



ALL SAINTS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, August 30, 2026

Beheading of St. John the Baptist · 13th Sunday after
Pentecost



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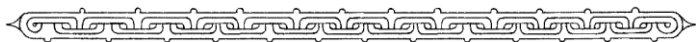


Apolytikion of the Resurrection (Tone 4): Having learned the joyful message of the resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation, and proudly broke the news to the disciples, saying: “Death hath been spoiled! Christ God is risen, granting the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

Apolytikion for St. John the Baptist (Tone 2): The memory of the righteous is celebrated with songs of praise, but the Lord’s testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner. Thou wast shown indeed to be the most honorable of the prophets, for in the waters thou didst baptize Him whom they had proclaimed. After suffering with joy in behalf of the truth, thou didst proclaim even to those in Hades the God who appeared in the flesh, who taketh away the sin of the world, and granteth us great mercy.

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 for the Nativity of the Theotokos (Tone 4): By your nativity, O Theotokos, Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness, Adam and Eve from the corruption of death. And we your people freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to you: the barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our life!



EPISTLE READING

For the 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Prokeimenon – Psalm 103:24, 1

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works; in wisdom hast Thou made them all. Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, Thou art very great!

**The reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians
(16:13-24)**

BRETHREN, watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love. I urge you, brethren—you know the

household of Stephanas, that it is the first-fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints—that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us.

I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men.

The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

The salutation with my own hand—Paul’s. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be anathema. O Lord, come! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Alleluia – Psalm 44:3, 6

In Thy majesty ride forth victoriously for the cause of truth and to defend the right; let Thy right hand teach Thee dread deeds.

Thou hast loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

GOSPEL READING

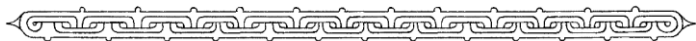
For the 13th Sunday of St. Matthew

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (21:33-42)

THE LORD SPOKE THIS PARABLE: There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. Afterward he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ And they took him and cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him.

“When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a

miserable death, and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.” Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?”



THE LABORERS ARE FEW!

His Eminence Metropolitan Saba

The Lord says in the Gospel: *"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Pray therefore to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest"* (Matt. 9:37–38). These words come after the Gospel describes Jesus going throughout all the cities and villages, teaching, proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom, and healing the sick. *"And when he saw the multitudes, his heart was filled with compassion for them, because they were poor and scattered among themselves, like sheep without a shepherd"* (Matt. 9:36).

Did He mean that the laborers needed for His harvest would always remain few? Or that the faithful among them would be few?

The Gospel gives no answer to this question. It simply continues by recounting the calling of the twelve disciples and, in the tenth chapter of Matthew, presenting the Lord Jesus' instructions to them—instructions that are far from easy, for they demand a great deal of asceticism and self-denial. ...

A priest is an apostle; otherwise, he becomes an employee who attends to religious affairs. An apostle bears a message: he has a purpose, a consuming concern, and a determination to convey his message in the best ways possible. The priest-apostle is consumed by the word of God and the salvation of souls. He can find no rest and never ceases laboring for their sake. His love for his flock springs from his love for his Lord: *"Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these? ... Yes, Lord; You know that I love You."* He said to him, *"Tend My sheep"* (John 21:16).

Where does a priest's apostolic spirit come from? How does he keep it burning within him? How does he confront its hardships and temptations without allowing the coldness of his flock—or of the ecclesiastical

institution in its human aspect—to seep into him? What does he need most, given that he is, in the end, a human being who bears his own sins and weaknesses, even as he aspires to overcome them through his faithful love for his Lord and his devotion to Him? How can the flock help him remain faithful? And what is required of the ecclesiastical institution in this regard?

There is yet another pressing question: Why are the laborers few? Where do they come from? How do they know that God is calling them to dedicate themselves to His service in His living Body, the Church?

These are but a few of the questions that must be placed before both the personal and the ecclesial conscience. If we desire a Church that is *"glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing"* (Eph. 5:27), then we must ask the question—and search for the answer!

In the past, families took pride in offering their finest sons to the Lord. In the Old Testament, the firstborn was set apart and consecrated to the Lord. In the New Testament, however, all believing men and women have become consecrated to the Lord. Consequently, all are responsible for carrying forward the Church's spiritual ministry—each, of course, according to his or her gift and calling. *"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own special people, that you may declare His wonderful deeds"* (1 Pet. 2:9).

The history of the Church shows that priestly vocations increase in direct proportion to the abundance of devout families and to the practice of daily prayer and fasting in the home, together with participation in the Church's liturgical worship alongside the rest of the faithful.

Therefore, when the number of priests declines and the need for them becomes urgent, our families will face a question on the Last Day—and it may be a difficult one: "What about you? Where was your part? What did you do with your children? How did you raise them? Did you nurture them in the love of God and His Church, and in the desire for Him and His Kingdom? Or were you content to educate them only in academics, sports, music, languages, and everything else you thought would benefit them in this world—and this world alone?"

(Read the rest of the article at www.antiochian.org)

Announcements and Upcoming Events

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

Today:

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

Tuesday, Sept. 1: Morning prayers, 9am

Wednesday, Sept. 2:

- Morning prayers, 9am
- Vespers, 7pm

Thursday, Sept. 3 & Friday, Sept. 4: Morning prayers, 9am

Saturday, Sept. 5:

- Men's fellowship, 8:30am
- Vespers with Metropolitan Saba at St. Mary Church in Palos Heights, 5pm

Next Sunday, Sept. 6: Labor Day weekend

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

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.

TOUCHSTONE CONFERENCE: Touchstone magazine will host its 40th anniversary conference, *City on a Hill? Christians in America at 250* on September 24-26 at the DoubleTree by Hilton hotel in Oak Brook, IL. Speakers include Rod Dreher and our good friend Fr. Theophan Warren.

Discounted tickets for All Saints parishioners are available at the following links:

- <http://www.thetouchstoneconference.com/reduced-thursday>
- www.thetouchstoneconference.com/reduced-friday
- www.thetouchstoneconference.com/reduced-saturday
- www.thetouchstoneconference.com/reduced

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
- **Tuesday, Sept. 15:** Parish council meeting (online), 7:30pm

Volunteer Schedule

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



Daily Bible Readings

Aug. 30-Sept. 5, 2026

*Based on the lectionary readings of the Antiochian
Archdiocese*

Sunday, August 30: Leave-taking of the Beheading of St John

Mark 16:1-8 / 1 Corinthians 16:13-24 / Matthew 21:33-42

Monday, Aug. 31: Hiero-Martyr Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage

Genesis 50 / 2 Corinthians 12:1-21 / Matthew 22:41-46

Tuesday, Sept. 1: Ecclesiastical New Year

Isaiah 61:1-11 / Leviticus 26:3-19 / Wisdom of Solomon 4:7-15

Matthew 11:27-30 / 1 Timothy 2:1-7 / Luke 4:16-30

Wednesday, Sept. 2: John the Faster, Patriarch of Constantinople

Exodus 1 / 2 Corinthians 13:1-14 / Matthew 23:1-12

Thursday, Sept. 3: Anthimus, Bishop of Nicomedeia

Exodus 2 / Galatians 1:1-10 / Matthew 23:13-39

Friday, Sept. 4: Holy Prophet and God-Seer Moses

Exodus 3 / Galatians 1:11-24 / Matthew 24:1-14

Saturday, Sept. 5: Zacharias and Elizabeth, parents of St. John

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