



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, June 25, 2023

Saturday Vespers, 7pm • Sunday Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30am

3rd Sunday after Pentecost • Leave-Taking of the Forerunner's Nativity



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Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 2): When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal one: then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee!

Troparion for St. John's Nativity (Tone 4): O prophet and Forerunner of Christ God's coming to us, * all we who with longing now extol thee are at a loss to honor thee worthily. * For thy mother's barrenness and father's long silence, * by thine all-renowned and hallowed birth, were both ended, * and the Incarnation of the Son of God is preached unto all the world.

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.

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.

THE EPISTLE

For the Third Sunday after Pentecost

The Lord is my strength and my song. The Lord has chastened me sorely.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans (5:1-10)

Brethren, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will

hardly die for a righteous man—though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by His blood, much more shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. Not only so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received our reconciliation.

THE GOSPEL

For Third Sunday of Matthew

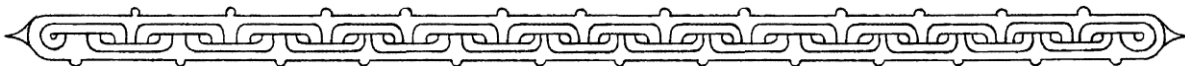
The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (6:22-33)

The Lord said: The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is evil, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Therefore, I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink; nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not the soul more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of heaven: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his stature? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon himself in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O men of little faith?

Therefore, do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.



:: The Desired Peace ::

His Eminence Metropolitan Saba

There are two types of peace: external and internal. External peace is achieved through the absence of violence, the harmony of daily life, social and political affairs, and securing personal needs. It involves maintaining peaceful relationships with others. External peace is contingent upon circumstances, conditions, temperaments, and moods. In other words, it is external peace, not just because it depends on external factors to be achieved, but because it is lived at the exterior level of the human being, which is dependent on factors external to him. It remains fragile and susceptible to damage from changing external conditions.

On the other hand, internal peace depends on the man, regardless of external circumstances. It is connected to one's spiritual strength, the ability to sacrifice for others, the extent to which one does not demand personal gain, and the level of joy one finds in cooperation. Internal peace requires humility, reconciliation with oneself, a genuine understanding of one's needs, and liberation from self-centeredness. All of these, in and of themselves, do not bring about the desired peace but, rather, prepare the soul to respond to the presence and work of God. True peace is an inner steadfastness that arises from divine grace, making a person resilient against storms and tumultuous waves. ...

When Jesus asked His disciples to go ahead of Him to the other side of the sea (Matt. 14:22–27), they encountered a violent storm in the middle of the night that nearly capsized the boat. They were overwhelmed with fear and anxiety, questioning where Jesus was, for only He could save them. They asked, “Why did He leave us alone?” In the midst of their fear and terror, they saw Him coming towards them, walking on the surface of the sea. They cried out in fear, and His response was, “Take courage! It is I. Do not be afraid.”

In [this] incident, the presence of Christ brought peace to the disciples. The presence of the living God, which is active in the believer's heart, grants him peace. It is not a peace achieved through human power; that type of peace can be called an agreement, a temporary arrangement, call it what you will. It does not last or endure. Nothing in this world is stable and consistent. Therefore, whoever seeks true and lasting peace must build it not on the affairs and conditions of this world but on the presence of the living God who is active in him.

Because the peace of the world is neither beneficial nor lasting, Christ said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled; neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27).

Inner peace does not mean being unemotional towards risks and disturbances but, rather, having a positive attitude towards them—an active approach rather than a passive one. It is a stance that deals with these tests with care, sensitivity, cooperation, and empathy but transforms them into a positive situation that strengthens, supports, comforts, embraces, and challenges oneself to contribute to alleviating fears.

To be in spiritual peace does not mean to dismiss people's concerns and issues but, rather, to immerse your hands in the mud of this world in order to cleanse it, yet without being dirtied by it yourself. "I do not ask you to take them out of the world but to keep them from the evil one" (John 17:15).

Now is the time for true peace. Everyone seeks it and desires it, but the majority seek it where it does not exist, because they do not know the way to it. Experiencing inner peace may be the most important mission of our current time.

St. Silouan the Athonite says, "If you encounter hardship, say, 'The Lord knows my heart, and if this is what pleases Him, then everything will be good for me and for others.'" And, thus, your soul will always be in peace. But if people start complaining and grumbling, saying, "This is not good... and it should be different...," then they will never attain peace in their heart, even if they observe all the fasts and prayers.

Peace comes from accepting reality as it is and loving others and accepting them as they are. Those who know how to surrender to the Divine Will and love their brethren can live in peace and contribute to changing reality truly, not just in words. "Be in peace, and thousands around you will find peace," St. Seraphim of Sarov used to repeat.

This is the path that leads to the peace we desire. How can we accept everything with thanksgiving and positivity? If we truly live for God, with God, and for the sake of God, we will not only experience this peace but also transmit it to those around us, and we will pray with St. Silouan, "O Lord, grant your peace to your people. O Lord, grant them Your grace, that they may know You and love You with peace and love, and that they may say like the apostles on Mount Tabor, 'It is good, O Lord, for us to be with You.'"

Originally published April 13, 2015.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

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

Today:

- This weekend we welcome His Grace Bishop Anthony to All Saints Church to celebrate a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy in honor of our 30th anniversary. May God grant him many years!
- Anniversary meal downstairs and outside will follow Divine Liturgy.

This week:

- **Tuesday & Wednesday:** Morning prayers, 9am.
- **Wednesday through Sunday:** Parish Life Conference in Oak Brook (*see note below*)
- **Wednesday, June 28:** Vespers for Sts. Peter and Paul at All Saints, 7pm.
- **Thursday, June 29:** Orthros & Divine Liturgy for the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, beginning 7am at the Parish Life Conference (Oak Brook Double Tree Hotel, 1909 Spring Road, Oak Brook).
- **Thursday, June 29:** Bible Bowl at the Parish Life Conference, 6:30pm. *We have two teams from All Saints participating! Please come and cheer them on if you are able.*
- **Saturday, July 1:** Vespers at All Saints, 7pm.
- **Sunday, July 2:** Orthros & Divine Liturgy, beginning 8:30am.

THE APOSTLES' FAST. The fast of the Holy Apostles begins each year on the Monday after All Saints Sunday, and ends with the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul on June 29. Please fast as you are able, and devote time to prayer for the spread and growth of the Holy Orthodox Church.

The summer **PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE** for our diocese will take place this coming week at the Oak Brook Double Tree hotel, June 28-July 2. Register online at antiochianevents.org. Please see Fr. Andrew if you would like help covering any costs.

Our **ARCHDIOCESE NATIONAL CONVENTION** will be held in Phoenix, July 24-30. Patriarch John of Antioch and Metropolitan Saba will both be there! If this would be of interest to anyone, registration is open at antiochianevents.org.

Volunteer Schedule

Date	Reader	Prospora	Greeter	Coffee	Food
Sunday June 25 <i>Bishop Anthony</i>	Joseph L	Cristina P	Domitille	Lydia A	<i>Church</i>
Sunday July 2	Richard C	Sandy A	Nancy L	Alina S	A-F
Sunday, July 9	Michelle C	Dn Walid	Sandy A	Zach C	G-K
Sunday, July 16	Jim K	Debbie K	JoAnne	Domitille	L-P
Sun., July 23	Paul K	Pat K	Azizeh	Lydia A	R-Z
Sun., July 30	Joseph L	Domitille	Domitille	Alina S	A-F

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

JUNE 25-JULY 1, 2023

ADAPTED FROM THE
LECTIONARY OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ARCHDIOCESE

Sunday, June 25: Leave-Taking of the Forerunner's Nativity

Mark 16:9-20 / Romans 5:1-11 / Matthew 6:22-33

Monday, June 26: David the Righteous of Thessalonica

Hosea 11 / Romans 9:14-24 / Matthew 8:1-4

Tuesday, June 27: Samson the Hospitable

Hosea 12 / Romans 9:22-10:4 / Matthew 8:14-17

Wednesday, June 28: Holy Unmercenaries Cyrus and John

Hosea 13 / Romans 10:5-21 / Matthew 8:18-27

Thursday, June 29: Holy Apostles Peter and Paul

1 Peter 1:3-9 / 1 Peter 1:13-19 / 1 Peter 2:11-24

John 21:14-25 / 2 Corinthians 11:21-12:9 / Matthew 16:13-19

Friday, June 30: Synaxis of the Holy Apostles

Hosea 14 / Romans 11:1-36 / Matthew 9:9-17

Saturday, July 1: Holy Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damian

Romans 12:1-8 / Matthew 9:18-26

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