



ALL SAINTS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America

4129 W. Newport Ave., Chicago, IL 60641

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www.allsaintsorthodox.org

Sunday, March 26, 2023

**Saturday Vespers, 7pm • Sunday Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30am
Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel • 4th Sunday of Great Lent**



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Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 8): From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate one, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion. Thou art our life and our resurrection; O Lord, glory to Thee!

Troparion for the Archangel Gabriel (Tone 4): Supreme Commander of the Hosts of the Heavens, we, the unworthy, importune and beseech thee that by thy supplications thou encircle us in the shelter of the wings of thine immaterial glory; guarding us who now fall down and cry to thee with fervor: Deliver us from dangers of all kinds, as the great marshal of the heavenly hosts on high.

Troparion for St John Climacus (Tone 8): The barren wilderness thou didst make fertile with the streams of thy tears; and by thy deep sighing thou hast given fruit through thy struggles a hundredfold. Accordingly, thou hast become a star for the universe, sparkling with miracles. Therefore, O righteous Father John Climacus, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

Kontakion to the Theotokos for the Sundays of Lent (Tone 8): O Champion Leader, to thee I offer thanks of victory! O Theotokos, thou hast delivered me from terror. As thou hast invincible power, O Theotokos, thou truly can set me free from all danger. Set me free and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O bride without bridegroom!

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 Fourth Sunday of Great Lent

The Lord will give strength to His people. The Lord will bless His people with peace.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (6:13-20)

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since He had no one greater by whom to swear, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by one greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when

God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of His purpose, He interposed with an oath. So that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

THE GOSPEL

For the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (9:16-30)

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked Thy disciples to cast it out, and they were not able."

And Jesus answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to Him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if Thou canst do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

When Jesus had entered the house, His Disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And Jesus said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And Jesus would not have anyone know it; for He was teaching His Disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and after He is killed, He will rise on the third day."

EXCERPT FROM THE ARTICLE “CHRISTIANS” His Eminence Metropolitan SABA

While praying before His passion, the Lord Jesus asked God the Father to preserve His people, saying, "I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one" (John 17:15). That is because, in His divinity, He knew that the world would fight His people. This was proven throughout history and continues to be proven today.

Why then does the world fight Christ's disciples? In the Gospel of John, the Lord says in His prayer that this is because "they are not of this world" and because He has given them the word of the Father. This is why the world has hated them (John 17:14). Therefore, the world's hatred towards Christians comes from its hatred towards their Lord. Thus, if we as Christians see that the world loves us, we realize that we might have betrayed our Lord because we have identified ourselves with the world and not with the Lord. When we reject the evil one and his works, the world will hate us.

The world, in the biblical language, is what opposes the Gospel, Christ and His teachings. It is the path that contradicts the Christian way and its virtues. From that premise, Christians always understood that, if they want to be followers of their Lord, they must make a clear distinction between Christ and the world in which they live. Our fidelity to our Lord requires that we change the world to what agrees with the Gospel of Christ and not vice versa.

This means that we must dwell in the heart of Christ, to be nourished by Him and remain faithful to Him. This is why He prayed to the Father for them saying: "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth" (John 17:17). The Christian Faith cannot coexist with absence of the truth. As a Christian, I must start by changing myself to what can be reconciled with the truth—that is, the word of God. This enables me to change the world and place it in the hand of God.

The topic of the relationship between Christians and the world invites us to contemplate in depth and stillness the words of the *Letter to Diognetus*, a second-century text whose author defends Christians against the pagan world that was persecuting them. Among these most marvelous and deep words, the author writes:

Christians are no different than other human beings in citizenship and language, for they fulfill all their civic duties, they pay their taxes and participate in everything as citizens. And yet they endure everything that foreigners endure. They love everyone yet are persecuted. They are killed, yet through death they gain

life. They are poor yet enrich many. They lack everything yet are blessed with everything. They do good but are punished as evildoers, and yet they remain joyful because they love.

As the soul is for the body, Christians are for the world. As the soul dwells in all the members of the body, so do Christians dwell in all the cities of the world. And as the soul dwells in the body yet is not of the body, so Christians dwell in the world, and yet they remain foreigners to it. Christians do not wrong the world, yet the world hates them because they resist its pleasures. The soul loves the body that hates it, and thus Christians love those who hate them. They live as foreigners among mortal things, anticipating immortality in heaven. And though they are persecuted, they multiply in numbers by the day. The responsibility that God bestowed upon them is of extreme importance, and therefore they are unable to abandon it.



Announcements and Upcoming Events

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

Today:

- Coffee hour & church school after Liturgy
- Adult church school: Joseph Letendre on the Divine Liturgy

This week at All Saints:

- **Tues./Wed./Thurs./Fri.:** Morning prayers from the *Lenten Triodion*, 9:00am
- **Wednesday, March 29:** Homeschool classes, 11am-4pm
Fr. Pat on praying the Psalms, 6pm
Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 7pm. *A potluck meal will follow.*
- **Friday, March 31:** Akathist service to the Theotokos at St. George Church, 1220 S. 60th Court, Cicero, 7pm
- **Saturday, April 1:** Women's book discussion and dinner, 5pm; Vespers, 7pm
- **Sunday, April 2: St. Mary of Egypt.** Orthros & Divine Liturgy beginning 8:30am, followed by coffee hour and Sunday school

Other upcoming services & events:

- **Sunday, April 2:** Screening of Orthodox film **“Where Are You Adam?”** at 2:30pm at the Pickwick Theater in Park Ridge. See Fr. Andrew for ticket information.
- **Tuesday, April 4:** Pan-Orthodox Lenten Akathist service, at Ascension Greek Orthodox Church in Lincolnshire, 7pm.
- **Wednesday, April 5:** Fr. Fouad and our friends from St. George will join us at All Saints for the final Presanctified Liturgy of the season.

WOMEN'S LENTEN BOOK DISCUSSION: Mark your calendars for a Women’s Lenten Book Discussion led by Susan L. We will be meeting on March 4, March 25, and April 1 at 5 PM to discuss the book *Mary as the Early Christians Knew Her*. We’ll enjoy a potluck meal and discussion before Vespers. Books will be available at the book table. Please contact Sh. Kim with any questions.

LENTEN COIN BOXES: Once again please remember to fill the **coin boxes** that are on the Greeters' table that are supplied by the Fellowship of St. John the Divine, in accordance with our archdiocese, to feed the hungry around the world. **Please use these boxes all during Lent and turn them in at Pascha to be blessed.** Please replace the coins with a check marked “For the Poor” in the memo line, or submit paper money. If you have any questions, contact Pat K.

*“Above all things: forget not the poor, but support them to the extent of your means.”
(St. Vladimir of Russia)*

SUMMER BIBLE DAY CAMP will be at St. George in Cicero, June 12-15. This is a good alternative to children ages 6 and up who may be too young for summer camp in Iowa. More information will be forthcoming.

ALL SAINTS 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION is slated for the weekend of June 24-25. Mark your calendars!

BIBLE BOWL: Our diocesan Bible quiz competition will take place **Thursday, June 29** at the Parish Life Conference in Oak Brook. We would like to compete in all three age categories: 10-12, 13-19, and adult. Please talk to Jeanetta or Fr. Andrew if you are interested! The questions this year will all come from the book of Genesis.

Volunteer Schedule

Date	Reader	Prospora	Greeter	Coffee	Food
Sun March 26	Doug J	Cristina P	Sandy A	Zach C	A-F
<u>Wed March 29</u> <i>Presanctified</i>		Dn Walid	Azizeh C	<i>Volunteer</i>	<i>Potluck</i>
Sun. April 2	Jim K	Sandy A	JoAnne T	Lydia A	G-K
Wed. April 5 <i>Presanctified</i>		Dn Walid	Nancy L	<i>Volunteer</i>	<i>Potluck</i>
Sat. April 8 <i>St. Lazarus</i>	Paul K	Debbie K	Domitille	<i>Volunteer</i>	n/a
Sun. April 9 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	Jason L	Pat K	JoAnne T	Domitille	L-P
Thurs. Apr 13 <i>Holy Thurs.</i>	Joseph L	Domitille	Sandy A	<i>Volunteer</i>	n/a
Sat. April 15 <i>Holy Sat.</i>	Richard C	Cristina P	Azizeh C	Alina S	<i>Potluck</i>
Sun April 16 <i>Pascha</i>	Sd Joseph	Dn Walid	Nancy L	<i>Volunteer</i>	<i>baskets</i>

For Sunday coffee hour, the church has been divided into four parts alphabetically (A-F, G-K, L-P, and R-Z). On your assigned week, please bring something simple to share with everyone for coffee hour.

If you have children, please monitor them as they go through the coffee hour line, and help them clean up after themselves. **Weekly clean-up will be the responsibility of those providing coffee hour.** And of course, things go faster when we all pitch in and help!



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

MARCH 26–APRIL 1, 2023

ADAPTED FROM THE
LECTIONARY OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ARCHDIOCESE

For the most part, our readings for Lent come from five books of the Bible: Genesis, Isaiah, & Proverbs from the Old Testament (one book from each section of the Hebrew canon); Hebrews & Mark from the New. If you have fallen out of the habit of daily Scripture reading, there is no time better than Lent to start!

Sunday, March 26: St. John of the Ladder (4th Sun. of Lent)

John 20:11-18 / Hebrews 6:13-20 / Mark 9:17-31

Monday, March 27: Martyr Matrona of Thessalonica

Hebrews 10:11-25 / Mark 8:11-21

Isaiah 37:33-38:6 / Genesis 13:12-18 / Proverbs 14:27-15:4

Tuesday, March 28: Herodion the Apostle of the 70

Hebrews 10:26-31 / Mark 8:22-30

Isaiah 40:18-31 / Genesis 15:1-15 / Proverbs 15:7-19

Wednesday, March 29: Mark, Bishop of Arethusa

Hebrews 10:32-39 / Mark 8:31-38

Isaiah 41:4-14 / Genesis 17:1-9 / Proverbs 15:20-16:9

Thurs., March 30: St. Andrew of Crete (5th Thursday of Lent)

Hebrews 11:1-7 / Mark 9:1-13

Isaiah 42:5-16 / Genesis 18:20-33 / Proverbs 16:17-17:17

Friday, March 31: Innocent, Enlightener of Siberia & Alaska

Hebrews 11:8-22 / Mark 9:14-29

Isaiah 45:11-17 / Genesis 22:1-18 / Proverbs 17:17-18:5

Saturday, April 1: St. Mary the Theotokos (5th Saturday of Lent)

Hebrews 9:1-15 / Luke 1:39-56

ALL SAINTS IS A PARISH OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
HIS BEATITUDE PATRIARCH JOHN X OF ANTIOCH
HIS GRACE BISHOP ANTHONY, DIOCESE OF TOLEDO AND THE MIDWEST
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