ALL SAINTS
ORTHODOX CHURCH
Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America
4129 W. Newport Ave., Chicago, IL 60641
773-777-0749 (church office)
773-575-3272 (Fr. Andrew’s cell)
www.allsaintsorthodox.org

Saturday & Sunday, February 13-14, 2021
Saturday Liturgy, 10:00 am • Saturday Vespers, 7:00 pm
Sunday Matins, 8:30 am • Sunday Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am

Sunday of the Canaanite Woman • Martyr Valentine of Rome

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VARIABLE HYMNS

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 3): Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the great mercy.

Troparion for St. Valentine (Tone 4): Thy martyr Valentine, O Lord, in his courageous contest for Thee received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. For since he possessed Thy strength, he cast down the tyrants and wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless presumption. O Christ God, by his prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

Kontakion to the Theotokos (Tone 2): O undisputed intercessor of Christians, O Theotokos who is unrejected by the Creator: Turn not away from the voice of our petitions, though we be sinners. Come to us with aid in time, who cry unto thee in faith, for thou art good. Hasten to us with intercessions, O Theotokos, who didst ever intercede for those who honor thee.

Troparion of All Saints (Tone 4): Adorned in the blood of Thy martyrs, throughout all the world as in purple and fine linen, Thy Church through them doth cry unto Thee, O Christ God: Send down Thy compassion upon Thy people; grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls.
THE EPISTLE
For the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them. God is known in Judah; His Name is great in Israel.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians (6:16-7:1)

Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore, come out from them, and be separate from them,” says the Lord, “and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters,” says the Lord Almighty. Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

THE GOSPEL
For the Seventeenth Sunday of Matthew

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (15:21-28)

At that time, Jesus went to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon.” But He did not answer her one word. And His disciples came and begged Him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before Him, saying, “Lord, help me.” And He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.” Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly.
Announcements and Upcoming Events

For a full calendar of events and services at All Saints, see our website www.allsaintsorthodox.org

This weekend at All Saints:

- **Teen SOYO ice skating event**, Saturday at 2pm
- **Memorial prayers** at Sunday’s Liturgy for Bill Rudolph and Fr. John Elias (Azizeh’s father)
- **Children’s church school**, Sunday after Divine Liturgy
- **Fr. Pat’s Zoom Bible class**, Sunday at 1pm

This week:

- **Tuesday through Friday**: Morning Prayers, 9am.
- **Tuesday, Feb. 16**: Parish council meeting, 7:30pm.
- **Wednesday, Feb. 17**: Compline prayers and chant class, 7pm.
- **Saturday, Feb. 20**: Divine Liturgy, 10am; Intro to Orthodoxy class, 6pm; Vespers, 7pm.
- **Sunday, Feb. 21**: Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican. Matins, 8:30am; Divine Liturgy, 9:30am.
- **Also next Sunday**: Teen SOYO and Jr. SOYO will meeting after Liturgy and Church school.

**HOUSE BLESSINGS**

*From Fr. Andrew*: Blessed Theophany! Please remember that all Orthodox Christian homes should be blessed by a priest at least once a year. Contact Fr. Andrew or Fr. Patrick to schedule your house blessing at your convenience, and know that you are under no obligation to have a meal or gift for the priest. I have no problem stretching these blessings out over the entire year, especially this year due to concerns over COVID.

How should you prepare your home for the blessing?

- All who dwell in the home should make every effort to be present.
- Turn off all televisions, radios, or any other distractions.
- Light a candle in front of at least one icon (preferably the usual place of prayer).
- Provide a list of names, living and departed, for the priest to commemorate.

**WEEKLY CLEAN-UP**

*From Melissa W.*: As a friendly housekeeping reminder, please ensure the nursery and playroom are tidied up when you are finished using these rooms. Thank you also for keeping food out to keep pests away!
“Let us learn from this teacher with how much patience, humility, and contrition we must persevere in our prayers. Even if we are unworthy, and even if we are sent away because we are soiled with sins, let us learn not to turn back, but to keep humbly asking from our soul. We shall receive our requests from God.”

~ St. Gregory Palamas, on the Canaanite Woman
The ancient martyrology of the Church of Rome marks February 14 as the remembrance of “the martyr Valentine, presbyter of Rome.” … Saint Valentine lived in Rome in the third century and was a priest who helped the martyrs during the persecution of Emperor Claudius II the Goth. The great virtue and catechetical activities of the Saint had become familiar. For this he was arrested and brought before the imperial court.

"Why, Valentine, do you want to be a friend of our enemies and reject our friendship?" asked the emperor.

The Saint replied "My lord, if you knew the gift of God, you would be happy together with your empire and would reject the worship of idols and worship the true God and His Son Jesus Christ."

The emperor continued his questions with curiosity, and found a welcome opportunity to finally learn the faith of Christians. Valentine then found the courage to urge him to repent for the blood of the Christians that was shed. "Believe in Jesus Christ, be baptized and you will be saved, and from this time forward the glory of your empire will be ensured as well as the triumph of your armory."

Claudius became convinced, and said to those who were present: "What a beautiful teaching this man preaches." But the mayor of Rome, dissatisfied, began to shout: "See how this Christian mislead our Prince."

Then Claudius brought the Saint to another judge. He was called Asterios, and he had a little girl who was blind for two years. Listening about Jesus Christ, that He is the Light of the World, he asked Valentine if he could give that light to his child. St. Valentine put his hand on her eyes and prayed: "Lord Jesus Christ, true Light, illuminate this blind child." Oh the great miracle! The child saw! So the judge with all his family confessed Christ. Having fasted for three days, he destroyed the idols that were in the house and finally received Holy Baptism.

When the emperor heard about all these events, he initially thought not to punish them, thinking that in the eyes of the citizens he will look weak, which forced him to betray his sense of justice. Therefore St. Valentine along with other Christians, after they were tortured, were beheaded on 14 February in the year 268 (or 269).
The Relics of the Saint in Athens

After the martyrdom some Christians salvaged the body of the Saint and put a bit of his blood in a vile. The body of the martyr was moved and buried in the Catacombs of St. Priscilla, a burial place of most of the martyrs. Over the years somehow he was "forgotten" since almost every day there were buried in these catacombs new martyrs for several decades. The memory of Valentine's martyrdom however remained robust, particularly in the local Church of Rome. Officially the memory of St. Valentine was established in 496 by Pope St. Gelasius.

Fifteen centuries pass and we arrive at 1815, at which time the divine intention was to "disturb" the eternal repose of the Saint. Then the relics were donated by the Pope to a gentle Italian priest (according to the custom of the time). After this the relics are "lost" again until 1907 where we find them in Mytilene in the Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady. It seems that after the death of the priest that a descendant of his had inherited the relics who had migrated to Mytilene, which was then a thriving community of West-European Catholic Christians. There they remained until 1990 when they were moved to Athens in the Church of Saints Francis and Clara's Italian community, where they are today.

Saint Valentine: Patron of Lovers

Apart from the historical data we have for Valentine's life, there is accompanied various legends, such as from those who say he is the patron saint of lovers.

The Saint had a reputation as a peacemaker, and one day while cultivating some roses from his garden, he heard a couple quarrel very vigorously. This shocked the Saint, who then cut a rose and approached the couple asking them to hear him. Even though they were dispirited, they obeyed the Saint and afterwards were offered a rose that blessed them. Immediately the love returned between them, and later they returned and asked the Saint to bless their marriage. Another tradition says that one of the charges against Valentine was that he did not adhere to the command of the emperor which stated that men who had not fulfilled their military obligations were not allowed to marry; meanwhile the Saint had blessed the marriage of young Christian soldiers with their beloveds.

We honor our saints when we imitate their courage to proclaim their faith in Christ the Savior, who did so even at the cost of their lives. We honor them when we beseech them to appeal to God to have mercy on us and forgive our many sins. We honor them when they are our models of the life in Christ.
DAILY BIBLE READINGS
FEBRUARY 14–20, 2021
ADAPTED FROM THE
ST. JAMES DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Sunday, Feb. 14: St. Valentine of Rome
Psalms 108, 109, 110 / Genesis 45
Romans 3:27-31 / Matthew 13:1-9

Monday, Feb. 15: Onesimus, Apostle of the 70
Psalms 111, 112, 113, 114 / Genesis 46
Jonah 1:1-17 / Matthew 13:10-17

Tuesday, Feb. 16: Pamphilus the Martyr & his companions
Psalms 115, 116, 117 / Genesis 47
Jonah 2:1-10 / Matthew 12:38-42

Wednesday, Feb. 17: Great Martyr Theodore the Tyro
Psalm 119:1-48 / Genesis 48
Jonah 3:1-10 / Matthew 6:16-24

Thursday, Feb. 18: Leo the Great, Pope of Rome
Psalm 119:49-88 / Genesis 49

Friday, Feb. 19: Holy Apostles of the Seventy Philemon, Apphia, Archippus, and Onesimus
Psalm 119:89-128 / Genesis 50
Romans 4:1-12 / Matthew 13:18-23

Saturday, Feb. 20: Leo, Bishop of Catania
Psalm 119:129-176 / Proverbs 1
Romans 4:13-25 / Matthew 13:24-30

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