

Forefeast, Sunday
before Nativity
The Genealogy

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Heb 11:9-10, 32-40  
Matthew 1:1-25

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Homily by
Fr. Marc Dunaway

Epistle Reader:
Russell Clodfelter

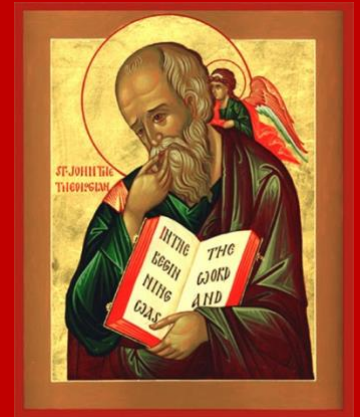
Coffee Hour Hosts:
Finkler / Cowan

St. John Orthodox Cathedral

Weekly Bulletin

Sunday, December 22, 2024

And the Days Following



Feast Days and Services

Saint Ignatius – December 20



This Friday (Tonight) we celebrate the third Saint in these three weeks leading up to Christmas, Ignatius the Bishop and Martyr of Antioch. Saint Ignatius was martyred under the Emperor Trajan in the Roman arena in 107 A.D. As he travelled from Antioch to Rome under guard, he was able to visit seven Churches along the way and wrote short letters of greeting and teaching. These letters are a treasure of the early, apostolic Church. Below is an excerpt from his letter to the Romans and a link to his letters online: [Letters of Saint Ignatius of Antioch](#).

We will add the short service of "Blessing Bread and Wine" (Artoklasia and Lita), which can be celebrated on certain feast days. Also, on this day we will set up the Nativity scene on the Cathedral porch as we enter the last days of preparation for the celebration of Christmas, the Nativity of our Lord.



December 24 – Christmas Eve – Is a Strick Fast Day

Services for Christmas



December 24, Tuesday, "Royal Hours":
6:15am, 9:15am, 12:15pm, 3:15pm



Christmas Eve - December 24, Tuesday -
Vesperal Liturgy 6:15pm



Nativity of our Lord – December 25,
Wednesday - Christmas Day
9am Matins for the Feast, 10am Divine
Liturgy.



Letter from our Bishop Anthony

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA

The Right Reverend
Bishop ANTHONY



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

Diocese of Los Angeles
And The West

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

Nativity in the flesh of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
December 25, 2024

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

المسيح وُلِد! فمجّدوه!

Love swings back and forth between hope and hurt. The Father in heaven had high hopes for His Son on earth to rescue His creation for Him, returning it to its original meaning and destiny. The Little One who lay in a manger outside the comfort and crowd of the Inn, as baby and from then on to the Cross, from cradle to Cross, would, in the deepest sense, always be alone, on His own, and never at home anywhere. This prophet was not welcome in the town He grew up in. Therefore, He wandered as a homeless person. The Father would feel the hurt of this homelessness and hear the Blessed One say He had nowhere to lay His head.

I had thought there were two dramatic moments in Christ's life when He truly could rest and lay His head down in peace; one is when He was born and His mother held Him, the other was in the quiet tomb while the crowds were gone and the noise of darkness stopped. He rose from the sleep of death, folded His cloth pillow neatly, and left resurrected and triumphant.

Christmas has me pray for and hurt for all of the little ones now, outside the comfort of warm homes, away in the wilderness of foreign places, traveling in the night to Egypt, far from the Bethlehem of their birth. The Father hurts for them who are made in the image of His son and so are made for Him.

Let us give them a home somewhere and show them there is love in every city, in the City of Peace.

Christ changed the hurt of the Cross into the help of the Father through His obedience, as a good Son always is, for the hope of us all. He saved us to become saviors, even when it hurts.

May He who was born in a cave and lay in a manger for our salvation bless you always.

+ Bishop Anthony

+Bishop ANTHONY

**Bishop of Los Angeles
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America**

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

Chancery of Los Angeles and the West
454 South Lorraine Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90020

Parish Events and News

Christmas Decorating of the Cathedral

This past weekend, volunteers decorated the Cathedral for Nativity. As you can see, they did a great job and the Cathedral looks beautiful. Special thanks to Lily Cowan and Anthony Fletes who helped organize those who participated in decorating.



Share
THE Joy

SHARE THE JOY - An Invitation to Celebrate

- Bring your paintings, poetry, wood carvings, musical instruments, song lyrics, knitting needles, crochet hooks, crazy stories, life lessons, parenting hacks, color-coded organizational spreadsheets, card tricks, recipes (if accompanied by food, even better)! **Come share something that brings you joy -- any skill, talent, habit, concept, or creative work -- and enjoy gifts shared by others!**
- Pizza will be provided; sides and desserts are welcome (especially if your gift is baking or cooking!). This event is for all ages; additional guests are welcome also!
- Please RSVP [here](#), or contact Allison Justus with any questions or offers to help: 931-265-4356.
"For every good and perfect gift is from above..." - James 1:17



The Order of
Saint Ignatius
of Antioch

An Invitation - Not Recognition

When you become part of the Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, you become part of a ministry. The Order is not a club that you join. It is not a secular status symbol for recognition. It serves as an invitation to share with one another in the greatness of Christ by giving in a manner that is unconditional and quiet.

Supporting the Order's projects, Archdiocese Departments and numerous programs as one group, with Christ in our hearts and minds, is the manner in which this perpetual giving is made.

More information can be found in the flyers in the Narthex, or see Harold Parker

Let no man's place, or dignity, or riches, puff him up; and let no man's low condition or poverty abase him. For the chief points are faith towards God, hope towards Christ, the enjoyment of those good things for which we look, and love towards God and our neighbor. - Saint Ignatius of Antioch



Coffee Hour This Sunday - December 22, 2024 Group D - Fourth Sunday of the Month

Hosts Families: Finkler / Cowan

Snacks: Alexander, Arvidson, Clodfelter, Dougherty, Dunaway, Dyal, Fletes, Haines, Hightower, B & M Johnson, Jones, Kies, Lamb, Mee, Moses, Palmer, Parker, Ray, Snider, Stogsdill, I. Temple, Terrell, Van Dyke, Webster



*5th Sunday of the Month – December 29, 2024 – Terrell / Clodfelter
Everyone Brings Snacks and Helps Clean Up*

Volunteer Drivers for Oksana to Church Needed

We need drivers for Oksana to attend church with us each Sunday and hope you could help. Please email Dn. Kevin or text me at 907-947-5345 for any Sunday that you could volunteer. Please see the list of needed rides below:

December 22 _____ Dec 29 _____ January 5 _____ Jan 12 _____ Jan 19
_____ Jan 26 _____ February 2 _____ Feb 9 _____ Feb 16
_____ Feb 23 _____

Even if you can do only one way please volunteer. Thank you.

“Church Etiquette” Tip of the Week

When we gather to worship God, Orthodox Christians are “at home” in the environment of the Church gathering and yet at the same time reverent. These tips on “Church etiquette” explain some of the common customs that contribute to the reverent atmosphere of Orthodox worship. They are intended as guidelines to observe, not as a means to judge one another, which by a higher law we are forbidden from doing. (We will be adding a ‘Tip of the Week’ for the next several weeks in the bulletin.)

#2: Arriving to Church on Time

“The best time to arrive at church is before the service starts, but sometimes normal things happen that make us late. If you go to the Sunday morning Divine Liturgy late, pay attention to what is happening. If the Epistle or Gospel is being read or a procession is taking place, stand at the back until this is done. If the deacon is censing or the homily is being given, it is okay to enter quietly. It is good to think of the Divine Liturgy as a prayerful ascent to heaven that takes off at the priest’s opening blessing, “Blessed is the Kingdom...” It is ideal that everyone is there to say “Amen” to this declaration.

News From Our Antiochian Archdiocese



Monthly Newsletter [Link](#)

Notes and Pictures from Parishioners

“Checking In” with Each Other

Is there something you'd like to share? Please email cathedral@stjohnalaska.org

Dates to Remember

Birthdays This Week

December 22 - Allison Justus

December 22 - George Kendall

December 24 - Oscar Davisson

December 25 - Jennifer Medders

December 26 - AJ Mellor

December 26 - Wiley Ray

December 27 - Heidi Fisher

December 28 - Oscar Medders



Remembering in Prayer...

Gwyn Jones
Joe Dunham
...Sylvia Villafana
Helen Gillquist
Blake Dulillo

Chris Grasse
Josphine Hanna & her
family
Dwight Stallman
Elisa Betson

*We continue to pray for all those suffering in Ukraine
and for all those suffering in Israel and Gaza, for a quick end to
war and for peace*

Remembering Those Who Have Fallen Asleep This Month



* Thomas Hyde Webster - December 1, 2021

* Paul Frederick Schanzenbach - December 25, 2016

M E M O R Y E T E R N A L !

Clare House Meal - 4th Saturday of Each Month

For the Month of **December** – our scheduled meal that we provide Clare House is:
Saturday, December 28. Contact Cara Fletes to see how you can help.

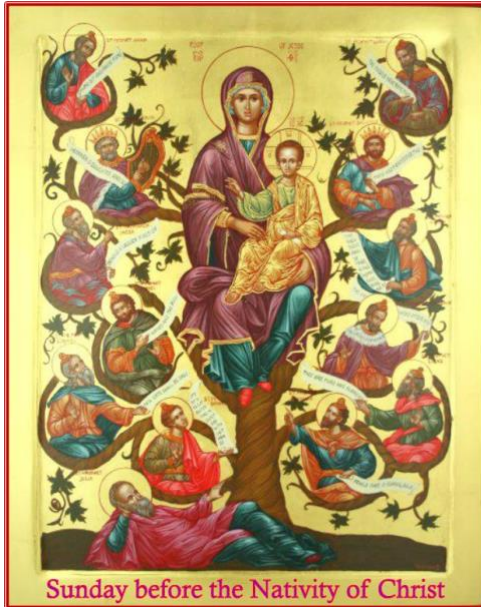


Bulletin Announcement Guidelines

Send announcements to church email address: cathedral@stjohnalaska.org Have announcements submitted by Thursday or at very latest Friday 9am. If you have any questions regarding announcements – contact Maris Kelly at the church office. 907-696-2002.

THE SYNAXARION

Sunday before Nativity (Genealogy) - December 22



On December 22, in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Great-martyr Anastasia the deliverer from potions, and her teacher the Martyr Chrysogonos.

On this day, the Sunday before the Nativity of Christ, in the Holy Orthodox Church we have been enjoined by our holy and God-bearing Fathers to make commemoration of all those who, from the beginning of time, have been well-pleasing to God: from Adam through Joseph, the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, according to genealogy. Luke the Evangelist has recounted these righteous ones historically; and likewise for the Prophets, especially of Daniel the Prophet and the three holy youths.

It is also known as the Sunday of the Holy Genealogy. We remember those in the Old Testament who were related to Christ by blood, and those who spoke of His birth as a man. In the Divine Liturgy, we shall read of Jesus Christ's lineage from the Gospel of Saint Matthew. In this way, the Church shows us that Christ truly became a man, taking on human nature. He was not a ghost, not an apparition, not a myth, not a distant imagined god or the abstract god of philosophers; such a god does not have a family tree. Our God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He has flesh and blood, human ancestors -- many of whom sinned greatly, but like David, they also repented greatly. Yet, all of these righteous ones in every age had been well-pleasing to God because they loved Him. By taking on human nature, the Son of God became like us in all ways, in flesh and blood, in mind and soul, and in heart and will. He differed from us in only one way: He could not sin. Since we know that Christ's human nature remained sinless, He is also fully divine, and He shows us the way in which we can avoid sin and so improve and transform our human nature.

By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

Saint John Orthodox Cathedral

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• Diocesan Website: <http://www.antiochianladiocese.org>
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
Pastor: Fr. Marc Dunaway • Assistant Priest: Fr. Robert Polson