

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

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

Mailing Address: 4718 Horsehaven, Post Falls, Idaho 83854-6668 - Church Phone: (208) 777-1128

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

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Repose of St. John the Evangelist and Theologian September 26, 2010



Repose of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian

The Holy, Glorious All-laudable Apostle and Evangelist, Virgin, and Beloved Friend of Christ, John the Theologian was the son of Zebedee and Salome, a daughter of St Joseph the Betrothed. He was called by our Lord Jesus Christ to be one of His Apostles at the same time as his elder brother James. This took place at Lake Gennesareth (i.e. the Sea of Galilee). Leaving behind their father, both brothers followed the Lord.

The Apostle John was especially loved by the Savior for his sacrificial love and his virginal purity. After his calling, the Apostle John did not part from the Lord, and he was one of the three apostles who were particularly close to Him. St John the Theologian was present when the Lord restored the daughter of Jairus to life, and he was a witness to the Transfiguration of the Lord on Mount Tabor.

During the Last Supper, he reclined next to the Lord, and laid his head upon His breast. He also asked the name of the Savior's betrayer. The Apostle John followed after the Lord when they led Him bound from the Garden of Gethsemane to the court of the iniquitous High Priests Annas and Caiphaz. He was there in the courtyard of the High Priest during the interrogations of his Teacher and he resolutely followed after him on the way to Golgotha, grieving with all his heart.

At the foot of the Cross he stood with the Mother of God and heard the words of the Crucified Lord addressed to Her from the Cross: "Woman, behold Thy son." Then the Lord said to him, "Behold thy Mother" (John 19:26-27). From that moment the Apostle John, like a loving son, concerned himself over the Most Holy Virgin Mary, and he served Her until Her Dormition.

After the Dormition of the Mother of God the Apostle John went to Ephesus and other cities of Asia Minor to preach the Gospel, taking with him his own disciple Prochorus. They boarded a ship, which floundered during a terrible tempest. All the travellers were cast up upon dry ground, and only the

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS

Sunday, September 26 – Repose of St. John the Evangelist and Theologian - Orthros 9:00am; Divine Liturgy 10:00am; Sunday School following Liturgy; Lunch following; Sisterhood Meeting after lunch

Tuesday, September 28 – Inquirer's/Catechism Class at Townsend's 7:00pm

Wednesday, September 29 – Vespers 6:00pm

Friday, October 1 – Protection of the Theotokos - Spiritual Circle 9:30am

Saturday, October 2 – Great Vespers 6:00pm

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

EPISTLE READERS

Sep 26 - Reader Mark Felleggy

Oct 3 - Joy Corey

Oct 10 - Sbdcn. Barnabas Schaefer

Oct 17 - Tabitha Townsend

CHURCH CLEANING

Week of Sept 27 – Schaefer

Week of Oct 4 – Goolsby

Week of Oct 11 – Townsends

Week of Oct 18 - Felleggy/Holman

*Contact Adam Roth if you would like to help.

LUNCHEON & CLEANUP

Sep 26 - Team 4 - Dancy, Goodsen J., Caldaroni, Sanman, Handeen

Oct 3 – Team 5 - Poland, Townsend, Schaefer, Gallatin, Nolan, Milojevic, Johnson

Oct 10 - Team 1 - Tsalaky, Ayoub M., Holmen, Goolsby, Vlahos, Felleggy

Oct 17 - 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, Jim Ayres, Moses (Michael) Fillmore, Brian Finegan (husband of Shirley Jenkin's cousin), Mark & Christina Bischoff (friends of Bartimaeus), Sam (friend of Karen Karres' daughter), Mike Allen, Bonnie Christensen, Tammy (cousin of Nanette Sanman), 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), Pamela Olsen, 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), 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), 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:

Archbishop Augustinos of Florina, Devin Austin & Ryan Reinhardt (friends of John Charles and Nanette Sanman), George Al Hayek, Jim Parker (Chammy Ott's father), Fr. Matthew MacKay.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention Ladies: Sisterhood Meeting Today after Lunch

We will be having a meeting today following lunch. There are some very important items that need to be discussed. Election time is here and a new President needs to be elected. We also need to discuss fundraising. At the last meeting, we decided to wait to talk about future fundraising opportunities. We now need to make some decisions. Plan to bring fresh ideas to the table. It is also time again to send in our yearly dues for the Sisterhood. We are asking all ladies to try to give \$10 for yearly dues. Please give to Barbara Garbinski.

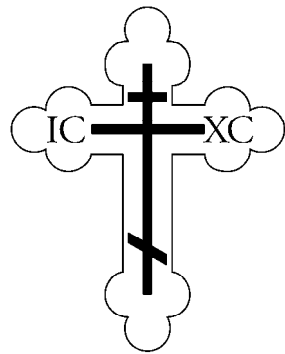
Thank you for your time. We look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting.

Sisterhood Dues

It is that time of year again for the Sisterhood to send in dues to the diocese. Please give your dues of \$10.00 to Barbara Garbinski. Each parish is expected to send in \$200 to the diocese by November 1. Thank you!

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. 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.**



Apostle John remained in the depths of the sea. Prochorus wept bitterly, bereft of his spiritual father and guide, and he went on towards Ephesus alone.

On the fourteenth day of his journey he stood at the shore of the sea and saw that the waves had cast a man ashore. Going up to him, he recognized the Apostle John, whom the Lord had preserved alive for fourteen days in the sea. Teacher and disciple went to Ephesus, where the Apostle John preached incessantly to the pagans about Christ. His preaching was accompanied by such numerous and great miracles, that the number of believers increased with each day.

During this time there had begun a persecution of Christians under the emperor Nero (56-68). They took the Apostle John for trial at Rome. St John was sentenced to death for his confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, but the Lord preserved His chosen one. The apostle drank a cup of deadly poison, but he remained alive. Later, he emerged unharmed from a cauldron of boiling oil into which he had been thrown on orders from the torturer.

After this, they sent the Apostle John off to imprisonment to the island of Patmos, where he spent many years. Proceeding along on his way to the place of exile, St John worked many miracles. On the island of Patmos, his preaching and miracles attracted to him all the inhabitants of the island, and he enlightened them with the light of the Gospel. He cast out many devils from the pagan temples, and he healed a great multitude of the sick.

Sorcerers with demonic powers showed great hostility to the preaching of the holy apostle. He especially frightened the chief sorcerer of them all, named Kinops, who boasted that they would destroy the apostle. But the great John, by the grace of God acting through him, destroyed all the demonic artifices to which Kinops resorted, and the haughty sorcerer perished in the depths of the sea.

The Apostle John withdrew with his disciple Prochorus to a desolate height, where he imposed upon himself a three-day fast. As St John prayed the earth quaked and thunder rumbled. Prochorus fell to the ground in fright. The Apostle John lifted him up and told him to write down what he was about to say. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, saith the Lord, Who is and Who was and Who is to come, the Almighty" (Rev 1:8), proclaimed the Spirit of God through the Apostle John. Thus in about the year 67 the Book of Revelation was written, known also as the "Apocalypse," of the holy Apostle John the Theologian. In this Book were predictions of the tribulations of the Church and of the end of the world.

After his prolonged exile, the Apostle John received his freedom and returned to Ephesus, where he continued with his activity, instructing Christians to guard against false teachers and their erroneous teachings. In the year 95, the Apostle John wrote his Gospel at Ephesus. He called for all Christians to love the Lord and one another, and by this to fulfill the commands of Christ. The Church calls St John the "Apostle of Love", since he constantly taught that without love man cannot come near to God.

In his three Epistles, St John speaks of the significance of love for God and for neighbor. Already in his old age, he learned of a youth who had strayed from the true path to follow the leader of a band of robbers, so St John went out into the wilderness to seek him. Seeing the holy Elder, the guilty one tried to hide himself, but the Apostle John ran after him and besought him to stop. He promised to take the sins of the youth upon himself, if only he would repent and not bring ruin upon his soul. Shaken by the intense love of the holy Elder, the youth actually did repent and turn his life around.

St John when he was more than a hundred years old. he far outlived the other eyewitnesses of the Lord, and for a long time he remained the only remaining eyewitness of the earthly life of the Savior.

When it was time for the departure of the Apostle John, he went out beyond the city limits of Ephesus with the families of his disciples. He bade them prepare for him a cross-shaped grave, in which he lay, telling his disciples that they should cover him over with the soil. The disciples tearfully kissed their beloved teacher, but not wanting to be disobedient, they fulfilled his bidding. They covered the face of the saint with a cloth and filled in the grave. Learning of this, other disciples of St John came to the place of his burial. When they opened the grave, they found it empty.

Each year from the grave of the holy Apostle John on May 8 came forth a fine dust, which believers gathered up and were healed of sicknesses by it. Therefore, the Church also celebrates the memory of the holy Apostle John the Theologian on May 8.

The Lord bestowed on His beloved disciple John and John's brother James the name "Sons of Thunder" as an awesome messenger in its cleansing power of the heavenly fire. And precisely by this the Savior pointed out the flaming, fiery, sacrificial character of Christian love, the preacher of which was the Apostle John the Theologian. The eagle, symbol of the lofty heights of his theological thought, is the iconographic symbol of the Evangelist John the Theologian. The appellation "Theologian" is bestowed by Holy Church only to St John among the immediate disciples and Apostles of Christ, as being the seer of the mysterious Judgments of God.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. John. (4:12-19)

Brethren, no man has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His own Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son as the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we know and believe the love God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. In this love is perfected with us, that we may have confidence for the Day of Judgment, because as He is so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and he who fears is not perfected in love. We love, because He first loved us.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (19:25-27; 21:24-25)

At that time, standing by the Cross of Jesus were His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing near, He said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your Son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own. This is the disciple who is bearing witness to these things, and who has written these things; and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things, which Jesus did; were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST IN TONE TWO

O Apostle John, speaker of divinity, the beloved of Christ God, hasten and deliver thy people powerless in argument; for He on Whose bosom thou didst lean accepteth thee as an intercessor. Beseech Him, therefore, to disperse the cloud of the stubborn nations, asking for us safety and the Great Mercy.

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.