



ALL SAINTS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, July 26, 2026

Martyr Paraskeva of Rome • 8th Sunday of St. Matthew



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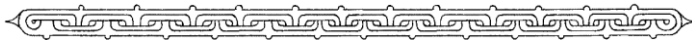


Apolytikion of the Resurrection (Tone 7): Thou didst shatter death by Thy cross; Thou didst open paradise to the thief. Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy, and didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the great mercy.

Apolytikion for St. Paraskeva (Tone 1): Showing a diligence befitting thy calling, O namesake of preparedness, thou hast gained, as thy dwelling, a faith worthy of thy name, O prize-winning Paraskeva. Hence, thou pourest forth healings and intercedest for our souls.

Apolytikion 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.



EPISTLE READING

For the 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Prokeimenon – Psalm 28:11, 1

May the Lord give strength to His people; may the Lord bless His people with peace. Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of God; ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**The reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians
(1:10-25)**

BRETHREN, I plead with you by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same

judgment. For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other.

Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the Gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. The word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent."

Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Alleluia – Psalm 91:1, 2

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy name, O Most High. To declare Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy faithfulness by night.

GOSPEL READING

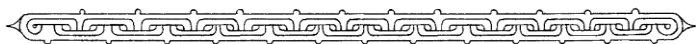
For the 8th Sunday of St. Matthew

**The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew
(14:14-22)**

AT THAT TIME, when Jesus went ashore he saw a great throng; and He had compassion on them, and healed their sick.

When it was evening, the disciples came to Him and said, “This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” They said to Him, “We have only five loaves here and two fish.” He said, “Bring them here to me.”

Then He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke, and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied, and they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. Those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds.



ON THE MINISTRY OF THE DIACONATE, Part 3

His Eminence Metropolitan Saba

This is a reprint Metropolitan Saba's 2024 reflections on the diaconate, which will be printed in segments over the next few weeks.

It is important to clearly and strictly distinguish between what is called a rank and what is called a function. The diaconate is one of the three clerical ranks, and it is assigned a specific function, or ministry, according to the Church's system, local situation, and current needs. This function does not change the deacon's clerical rank, meaning it does not prevent him from performing his liturgical duties assigned to his rank, nor does the exalted function allow him to perform liturgical duties not assigned to his rank. ...

When the bishop ordains a deacon, he lays his hand on his head and asks for the grace of the Holy Spirit to appoint him as a servant in the administration of the Sacraments.

With the evolution and changes in the ecclesiastical situation, the deacon's ministry began to be confined more to the liturgical realm. The prayer recited over the candidate for the diaconate in the ordination rite only refers to assisting the priest in worship, without naming the specific gifts which the bishop confers on him for the diaconate. Another indication of this is the timing of the ordination. A deacon is ordained after the

transformation and consecration of the Eucharistic Gifts, while a priest is ordained before this, as he will participate in the sanctification of the bread and wine. The bishop gives the priest the lamb to carry in his hands, preserving this deposit until the Lord comes again, as a sign that he will be accountable for his ministration of the Eucharist. This is not the case with the deacon, however, as he is ordained after the sanctification of the offerings.

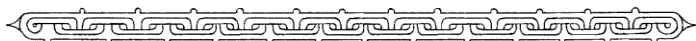
One reason for the absence of deacons in many churches today is the insufficient number of priests. The shortage of priests has led to the ordination of deacons as a transitional phase, which may last for a single day or several years, according to the bishop's discretion. This is only if the deacon meets the requirements for priestly ordination. In our Archdiocese, the deacon's service remains confined to the liturgical role.

Over time, this reality led to the absence or reduction of deacons' roles in charitable and pastoral services, replaced by laypeople who have founded charitable and educational associations. Some of these lay brotherhoods played an important and fundamental role in preserving Orthodox faith during times of occupation or decline, such as in Ukraine, Serbia, and the East.

Today, with the development and complexities of life, the Church, in its pastoral care for the faithful, needs to enter the realm of specialized care. It is no longer sufficient for the priest to care for his parish in the traditional manner, despite its importance. Each age group now requires care tailored to its age and the challenges it faces. This would include people with special needs, marital problems, the spread of religious indifference, family problems, psychological issues, the poor, widows, the sick, those with autism, those living in loneliness and isolation, etc.

Without being overly idealistic and overburdening the Church beyond its capacity, we can at least revitalize the service of the diaconate, if there are suitable and willing believers for this service, and if the local church has the resources for them.

Given the availability of many talents in our Archdiocese, entering the realm of specialized care has become urgent and feasible.



Announcements and Upcoming Events

For a full calendar of events and services, visit www.allsaintsorthodox.org

Today:

- Orthros & Divine Liturgy, beginning 8:30am
- Marriage crowning of Christian and Kasia Estrada
- Coffee hour provided by last names R-Z

Tuesday, July 28: Morning prayers, 9am

Wednesday, July 29:

- Morning prayers, 9am
- Vespers, 7pm

Thursday & Friday, July 30 & 31: Morning prayers, 9am

Saturday, August 1: Vespers, 7pm

Next Sunday, August 2:

- Orthros & Divine Liturgy, beginning 8:30am
- Coffee hour provided by last names A-F

SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE FOR ST. PIUS V SCHOOL: Once again we are raising funds for **St. Pius V School from now until Sunday, August 9.** St. Pius is a needy Catholic school on the west side of Chicago. They have requested that we donate in monetary form so that she can purchase exactly what the school needs. If you donate by check, make it out to *All Saints Church* with “St. Pius” in the memo line. Please contact Pat K with any questions.

PRISON MINISTRY: The Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry, with the blessing of the Assembly of Bishops, has designated today as Prison Ministry Awareness Sunday. Jim Mark is involved with this organization and will give a brief announcement after Liturgy today. Donations may be made to All Saints Church, marked OCPM in the memo line.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **The Dormition Fast** begins Saturday, Aug. 1 and ends after the Divine Liturgy for the Dormition of the Theotokos on Friday night, Aug. 14. Orthodox Christians should abstain from meat,

dairy, eggs, and alcohol during this time as you are able. If you have any questions, please see Fr. Andrew.

- On Wednesday, Aug. 5, we will celebrate the feast of the Transfiguration with our sister church in Warrenville. Orthros begins 5:30pm and Divine Liturgy at 6:30pm.
- Our next round of baptisms/chrisinations will be Sunday, Aug. 16. May God grant His grace and blessings to our catechumens who are preparing for illumination!
- Wedding of C. J. DeFabio and Shelby Kellar will be Saturday, Aug. 22 at St. George in Cicero.

Volunteer Schedule

Date	Reader	Prospora	Greeter	Coffee	Food
Sun July 26	Paul K	Cristina P	Domitille	Zach C	R-Z
Sun Aug 2*	Steve K	Dn Walid	John O	Lydia A	A-F
Sun Aug 9*	Joseph L	Sarah C	JoAnne T	Domitille	G-K
Fri Aug 14 <i>Dormition</i>	Rich C	Sephora	Richard B	N/A	Potluck
Sun Aug 16 <i>Baptisms</i>	Michelle C	Debbie K	Azizeh C	volunteer	L-P
Sun Aug 23	Jim K	Pat K	Nancy L	Zach C	R-Z
Sun Aug 30	Paul K	Cristina P	Tobey L	Lydia A	A-F

***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.*

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



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

JULY 26–AUG. 1, 2026

*Based on the lectionary readings of the Antiochian
Archdiocese*

Sunday, July 26: Martyr Paraskeva of Rome

John 20:11-18 / 1 Corinthians 1:10-25 / Matthew 14:14-22

Monday, July 27: Martyr and Healer Panteleimon

Genesis 26 / 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 / Matthew 14:22-33

Tuesday, July 28: Deacons Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, and Parmenas

Genesis 27 / 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 / Matthew 14:34-36

Wednesday, July 29: Martyr Theodota and her three sons in Bithynia

Genesis 28 / 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 / Matthew 15:1-11

Thursday, July 30: Apostles Silas and Silvanus of the 70

Genesis 29 / 1 Corinthians 14:1-25 / Matthew 15:10-20

Friday, July 31: St. Germanus, Bishop of Auxerre

Genesis 30 / 1 Corinthians 14:26-40 / Matthew 15:21-28

Saturday, August 1: Seven Maccabean Martyrs

2 Maccabees 7 / 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 / Matthew 15:29-31

**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**