



ALL SAINTS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America

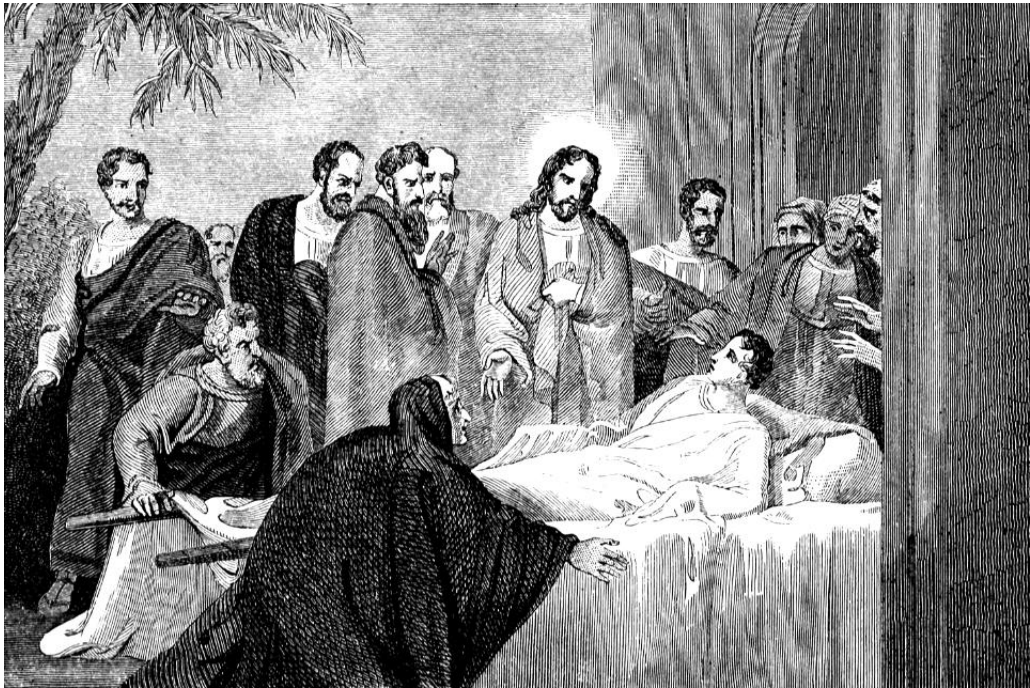
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www.allsaintsorthodox.org

Sunday, October 8, 2023

**Saturday Vespers, 7pm • Sunday Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30am
18th Sunday after Pentecost • 3rd Sunday of St. Luke's Gospel**



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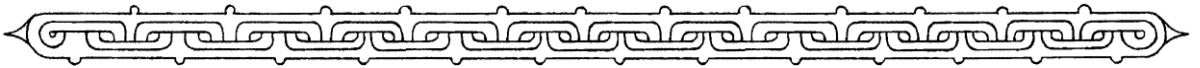


Troparion for the Resurrection (Tone 1): While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

Troparion for St. Pelagia the Righteous (Tone 8): Through thee, the divine likeness was securely preserved, O mother Pelagia; for thou didst carry the cross and follow Christ. By example and precept thou didst teach us to ignore the body, because it is perishable, and to attend to the concerns of the undying soul. Therefore, doth thy soul rejoice with the angels.

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 comforts and grace of the Holy Spirit are not rewards but gifts of divine mercy. Occasionally the Lord allows us to get a foretaste of future blessings so that we will put forth a great effort in seeking His eternal Kingdom.”

– St. Innocent of Alaska

THE EPISTLE

For the 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The reading from the 2nd Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians (9:6-11)

Brethren, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, “He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

THE GOSPEL

For the 3rd Sunday of Luke

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (7:11-16)

At that time, Jesus went to a city called Nain, and many of His disciples and a great crowd went with Him. As He drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” And He came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And Jesus said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” and “God has visited His people!”

THE PRIEST, ACCORDING TO METROPOLITAN GEORGES KHODR

Part One

His Eminence Metropolitan Saba

His Eminence Metropolitan Saba Isper once presented a three-part lecture based on the teachings of one of his spiritual fathers. "The Priest, According to Metropolitan Georges (Khodr)" delves into the mindset of one of the giants of the Church of Antioch. Metropolitan Saba surveys the sermons of Metropolitan Georges about the priesthood. The first part is presented here.

Following in the footsteps of the Church Fathers, specifically St. John Chrysostom, Metropolitan Georges Khodr envisions the priest as Christ's ambassador. While Chrysostom discusses the ambassador's propriety of whom he represents, Metropolitan Georges emphasizes the need for the priest to veil his own persona and fully embrace his assigned role: *"An ambassador is a delegate who does not speak on his own behalf or take personal positions. Instead, he faithfully conveys the message entrusted to him, even if he has differing opinions or evaluations about the country where he was assigned. If his own perception leads him to express views different from his mission, then his authority is revoked, for he has no such privilege."* According to this analogy, the priest bears the "delegation of the gospel" with utmost responsibility.

Thus, the divine word is delivered without any additions. *"No one has anything to add to the divine word. Priests are tasked with explaining and understanding the word, interpreting it, savoring it, and living it alongside those who serve the sacraments. However, our Fathers never claimed that they had added anything to the word of God."*

In his sermons addressing the new clerics, Metropolitan Georges underscores two essential prerequisites, in his view, for conveying the divine word: knowledge and personal purity.

Knowledge demands a devotion to reading and continuous education. A priest does not share from his own ideas but from what he has received and internalized. *"You cannot effectively convey anything to anyone until the words of God dance in your mind and hold you in rapture, meaning that the word should be ignited with love to be heard. ... For the word is not merely recited."* The priest surrenders himself entirely to Christ, eliminating any traces of lust, bias, or obsession, and is not affected by any human emotion, even of noble nature. So, *"how can you offer when you are empty-handed?" ...*

Metropolitan Georges reveals the joy of knowledge, asserting, *"I cannot think of a joy equal to, or comparable with, the joy of knowledge, except sainthood."* However, he does not overlook its perils. He cautions against the pride that can fester within knowledge, warning, *"Beware of*

the pride of the scholar." To them he says, "One of your trials is excessive education. You might spend hours among books engrossed in divine matters while the faithful around you are thirsty for consolation."

While knowledge and education are crucial, Metropolitan Georges emphasizes that they are not the priest's ultimate goals; they serve the *"knowledge of the world, which is the Book of God. Without God, there is no interest in knowledge."*

"All the knowledge a priest acquires would be futile unless it is employed in the service of the Master. ... The parish must be enlightened and saved through knowledge."

At first glance, readers might think that Metropolitan Georges doesn't stress piety and worship, as these themes are not frequent in his sermons. However, this misconception dissipates when one encounters his passionate lament: *"I fail to comprehend why the scholar is incapable of piety."* In numerous instances, Metropolitan Georges calls for piety from every Christian, including priests. Piety and profound worship are foundational principles in his church, requiring no elaborate exposition. *"We are a people of prayer. The priest comes from Christ to the people, not the other way around. The church must return to its roots, becoming a church of prayer and knowledge."*

Metropolitan Georges' delicate sense of the Church's primary role makes him vigilant to every necessity and the trials that may arise when priests do not open themselves to the Spirit of God in purity. In his view, magnificent worship alone cannot replace the pursuit of knowledge, nor do institutional services automatically lead to the service of the Gospel.

On the eve of my ordination, Metropolitan Georges wrote to me, cautioning, *"Due to your engineering background, you might tend to emphasize order and structure in all things, and that the contemporary Church should adapt to the institutional logic. While I don't dismiss these aspects, I recognize that all elements, even within the Church, should be integrated to support one another, generating resources for good works. However, congregations can still remain spiritually parched. I understand the distinction between the present age and the age to come, while you are a man of the latter."*

In this reflection, isn't Metropolitan Georges eloquently articulating the profound meaning of the Church, its mission, and spirituality?

Originally published in 2009.

Volunteer Schedule

Date	Reader	Prospora	Greeter	Coffee	Food
Sunday Oct 8	Joseph L.	Domitille N.	Azizeh C.	Alina S.	G - K
Sunday Oct 15	Richard C.	Cristina P.	Nancy L.	Domitille	L - P
Sunday Oct 22 <i>Baptism/St James</i>	Michelle C.	Dn. Walid	Domitille	Lydia A.	R - Z
Sunday Oct 29	Sd. Joseph	Sandy A.	John O.	Zach C.	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!*

**Shaded dates are fasting days. No meat or dairy products should be served at the church on these days.*

Announcements and Upcoming Events

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

Today: Martyr Pelagia the Righteous

- Orthros & Divine Liturgy, beginning 8:30am
- Coffee hour and church school

Tuesday, Oct. 10:

- Morning prayers, 9am

Wednesday, Oct. 11:

- Morning prayers, 9am
- Homeschool classes, 10am-4pm
- Vespers, 7pm

Thursday, Oct. 12:

- *No morning prayers at All Saints*
- Touchstone conference begins in Deerfield, 7pm

Friday, Oct. 13:

- *No morning prayers*
- Fr. Pat speaks at Touchstone conference, 7:30pm

Saturday, Oct. 14:

- Vespers, 7pm

Next Sunday, October 15:

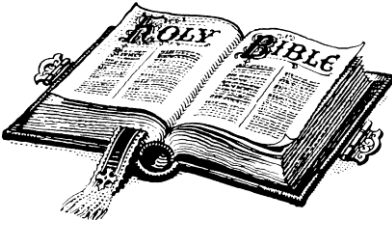
- Orthros & Divine Liturgy, beginning 8:30am
- Coffee hour and church school

TOUCHSTONE CONFERENCE. Touchstone magazine's 2023 conference "The Crisis of Authority" will take place Oct. 12-14 in Deerfield, Ill. Fr. Patrick is one of the featured speakers! Members and friends of All Saints Church: Register here for the conference with no meals: www.touchstonemag.com/allsaints, or here for the conference with meals: www.touchstonemag.com/allsaintsmeals.

Our **DIOCESE OF TOLEDO FALL GATHERING** will be held in Toledo, Ohio, Oct. 20-22. See the Toledo Diocese page at www.antiochian.org for registration & information.

BIBLE BOWL STUDIES. Between now and next summer, we will hold a series of Bible studies on the Epistle to the Romans, in preparation for the diocesan Bible Bowl competition. All pre-teens (10-12) and teens (13-19) are welcome to participate!

ORTHODOXY 101. Our Orthodoxy 101 class has resumed, with discussions on the sacraments/mysteries of the Church. The class will be held MOST Saturdays at 6pm (check the bulletin and online calendar for exceptions). This is of course open to everyone, especially those who are newer to the faith, catechumens, inquirers, etc. The class will be based on Fr. Thomas Hopko's *The Orthodox Faith* (vol. 2). The full text is available online at www.oca.org.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

OCTOBER 8-14, 2023

ADAPTED FROM THE
LECTIONARY OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ARCHDIOCESE

Our daily Old Testament readings beginning this week will go through the Major Prophets, according to the order and numbering of the Orthodox Study Bible (OSB). Note the book order and chapter numbers may differ in places from other English translations.

Sunday, October 8: Pelagia the Righteous

John 20:1-10 / 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 / Luke 7:11-16

Monday, Oct. 9: Holy Apostle James, son of Alphaeus

Isaiah 6 / Philippians 1:1-11 / Luke 7:17-35

Tuesday, Oct. 10: Eulampius & Eulampia the Martyrs

Isaiah 7 / Philippians 1:12-18 / Luke 7:36-50

Wednesday, Oct. 11: Apostle Philip of the 70, one of the 7 deacons

Isaiah 8 / Philippians 1:19-26 / Luke 8:1-3

Thursday, Oct. 12: Symeon the New Theologian

Isaiah 9 / Philippians 1:27-30 / Luke 8:16-21

Friday, Oct. 13: Hieromartyr Jacob of Hamatoura

Isaiah 10 / Philippians 2:1-11 / Luke 8:22-25

Saturday, Oct. 14: Righteous Paraskeve of Serbia

Philippians 2:12-18 / Luke 9:1-9

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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