

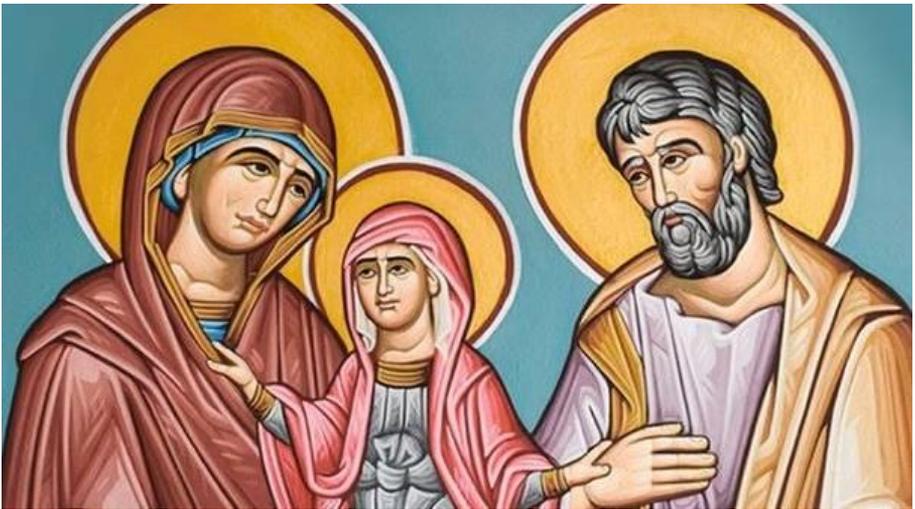
# ALL SAINTS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

*Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America*  
4129 W. Newport Ave., Chicago, IL 60641  
[www.allsaintsorthodox.org](http://www.allsaintsorthodox.org)

**Sunday, September 7, 2025**

Nativity of the Theotokos • Sunday before the Elevation of  
the Holy Cross

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



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**Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 4):** Having learned the joyful message of the resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation, and proudly broke the news to the disciples, saying: “Death hath been spoiled! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!”

**Troparion for the Nativity of the Theotokos (Tone 4):** Thy nativity, O Theotokos, hath proclaimed joy to the whole universe. For from thee did shine forth the Sun of Justice, Christ our God, annulling the curse, bestowing the blessing, abolishing death, and granting us life everlasting.

**Kontakion of the Nativity of the Theotokos (Tone 4):** By thy nativity, O most pure Virgin, Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness; Adam and Eve from the corruption of death. And we thy people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to thee: The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our life!



## THE EPISTLE READING

For the Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross

*Prokeimenon – Psalm 27:9, 1*

O Lord save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance; be Thou their shepherd, and carry them forever. To Thee, O Lord, I call!

**The reading is from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians  
(6:6-18)**

BRETHREN, Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches. Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

## **THE GOSPEL**

For the Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross

### **The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John (3:13-17)**

THE LORD SAID: No one has ascended into heaven but He who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

# Announcements and Upcoming Events

*For a full calendar of events and services at All Saints, see our website  
[www.allsaintsorthodox.org](http://www.allsaintsorthodox.org)*

## **Today: Nativity of the Theotokos**

- Baptism of Bennett David Corey, son of Alex and Kinga. May God grant him and his family many years!
- Coffee hour provided by last names L-P
- First week of Church school (see note below).

*No morning prayers at the church until Friday this week*

**Tuesday, Sept. 9:** Parish council meeting (online), 7:30pm

## **Wednesday, Sept. 10:**

- Homeschool classes, 10am-4pm
- Vespers, 7pm

**Thursday, Sept. 11:** Miloshevski karate school, 7pm

**Friday, Sept. 12:** Morning prayers, 9am

## **Saturday, Sept. 13:**

- Orthodoxy 101 (see note below), 6pm
- Vespers for the Holy Cross, 7pm

## **Next Sunday, Sept. 14: Elevation of the Holy Cross**

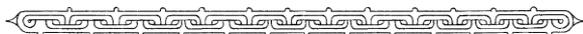
- Orthros, Cross Procession, and Divine Liturgy, beginning at 8:30am
- Coffee hour provided by last names R-Z
- Church school for all ages, after coffee hour

**CHURCH SCHOOL.** Church school for all ages begins today! Fr. Pat and Joseph Letendre will continue to teach the adult class, beginning today with Fr. Pat. Your priest would like to see ALL children, teens, and adults participating each week. Many thanks to Michelle C. and all of our teachers and staff for all of your hard work!

**TOUCHSTONE CONFERENCE.** The Fellowship of St. James will be holding its annual conference *Great & Wonderful Days: Recovering the Christian Life in a Post-Christian Age* at Trinity International University in Deerfield, **September 25-27**. All Saints members and friends are invited to register using this discounted link:

<http://www.thetouchstoneconference.com/allsaints>

**ORTHODOXY 101.** In addition to Adult Church School, Fr Andrew will be teaching ‘Orthodoxy 101’ on the basics of the Orthodox Faith. This is aimed at inquirers, catechumens, and new members, but all are welcome and encouraged to attend if interested! We begin **Saturday, Sept. 13** at 6pm (before Vespers) and will continue on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays unless otherwise noted



## QUESTIONS AND THOUGHTS

His Eminence Metropolitan Saba

Saint Paisios of Mount Athos often counseled those who asked about the Antichrist to focus instead on Christ—to live with Him and in Him—rather than wasting time, stirring fears, and exhausting their strength speculating about the Antichrist and the timing of his coming. This is the teaching of the truly enlightened: they direct their gaze on what nurtures life in God rather than on distractions that breed anxiety.

Religious instruction and spiritual formation are inseparable. We do not learn the truths of faith merely to accumulate information but to live by them. Faith is not the collection of facts about God; it is the living knowledge of Him, reflected in how we think, act, and shape our lives.

For this reason, the righteous play a central role in religious formation, which, like every form of education, has its concerns and challenges. Too often, however, it has been reduced to rigid literalism, distorting the true image of faith. To believe that God is just and a judge is one thing; to make His judgment a veil that obscures His love is something else entirely.

God is unlike any created being. He remains a divine mystery, beyond the full grasp of our minds—minds limited by time, space, and mortality. Yet humanity can sense His presence and receive His revelation through divine touches that stir the longing soul.

Christian doctrine is not the product of human philosophical analysis but the human expression of divine revelation—what we call the salvific economy of God—which reached its fulfillment in Jesus Christ. After Christ's ascension, the Holy Spirit continued to guide the Church through those enlightened by Him, preserving its integrity and guarding it from error.

Over the centuries, this faith was enshrined in the creeds—concise statements formulated to safeguard right belief and authentic Christian life, particularly in response to heresies. Christian teaching began with the Twelve Apostles and, as we see in the homilies of Peter and Paul in the Acts of the Apostles, was first centered on the death and resurrection of Christ for the salvation of the world.

Yet religious instruction has not been free from shortcomings. The greatest danger lies in its decline across history—caused by many factors—where devotion has often strayed from the essence of faith, reducing religion to social custom, cultural tradition, or mechanical practice. Such distortions not only obscure the truth but also foster a mentality that professes religion while undermining its very heart. ...

True awareness of sin begins not with fear but with a vision of the beauty of a sinless life. There is a profound difference between avoiding an act solely because it is forbidden and disregarding it because one longs for something infinitely higher. The Law of the Old Testament was based on prohibition, but Christ brought the Law of Love, which calls us to surpass vice in pursuit of the highest good. Tragically, those who remain bound to mere prohibition live more by their old nature than their new one, for the love of God has yet to claim them fully.

Both institutions and individuals have often clung to the letter of sacred texts while neglecting to seek their deeper meaning—sometimes for motives far removed from God. This has led to distortions of fundamental truths, replacing them with misconceptions or even opposites.

What is needed is guidance from those illumined by divine light—those who know God personally and existentially. Living among the saints leads us to right vision and true experiential knowledge.

Today, education and human thinking have changed. People are formed in scientific reasoning, logic, and critical inquiry. They are more culturally

aware, requiring the Gospel to be presented in a manner faithful to its spirit yet suited to the modern mind. The challenge remains: Are we ready to meet this responsibility?

## Volunteer Schedule

Date	Reader	Prospora	Greeter	Coffee	Food
<b>Sun 9/7</b> <i>Nativity of St Mary</i>	Jim K	Domitille	Nancy L	Zach C	L-P
<b>Sun 9/14*</b> <i>Holy Cross</i>	Paul K	Cristina P	Tobey L	Lydia A	R-Z
<b>Sun 9/21</b>	Steve K	Dn Walid	John O	Zach C	A-F
<b>Sun 9/28</b>	Joseph L	Sandy A	JoAnne T	Lydia A	G-K
<b>Sun 10/5</b>	Rich C	Debbie K	Azizeh	Domitille	L-P
<b>Sun 10/12</b>	Michelle	Pat K	Richard B	Alina S	R-Z
<b>Sun 10/19</b>	Sd Joseph	Domitille	Nancy L	Zach C	A-F
<b>Sun 10/26</b>	Jim K	Cristina P	Tobey L	Lydia A	G-K

***For Sunday coffee hour, the last names of our church members have 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, monitor them as they go through the coffee hour line, and make sure they don't take more than they can eat. Please also help your children clean up after themselves.***

***Weekly clean-up will be the responsibility of those providing coffee hour, but of course, things go faster when we all pitch in and help!***

***\*Shaded dates indicate fasting. No meat or dairy should be served at church on these dates.***



## **DAILY BIBLE READINGS** **SEPTEMBER 7-13, 2025**

**ADAPTED FROM THE  
LECTIONARY OF THE ANTIOCHIAN  
ARCHDIOCESE**

**Sunday, September 7: Sunday before the Elevation of the Cross**

Mark 16:1-8 / Galatians 6:6-18 / John 3:13-17

**Monday, September 8: Nativity of the Theotokos**

Genesis 28:10-17 / Ezekiel 43:27-44:4 / Proverbs 9:1-11  
Luke 1:39-56 / Philippians 2:1-11 / Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28

**Tuesday, September 9: Joachim & Anna, Grandparents of God**

Proverbs 4 / 2 Corinthians 12:1-21 / Matthew 23:1-12

**Wednesday, September 10: Martyrs Menodora, Metrodora, &  
Nymphodora**

Proverbs 5 / 2 Corinthians 13:1-14 / Matthew 23:13-36

**Thursday, September 11: Euphrosynos the Cook**

Proverbs 6 / Galatians 1:1-10 / Matthew 23:37-39

**Friday, September 12: Leave-Taking of the Nativity**

Proverbs 7 / Galatians 1:11-24 / Matthew 24:1-14

**Saturday, September 13: Cornelius the Centurion**

Galatians 2:1-10 / Matthew 24:15-28

**ALL SAINTS IS A PARISH OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX  
CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE**

**WWW.ANTIOCHIAN.ORG**

**HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SABA, ARCHBISHOP OF NORTH AMERICA  
ARCHIMANDRITE JEREMY DAVIS, VICAR FOR THE DIOCESE OF TOLEDO &  
THE MIDWEST**