

ALL SAINTS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America 4129 W. Newport Ave., Chicago, IL 60641 773-231-6177 www.allsaintsorthodox.org

Sunday, November 12, 2023

Saturday Vespers, 7pm • Sunday Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30am 8th Sunday of St. Luke • St. John the Almsgiver, Patriarch of Alexandria



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Troparion for the Resurrection (Tone 6): When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb. And the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou who art risen from the dead. O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion for St. John the Almsgiver (Tone 8): In thy patience thou hast won thy reward, O righteous father. Thou didst persevere unceasingly in prayer; thou didst love the poor, and didst provide for them in all things. Wherefore, intercede with Christ our God, O blessed John the Almsgiver, that our souls be saved.

Kontakion for the Entrance of the Theotokos (Tone 4): The most-pure Temple of the Savior, the precious chamber and Virgin, the sacred treasure of the glory of God, is presented today to the house of the Lord. She brings with her the grace of the Spirit, which the angels of God do praise. Truly this woman is the abode of heaven!

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 St. John the Almsgiver

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints. What shall I render to the Lord for all that He has given me?

The Reading from the Second 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 Eighth Sunday of Luke

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (10:25-37)

At that time, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read?"

And the lawyer answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."

And Jesus said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live."

But the lawyer, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?"

The lawyer said, "The one who showed mercy on him."

And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Volunteer Schedule

| Date | Reader | Prosphora | Greeter | Coffee | Food |
|---------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|------|
| Sunday Nov 12 | Jim K | Pat K | Azizeh C | Domitille | L-P |
| Sunday Nov 19 | Joseph L | Domitille | Domitille | Lydia A | R-Z |
| Wed. Nov. 22 Thanksgiving | Paul K | Dn Walid | Nancy L | n/a | n/a |
| Sunday Nov 26 | Richard C | Cristina P | 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.

"IF WE ARE ABLE TO ENTER THE CHURCH DAY AND NIGHT AND IMPLORE GOD TO HEAR OUR PRAYERS, HOW CAREFUL WE SHOULD BE TO HEAR AND GRANT THE PETITIONS OF OUR NEIGHBOR IN NEED."

~ St. John the Almsgiver

Announcements and upcoming Events

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

Today:

- Orthros and Divine Liturgy, beginning 8:30am
- Coffee hour and church school
- Choir practice, 12:45-2:15pm

Tuesday, Nov. 14: Morning prayers, 9am

Wednesday, Nov. 15: First Day of the Advent Fast

- Morning prayers, 9am
- Homeschool classes, 10am-4pm
- Akathist Hymn of Thanksgiving, 7pm

Thursday, Nov. 16: Morning prayers, 9am

Friday, Nov. 17: Morning prayers, 9am

Saturday, Nov. 18:

- All Saints Icon Academy, 9am-5pm
- Women's book discussion, 5-7pm
- Vespers, 7pm

Next Sunday, Nov. 19:

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

DCFS CHRISTMAS DRIVE: Please consider participating in this Pan-Orthodox philanthropic project in the Chicagoland area that provides Christmas gifts to local foster children. New gifts should be purchased, placed in gift bags, securely labeled with the gift tag provided by DCFS (pink sheet), and returned to the table at the back of the church by **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26**. The kids enjoy hearing from donors, so consider writing a note to include with your gift! If you have any questions, please contact Sh. Kim, <u>Keggers854@aol.com</u>. Thank you for your participation and generosity!

WOMEN'S ADVENT BOOK DISCUSSION: Join us as Sandy A. leads our discussion through *Putting Joy into Practice: Seven Ways to Lift Your Spirit from the Early Church,* by Phoebe Farag Mikhail. Books are available at the book table. Meetings dates are Saturdays, November 18 (5pm), December 2 (4pm), and December 9 (5pm). Please bring a fasting dish to share for our potluck meal. Please see Sh. Kim with questions.

ADVENT FOOD DRIVE: The time of the Advent fast is quickly approaching, and again we are blessed to be able to participate in our Advent food drive for the poor in our city. Beginning **Saturday, November 18,** please bring your donations of non-perishable foods. These will be given to individuals living on the street who visit the drop-in center of Northside Housing. In particular, they are asking for items that don't need cooking, heat and serve containers, or cans with pop-tops (there is a microwave available at the center). A list of suggested items is on the greeter table. Please place your donations in the back of the church on or near the table. The deadline is Sunday, December 17. Monetary donations are also accepted, please write 'food drive' on the memo line.

If you have any questions, please call or email Sandy Abraham. God blesses those who remember the poor.

COATS NEEDED: We are partnering with Alderwoman Cruz's office to provide warm outer garments and disposable diapers for the refugees in our neighborhood. Please donate your un-needed coats, scarves, hats and gloves. Maybe warm socks too? Or find some at a local thrift shop – whatever you can afford. Don't forget the disposable diapers. There are bins under the coat rack downstairs for these donations. Thank you!

THE NATIVITY FAST: The Orthodox Nativity Fast (Advent) begins **Wednesday, Nov. 15,** and lasts until **Christmas Eve, Dec. 24**. Let us dedicate ourselves to prayer, fasting, and generosity during this time! If you are able, abstain from meat and dairy products, but please see Fr. Andrew if you have any questions or concerns about keeping the fast. (And no, neither of your priests will be fasting on Thanksgiving Day, so don't worry about that.)

All Orthodox Christians should also make it to confession during this holy season. If you desire to confess to another Orthodox priest outside of our parish, that is generally fine, but let Fr. Andrew know.

THE SUFFERING CHURCH

His Eminence Metropolitan Saba (Isper)

The Church is a divine-human entity. ... Saint Ephrem the Syrian gave the Church a practical definition, perhaps the most beautiful. He said, "The Church is a group of repentant people." Yes, its believers are sinners, but they know that they were redeemed at an inestimable price, so we find them hastening to repent and start over, whenever they become aware of their distance from the One who redeemed them. Thus, repentance becomes their permanent path.

But repentance is not an automatic or formal act. Repentance is a radical change that affects the person inside and outside. It is, in the words of the Apostle Paul, "forgetting what is behind me and reaching out with all strength to what is before me" (Phil. 3:13). Man abandons not what is good but, rather, what is bad and evil. This requires him to be aware of his faults and evil-doings first, and second, to avoid and abhor them so that he lands on the threshold of true repentance. Realistically, we do not see this prevailing in the Church of Christ. We see it in some believers, but not in everyone. That is why the Church suffers. The Church's suffering comes from the fact that not all Christians seek holiness. Some of them are comfortable with their sins and do not seek change. Among them are those who view the Church as merely a social institution, and act in it and with it as they would with any human institution, thus missing its divine dimension. Some of them subordinate the Church to their personal interests and use their influence there.

We find hot, lukewarm, and cold believers in it. The voice of influential people may speak louder than the voice of the Gospel. It may be used as a tool to serve everything except the salvation of souls. This is from the internal aspect. From the external perspective, it is subject to all kinds of persecution and restrictions. The Church of Christ is in constant war with the spiritual forces of evil, which take various and changing forms, ways and models, and sometimes wear a luminous guise in order to mislead the believers, but their goal is the same: to destroy the Church.

No religious institution has known external and internal persecution as the Church of Christ had. However, it continued to radiate Christ's light everywhere, and its testimony has remained a shining beacon that no one could deny. The Holy Spirit remained its guardian, active in it and present in its many known and unknown witnesses. But the absence of love among its members remains the greatest danger to its children.

Read the entire article at www.antiochian.org



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

NOVEMBER 12-18, 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, Nov. 12: John the Almsgiver, Patriarch of Alexandria Matthew 28:16-20 / Ephesians 2:4-10 / Luke 10:25-37

Monday, Nov. 13: John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople Isaiah 30 / 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 / Luke 13:18-22

> Tuesday, Nov. 14: Holy Apostle Philip Isaiah 31 / 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 / Luke 13:22-30 For St. Philip: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16 / John 1:43-51

Wednesday, Nov. 15: Guria, Shamuna, & Habib, Martyrs of Edessa Isaiah 32 / 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 / Luke 13:31-35

Thursday, Nov. 16: Holy Apostle & Evangelist Matthew Isaiah 33 / 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 / Luke 14:1-6 For St. Matthew: Romans 10:11-11:2 / Matthew 9:9-13

Friday, Nov. 17: Righteous Mother Hilda of Whitby Isaiah 34 / 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 / Luke 14:7-11

Saturday, Nov. 18: Plato the Great Martyr of Ancyra 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 / Luke 14:12-24

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