were also set forth.

In the twentieth century, in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution, countless men, women, and children received the crown of martyrdom rather than renounce Christ. Sts John Kochurov (October 31) and Alexander Hotovitzky (December 4 and August 7) both served the Church in North America before going back to Russia. St John became the first clergyman to be martyred in Russia on October 31, 1917 in St Petersburg. St Alexander Hotovitzky, who served in America until 1914, was killed in 1937.

In addition to the saints listed above, we also honor those saints who are known only to God, and have not been recognized officially by the Church. As we contemplate the lives of these saints, let us remember that we are also called by God to a life of holiness.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE ONE

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

KONTAKION FOR ORDINARY SUNDAYS IN TONE TWO

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

THE EPISTLE (For Second Sunday after Pentecost)

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 Romans. (2:10-16)

Brethren, glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. All who have sinned without the Law will also perish without the Law, and all who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law. For it is not the hearers of the Law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the Law who will be justified. When Gentiles who have not the Law do by nature what the Law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the Law. They show that what the Law requires is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

THE GOSPEL (For Second Sunday of Matthew)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (4:18-23)

At that time, as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. And going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and He called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. And He went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the Kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

St. John the Baptist Middle School Survey

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that a group of Orthodox Christians held an ad hoc meeting two weeks ago to investigate the possibilities for establishing an Orthodox Middle School (Grades 6, 7 & 8) with its emphasis on classical education, strong academics, life skills and sacred arts. Though students would not have to be Orthodox Christians, the parents of such students would be required to have a clear understanding of the philosophy and purpose of an Orthodox Christian Middle School and the willingness to have their child exposed to the teachings and services of the Orthodox Christian Faith.

At this time, we are striving to establish the interest level of the community in the Panhandle of Idaho, as well as the Spokane Valley and the City of Spokane, in order to assess the viability of such a program. Getting a school off the ground will require a tremendous amount of dedication, time, effort, money and sacrifice. As a parent of a student in this school, you will be called upon to give of your energy, time, and talents with the expectation that you will do your share of fundraising for the school.

The goal would be to have everything in place and be ready to open the school by September 2012. The thought is to add one grade per year until the School can offer classes through 12th grade. Everything will depend on the level of interest, but that interest will remain at the stage of curiosity if it isn't cloaked in relentless dedication and a profound commitment to the philosophy of the school.

I've invited you to fill out the form St. John the Baptist Middle School Survey. To fill it out, visit: <https://spreadsheets.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dFU1NGtIQVpkaDIzTHJ1U2NsSEFDbkE6MQ>

There will also be printed copies of the survey in the Narthex.

Thank you!

Sbdcn. Mark (Eric) Townsend

