

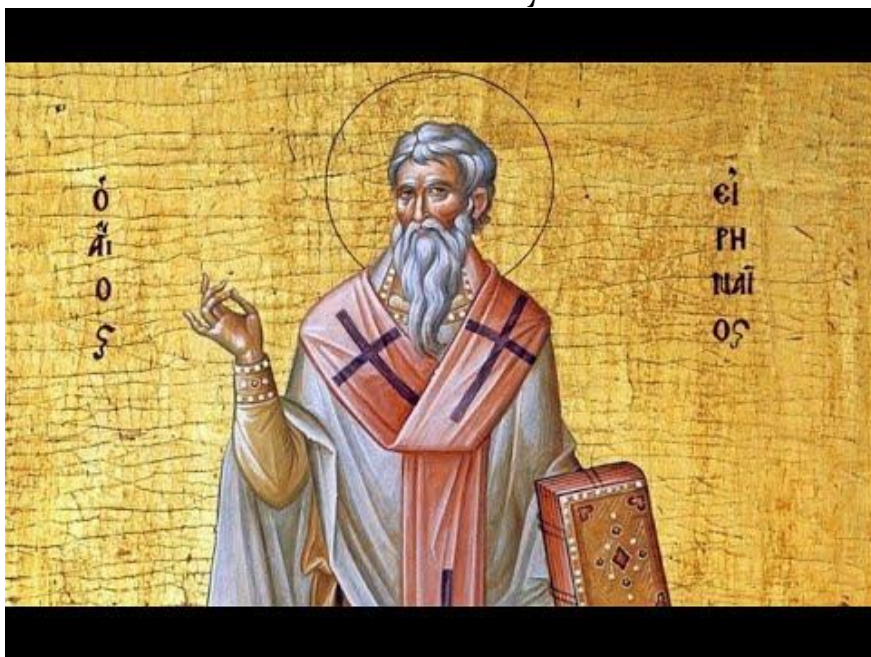


ALL SAINTS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, August 23, 2026

Leave-Taking of the Dormition
St. Irenaeus of Lyons



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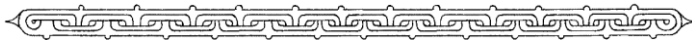


Apolytikion of the Resurrection (Tone 3): Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of hades, granting the world the great mercy.

Apolytikion of the Dormition (Tone 1): O Theotokos, in giving birth thou wast preserved in virginity, and in thy falling asleep, thou hast not forsaken the world. For thou wast translated into life, being the mother of Life. Wherefore, by thy pleading, deliver our souls from death!

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 of the Dormition (Tone 2): Neither the tomb nor death could hold the Theotokos, who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions. For being the mother of Life, she was translated to life by the one who dwelt in her virginal womb.



EPISTLE READING

For the 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Prokeimenon – Psalm 46:6, 1

Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

Clap your hands, all peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy!

**The reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians
(15:1-20)**

BRETHREN, I declare to you the Gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

GOSPEL READING

For the 12th Sunday of St. Matthew

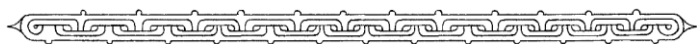
**The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew
(19:16-26)**

AT THAT TIME, a young man came up to Jesus, kneeling and saying, “Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?” And He said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but one, that is, God. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.” He said to Him,

“Which?” Jesus said, “You shall not kill, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness, honor your father and mother, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

The young man said to Him, “All these I have observed; what do I still lack?” Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”

When the young man heard this, he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?” But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”



THE HIEROMARTYR IRENAEUS, BISHOP OF LYONS, was born in the year 130 in the city of Smyrna. He received there the finest education, studying poetics, philosophy, rhetoric, and the rest of the classical sciences considered necessary for a young man of the world.

His guide in the truths of the Christian Faith was a disciple of the Apostle John the Theologian, Saint Polycarp of Smyrna. Polycarp baptized the youth, and afterwards ordained him presbyter and sent him to a city in Gaul then named Lugdunum [present day Lyons in France] to the dying bishop Pothinus.

A commission was soon entrusted to Saint Irenaeus. He was to deliver a letter from the confessors of Lugdunum to the holy Bishop Eleutherius of Rome (177-190). While he was away, all the known Christians were thrown into prison. After the martyric death of Bishop Pothinus, Saint Irenaeus was chosen a year later (in 178) as Bishop of Lugdunum. *“During this time,”* Saint Gregory of Tours writes concerning him, *“by his preaching he transformed all Lugdunum into a Christian city!”*

When the persecution against Christians quieted down, the saint expounded upon the Orthodox teachings of faith in one of his fundamental works under the title: *Detection and Refutation of the Pretended but False Gnosis*. It is usually called *Five Books against Heresy*.

In refuting the heresy of Gnosticism, Saint Irenaeus presents the Orthodox teaching of salvation. “*The Word of God, Jesus Christ, through His inexplicable blessedness caused it to be, that we also, should be made that which He is ...*,” taught Saint Irenaeus. “*Jesus Christ the Son of God, through exceedingly great love for His creation, condescended to be born of a Virgin, having united mankind with God in His own Self.*” Through the Incarnation of God, creation becomes co-imaged and co-bodied to the Son of God. Salvation consists in the “Sonship” and “Theosis” (“Divinization”) of mankind.

The successors of the Apostles have received from God the certain gift of truth, which Saint Irenaeus links to the succession of the episcopate (Adv. Haer. 4, 26, 2). “Anyone who desires to know the truth ought to turn to the Church, since through Her alone did the apostles expound the Divine Truth. She is the door to life.”

After this incident, Saint Irenaeus drops out of sight, and we do not even know the exact year of his death. Saint Gregory of Tours, in his *Historia Francorum*, suggests that Saint Irenaeus was beheaded by the sword for his confession of faith in the year 202, during the reign of Severus.

The Apostle John the Theologian, Polycarp of Smyrna, and Irenaeus of Lyons are three links in an unbroken chain of the grace of succession, which goes back to the Original Pastor, our Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

In his old age, Saint Irenaeus wrote to his old friend the priest Florinus: “*When I was still a boy, I knew you... in Polycarp’s house.... I remember what happened in those days more clearly than what happens now.... I can describe for you the place where blessed Polycarp usually sat and conversed, the character of his life, the appearance of his body, and the discourses which he spoke to the people, how he spoke of the conversations which he had with John and others who had seen the Lord, how he remembered their words, and what he heard from them about the Lord ... I listened eagerly to these things, by the mercy of God, and wrote them, not on paper, but in my heart.*”

(adapted from www.oca.org)

Announcements and Upcoming Events

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

Today: Leave-Taking of the Dormition of the Theotokos

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

Tuesday, August 25: Morning prayers, 9am

There will be no morning prayers at All Saints Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday.

Wednesday, August 26: Vespers, 7pm

Saturday, August 29: The Beheading of St. John the Baptist

- Vespers, 7pm

Next Sunday, August 30:

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

PRISON MINISTRY: The Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry continues to collect donations throughout the month of August. Please see Jim Marks if you have any questions; donations may be made to All Saints Church, marked OCPM in the memo line.

CHURCH SCHOOL: Mark your calendars! Church school for children, youth, and adults begins **Sunday, Sept. 13**. Fr. Pat and Joseph Letendre will continue to teach the adult class. 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.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Saturday, Sept. 5:** Men's fellowship and breakfast, 8:30am
- **Tuesday, Sept. 8:** Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of the Theotokos, 7pm
- **Sunday, Sept. 13:** Procession of the Holy Cross and first day of church school

Volunteer Schedule

Date	Reader	Prospora	Greeter	Coffee	Food
Sun Aug 23	Jim K	Pat K	Nancy L	volunteer	R-Z
Sun Aug 30	Paul K	Cristina P	Tobey L	Zach C	A-F
Sun Sept 6	Steve K	Dn Walid	John O	volunteer	G-K
Sun Sept 13 <i>Holy Cross</i>	Joseph L	Sarah C	JoAnne T	volunteer	L-P
Sun Sept 20	Rich C	Sephora I	Richard B	volunteer	R-Z
Sun Sept 27	Michelle	Debbie K	Azizeh C	Zach C	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.

"If you are making something, you must call to mind the creator of all things; if you see the light, remember the giver of it. If you put on your clothes, recall whose gift they are and thank him who provides for your life. In short, let every action be a cause of your remembering and praising God, and lo, you will be praying without ceasing and therein your soul will always rejoice." (St. Peter of Damascus)



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

AUGUST 23-29, 2026

*Based on the lectionary readings of the Antiochian
Archdiocese*

Sunday, August 23: St. Irenaeus of Lyons

Matthew 28:16-20 / 1 Corinthians 15:1-20 / Matthew 19:16-26

Monday, August 24: Cosmas of Aetolia, Equal to the Apostles

Genesis 45 / 2 Corinthians 9:1-15 / Matthew 21:28-32

Tuesday, August 25: Holy Apostles Bartholomew & Titus

Genesis 46 / 2 Corinthians 10:1-11 / Matthew 21:33-46

Wednesday, August 26: Martyrs Adrian and Natalie

Genesis 47 / 2 Corinthians 10:12-18 / Matthew 22:1-14

Thursday, August 27: Monica of Tagaste

Genesis 48 / 2 Corinthians 11:1-15 / Matthew 22:15-22

Friday, August 28: Moses of Ethiopia & Augustine of Hippo

Genesis 49 / 2 Corinthians 11:16-33 / Matthew 22:23-40

Saturday, August 29: Beheading of St. John the Baptist

Isaiah 40:1-11 / Malachi 3:1-7, 4:4-6 / Wisdom of Solomon 4:16-5:7

Matthew 14:1-13 / Acts 13:25-33 / Mark 6:14-30

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CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE**

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