

20th Sunday after
Pentecost
Tone 3

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Galatians 1:11-19  
Luke 10:25-37

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Homily by
Fr. Marc Dunaway

Epistle Reader:
Jennifer Medders

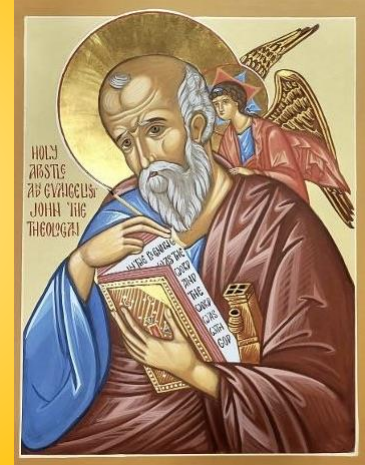
Coffee Hour Hosts:
Fisher / Komar

St. John Orthodox Cathedral

Weekly Bulletin

Sunday, November 10, 2024

And the Days Following



O Apostle John, speaker of Deity, the beloved of Christ our God, hasten to deliver your people powerless in speech, for He on Whose bosom you lean accepts you as an intercessor. Beseech Him, therefore, to disperse the darkness of ignorance and pray for peace and great mercies to be shown upon us.

Parish Events and News

Opening the Door to Orthodox Christianity Thursdays at the Saint James House from 7-8:30pm

Are you, or someone you know, interested in a series of classes aimed at understanding the basics of Orthodox Christian beliefs and practices? These classes will be positive, not polemical. They will be practical, not theoretical. They will engage modern questions, not just parrot past answers. Most of all they will aim to open the door to knowing the real God as He revealed through Jesus Christ and known in the scriptures and the Orthodox way.

These classes are for inquirers and seekers, “nones” or Churchgoers, non-Orthodox or Orthodox who want to understand their faith better. We will meet in the Saint James House, right next to the Cathedral, as it provides a comfortable and informal setting. If childcare would help you attend on these evenings, let me or Tim Mellor know, and we will arrange something here at the Church.

Meeting with friends and talking about God is one of the best ways I can think of to spend a winter evening. So, I look forward to our time together. If you plan to attend and have not already done so, please confirm by sending me an email at frmarc@stjohnalaska.org. Thank you. —Fr. Marc Dunaway

Thanksgiving Offering 350 Individual Boxes of Stuffing

Love INC of Eagle River and its member churches are once again coordinating this year's Thanksgiving Blessing Project. A complete (uncooked) turkey dinner with all the fixings will be provided to an anticipated 340 local families in need.

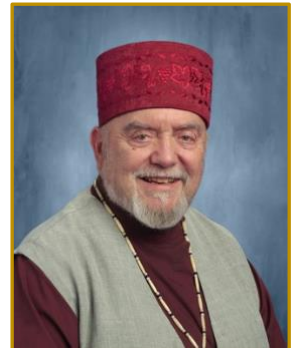
As is our custom, **St John's will collect 350 (individual) boxes of stuffing**. Scheduled delivery of our stuffing to Joy Lutheran is set for Sunday, November 24th when the Thanksgiving food boxes will be assembled for distribution the following day. Anyone wishing to volunteer with the assembly or distribution should contact Dn Kevin.



Icon of Blessed Olga of Alaska - a Gift from Fr. Michael Oleksa



Fr. Michael Oleksa, fell asleep in the Lord on Wednesday, November 29 last year. Several days before this, a change in Fr. Michael's schedule allowed him to attend Liturgy at Saint John's, and he briefly greeted Fr. Marc at the altar during Matins. He passed through the vestry in back and left there on the table a gift he had purchased for our parish - a beautiful Icon of Matushka Olga in a carved wooden case. On it was a simple note: "I look forward to presenting this to the parish together." This Icon of M. Olga is placed in the middle of our Cathedral this Sunday as November 10 is the day appointed for her commemoration, which is to be officially proclaimed and celebrated



next summer. Thank you, Fr. Michael and may your memory be eternal. And may Blessed Olga of Kwethluk intercede for us before God.

Coffee Hour This Sunday - November 10, 2024 Group B - Second Sunday of the Month



Hosts Families: Fisher / Komar

Snacks: Agnew, Alvarez, Betson, Bower, Davisson, Drennan, B & D Dunaway, J & B Dunaway, Finkler, Grasse, Hoyt, Ihde, Keener, Klatt, Komar, Lineer, Lowry, Moffatt, Peters, Ray, Schlicting, Stevens, Sturdevant, Villafana

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### Next Sunday - Group C - November 17 - Hosts: Klatt / Drennen

Snacks: Arnold, Clement, Curry, Dunham, Fisher, Greene, Hanna, Hawi, Hunter, E & H Johnson, Kelly, Kendall, Labrecque, Medders Families, Okuley, Polson, Saur, Scherer, Sparks, Stiehr, Taylor, Temple, Wasile



## Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Atrium) 12:30pm - 2:00pm

Classes begin at 12:30 and go to 2:00pm. Please provide each of your children with lunch before they enter the Atrium for participation and learning.

## Youth Group on Tuesdays - 6:30-8pm

We'll meet at the St. James House and each week we'll have dinner together at the big table starting at 6:30pm with a discussion and activities in the living room wrapping up at 8pm.

I look forward to seeing you all there. Call us with any questions at (907) 317-9549. John Marc and Bethany Dunaway



## Save the Date

Please save the date for our next Women's Retreat that will take place on Saturday February 8th, 2025. We will contact people to help with specific tasks and provide additional details about the retreat after the holidays. Thanks! —Sydney Ihde



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## News From Our Antiochian Archdiocese



Writings by Metropolitan Saba: [The Christian Approach to Crises, Part Three](#)

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## Notes and Pictures from Parishioners

### “Checking In” with Each Other

Is there something you'd like to share? Please email: [cathedral@stjohnalaska.org](mailto:cathedral@stjohnalaska.org)

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## Dates to Remember

### Monday 'Moms with Kids' Reading Group

Monday morning reading group for moms with little ones 10 AM in St. James House living room. If you have any questions, please contact Natasha Haines.







## Thursday Reading Group

The Thursday 10 am reading group will be meeting at the Senior Center.

## Birthdays This Week

November 11 - Iris Klatt

November 15 - Macrina Ray

November 12 - Dominick Swain

November 16 - Cecelia Jones

November 13 - Dan Kendall

November 17 - Eric Johnson

November 15 - Anna Haley

*M A N Y   Y E A R S !*



## Remembering in Prayer...



*Gwyn Jones  
Nina Potts*

*Oksana Artz  
Josphine Hanna & her  
family*

*Laura Temple*

*Helen Gillquist*

*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*

## Clare House Meal - 4th Saturday of Each Month

For the Month of **November** – our scheduled meal that we provide Clare House is:  
**Saturday, November 23.** Contact Cara Fletes to see how you can help.



## Remembering Those Who Have Fallen Asleep This Month



\* Mary Margaret Simmons - November 1, 2007

\* Jean Margaret Proctor - November 7, 1997

\* Laurie Jean Prather - November 13, 2002

\* Infant Thea Ann Ray - November 21, 2020

\* Archimandrite Lazarus Moore - November 27, 1992

*M E M O R Y   E T E R N A L !*

## *Who is that Prophet on the Iconostasis?*

*Answers to this question will be highlighted in the bulletin each Sunday*

### **Holy Prophet Elijah– Feast Day – July 20**

“Let the people know you are the God of Israel.”

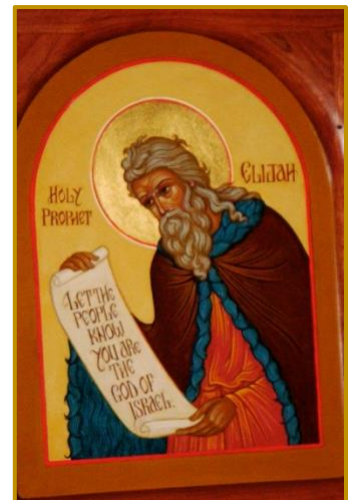


Elijah lived in the 9th century BC during the reigns of Kings Ahab and Ahaziah in the northern kingdom of Israel. His story is told in 1 Kings 17–19 and 2 Kings 1–2.

Elijah was sent by God to warn the Israelites of the evils of worshipping Baal, a Canaanite deity, instead of God. Elijah was a bold prophet who emphasized that there is only one God and spoke directly to kings.

Elijah performed many miracles, including bringing fire down from the sky, resurrecting a boy, and splitting the Jordan.

Elijah is considered a father of the Carmelites and is venerated in Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and the Druze faith. His disciple Elisha led the school of prophets after Elijah's ascension.



#### **Bulletin Announcement Guidelines**

Send announcements to church email address: [cathedral@stjohnalaska.org](mailto: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

### **Apostles of the 70 – November 10** **Orestes of Cappadocia – November 10**

On November 10, in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate six of the Seventy holy Apostles: Olympas, Rodion, Sosipater, Tertios, Erastos and Quartos.



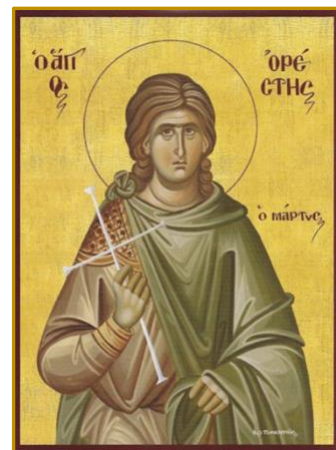
#### *Verses*

*With words of honor, we hymn six disciples of the Word and Wisdom,  
Who with their words delivered mortals from want of wisdom.*

*On the tenth the six Apostles passed from this life.*

Olympas and Rodion (Herodion) were followers of the Apostle Peter and when Peter suffered, they were beheaded by the command of Emperor Nero. Erastos had been the steward of the church in Jerusalem, and later became Bishop of Paneas in Palestine. Quartos was the first Bishop of the Apostolic See of Beirut. He suffered greatly but converted many to the Christian Faith. Sosipater was the bishop in Iconium, which is located in modern day Turkey, and Tertios was the second bishop in that same city. They waged spiritual warfare and, as victors, received heavenly wreaths of glory.

On this day, we also commemorate the Great-martyr Orestes of Tyana in Cappadocia, also in modern Turkey. He was a Christian from birth and a physician by profession. He was harshly tortured by a certain wicked ruler Maximus during the reign of Diocletian. When Maximus advised him to deny Christ and worship idols, Orestes replied: “If you knew the power of the Crucified One, you would reject idolatrous falsehoods and worship the true God. I am prepared to endure every pain, having the sign of my Lord Jesus Christ inscribed on my heart.” A man bright as the sun appeared, gathered Orestes’ relics, and honorably buried them on a hill near Tyana. This wonderful saint appeared to St. Dimitri of Rostov and showed him all the wounds on his body.



On this day, we also commemorate the Venerable Theostiriktos of Symbola and Nonnus, bishop of Heliopolis. By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

### **Olga of Alaska – November 10**

On this day we also commemorate Blessed Olga of Alaska.

Saint Olga was born on February 3, 1916, in the Yup’ik village of Kwethluk, Alaska. Her family herded reindeer, and Olga (Arrsamquq, her Yup’ik name) loved spending time in the mountains as a child, playing with her six brothers.



She married Nicolai Michael, in 1935, and gave birth to her first of 13 children in November of that same year. Three of their children died in infancy and two around the age of three.



Olga served her community as a midwife and a healer. Her daughter Anita described her presence as “low-key” and calm, going about her business without making “a big deal out of it.” In Yup’ik culture, such women were known to have strong faith, and Olga was no exception, practicing traditional medicine in her village coupled with her Orthodox faith.

In 1962 Olga’s husband was ordained a priest, and she gained the title of “Matushka” (priest's wife). She began serving their parish in this important motherly role. She is known to have memorized major church services, baked the eucharistic Prosthora bread, made vestments, organized events in the life of the parish, and provided hospitality for guests.

She cared for the children of the village, providing clothes and food whenever it was needed, passing on the Orthodox faith to the children of her village, as well as the traditions and stories of their culture.

She reposed peacefully on November 8, 1979, on the feast of the Synaxis of the Angels. That time of year in Kwethluk, travel was often dangerous and many who desired to attend found they might not be able. But on the day of the funeral, the weather became mild, ice melted, and even the ground softened so her grave could be dug. Fair weather birds even appeared. The following day, winter weather returned.

Many children born afterwards in the village were named Olga in her memory. In Orthodox fashion, her veneration started from the grassroots, spreading from local veneration in Alaska to the rest of North America and the world. Women who suffered abuse found healing at her gravesite. She has become known as an intercessor for mothers and midwives; many Orthodox women have an icon of St. Olga present while in labor.

On November 9, 2023, Saint Olga’s canonization was authorized by the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America. The formal glorification service will take place in 2025, and her feast day was established as November 10.

In some of the icons of Saint Olga she is surrounded with the aurora or “northern lights,” as she is sometimes known as “The Northern Light of God’s Holy Church.”

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### **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