

15th Sunday after
Pentecost

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2 Cor. 4:6-15  
Luke 7:11-16

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Homily by
Protodn. Pat Lamb

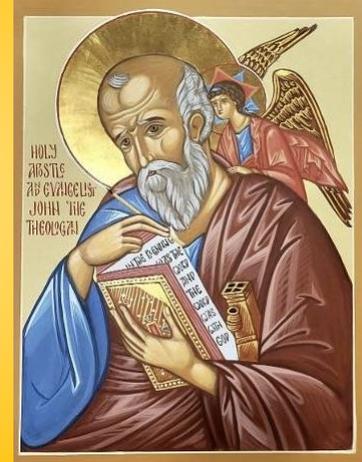
Epistle Reader:
Ben Dunaway

Coffee Hour Hosts:
Jenkins / Mee /
Arnold

St. John Orthodox Cathedral

Weekly Bulletin

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Sunday, October 6, 2024  
And the Days Following

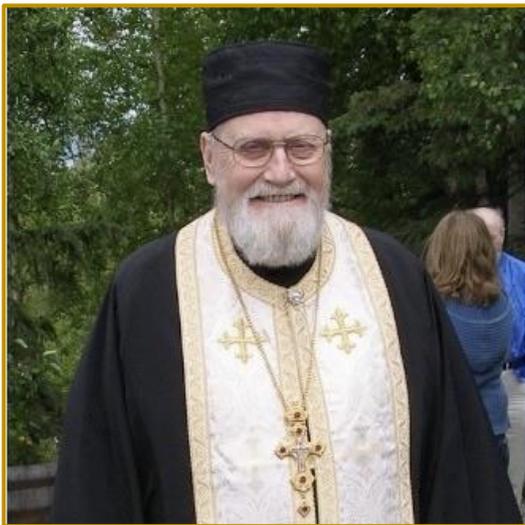


*O Apostle John, speaker of Deity, the beloved of Christ our God, hasten to deliver your people powerless in speech, for He on Whose bosom you lean accepts you as an intercessor. Beseech Him, therefore, to disperse the darkness of ignorance and pray for peace and great mercies to be shown upon us.*

### Parish Events and News

#### Memory Eternal! Fr. John Downing

Dear Faithful and Friends of Saint John's,



It is with sadness and yet with a heart grateful for God's abundant care that I relay to you the news that the servant of God, the **Archpriest John Downing**, fell asleep in the Lord early this Friday morning at Guiding Light Assisted Living Home in Eagle River where he has been living since 2019.

He was 92 years old and had been suffering from pneumonia in the days before. Fr. John was a member of Saint John Cathedral community since 2003, when he moved here from California following the death of his beloved wife, Kh. Nancy.

Fr. John served a full career as a priest in the Episcopal Church until he converted to Orthodoxy in the early 1990's. He was ordained to the Orthodox priesthood at Saint Michael Church in Whittier, CA, and assisted Fr. Michael Trigg there for ten years.

Fr. John was a beloved and valuable priest in our parish until his retirement in 2011. He assisted at the altar, served as our school chaplain, used his skills as a counselor, helped begin our local prison ministry, and even dressed up as Saint Nicholas on Christmas. He also served twice a month as a priest for Saint Herman Church in Wasilla for nearly two years.

Fr. John showed extraordinary diligence and capability in assuming all these tasks even though he was in a stage of life where many would have been content take it easy. He touched the lives of many in our parish who will hold in their heart fond memories of him, and among whom I also count myself. In his later years he was cared for especially by Anna and Keith Haley, Valorie and Steve Sparks, Dan Kendall, and finally by Yolanda Jackson and her staff at Guiding Light.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Marc Dunaway

Pastor, Saint John Orthodox Cathedral

**Services for Fr. John will be as follows:**

**Sunday, October 6  
Trisagion Prayers for the Departed after Liturgy**

**Friday, October 11  
6-7pm - Visitation at St. John Orthodox Cathedral, 18936 Monastery Drive, Eagle River (907-696-2002)**

**7pm - Funeral Vigil for a Priest (Following the service a vigil will be kept through the night as people take turns to read the Gospels in the Cathedral. A sign-up list will be available in the Narthex.)**

**Saturday, October 12  
9:15am - Divine Liturgy  
10:45am - Burial Service at Saint John Cemetery immediately following Liturgy.**

**11:30am – “Mercy Meal” in the Cathedral Basement after Burial Service.**

*(Jennifer Gillquist is coordinating the Mercy Meal and Sign-up sheets will be available in the Narthex this Sunday – or call Jennifer to help.)*

*~May His Memory Be Eternal~*

**“Thursday Night Talks” to Resume This Week  
October 10, 6:30-8pm at the Saint James House  
3 Weeks: Family and Parenting Articles**

In the last week I have expanded the sources for this “TNT” from the two originally listed to five, thanks to others who shared more good materials with me. Our goal in this first evening will be to read and discuss what these sources offer as the goal or philosophy or basic foundations of parenting and family life. Honest discussion of this matter is of utmost importance, and I believe it will be useful to all those who attend. Two clarifications: First of all, one of the sources I mentioned previously was Dr. James Dobson. I want to clarify that in the 1980’s, when Betsy and I were starting our family, he was among the pre-eminent child psychologists in the country writing about parenting, and many found his advice very helpful. In subsequent years, however, he became more involved in national politics and culture war controversies, taking positions with which I would not necessarily want to align. Second, these are not “parenting classes,” per se, but rather a sharing of articles that I hope will provoke a valuable and challenging discussion.

Articles may be accessed at this link: [Family and Parenting Articles](#)

\*Please remember to bring a laptop, tablet or iPhone on which these articles and excerpts may be accessed. Printed copies will not be available.

Also, Tim Mellor is arranging childcare for these three weeks, and, if you have not already done so, you can sign up for this on this link: [Sign-up for Thursday Childcare](#)



## Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Atrium)

**12:30pm – 2:00pm**

Classes begin at 12:30 and go to 2:00pm. Please provide each of your children with lunch before they enter the Atrium for participation and learning. If you have any questions, you may contact Rhonda Clodfelter at 907-696-2128

### Summary of September Parish Council Meeting

- Will Ihde and Ann Patras shared their ‘elevator pitch’ on “Why are you an Orthodox Christian?”
- Tim Mellor gave an update on the Russian family living in the downstairs at the Maranatha house.
- Tim Mellor gave an update on the water well.
- Tim Mellor gave an update on the school.
- John Marc Dunaway updated that the Cathedral internet has been switched from GCI to MTA fiberoptics.
- Tim Mellor gave an update on his waiting for a response from the state on how/where to access grant funding to assist with making the Saint James House wheelchair accessible.
- Bruce Johnson gave an update on where he is at with the Monastery speed hump test to be conducted by the city.
- Marshall Alexander and Maris Kelly are working together to review the church finances.
- The PC will plan to continue to discuss next strategic steps for the PC.
- There was discussion on the possibility of covering up the unsightly utility boxes in front of the church. John Marc will research design/cover restrictions.
- Jennifer Gillquist and Ann Patras pitched their desire to invite Dr. Jeannie Constantinou as an ERI speaker.
- Myles Kelly presented his and Sam Stogsdill’s cupola replacement design and plan. An official proposal will be put together for review.
- Tim Mellor gave a report on the various church ministries.
- The PC very briefly reviewed the cemetery guidelines. There was a discussion to consider creating a cemetery committee and continue discussing updating the current guidelines.

*Summary Provided by Martha Fisher, Parish Council Co-Chair*

**Please send feedback/comments/questions/ideas to [parishcouncil@stjohnalaska.org](mailto:parishcouncil@stjohnalaska.org)**

### The Pokhilko Family Finds a Home in Anchorage

The Russian family that Saint John’s has been hosting in the Maranatha House since July found a home they could rent in Anchorage near their work. They expressed deep gratitude for the kindness and generosity our Cathedral community has been able to extend to them. May God bless them.

## Coffee Hour This Sunday - October 6, 2024 Group A - First Sunday of the Month



**Hosts Families: Jenkins / Mee / Arnold**

Snacks: Abel, Bowman, Cook, Davis, Dozier, Gillquist Families, Haley, Jenkins, Justus, Lindblom, Macalino, Mellor, Northey O'Fallon, Patras, Sorensen, Stallman, Templeton, Tysver, VanDewater, Wells

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Next Sunday - Group B - October 13 - Hosts: Gillquist Family

Snacks: Agnew, Alvarez, Betson, Davison, Davisson, Drennan, B & D Dunaway, J & B Dunaway, Finkler, Grasse, Hoyt, Ihde, Keener, Klatt, Komar, Lineer, Lowry, Moffatt, Peters, Ray, Schlicting, Stevens, Sturdevant, Villafana

Dates to Remember

Monday 'Moms with Kids' Reading Group

Monday morning reading group for moms with little ones 10 AM in St. James House living room. If you have any questions, please contact Natasha Haines.



Thursday Reading Group

The Thursday 10 am reading group will be meeting at the Senior Center. I will also send out a text message reminder. — Ann Patras.



Birthdays This Week

October 9 - Caleb Lindblom

October 10 - Catherine Jones

October 10 - Subdn. Steve Alvarez

October 12 - Esther Saur

October 10 - Kh. Betsy Dunaway

M A N Y Y E A R S !



Remembering in Prayer...

Gwyn Jones

Nina Potts

Laura Temple

Oksana Artz

Maris Kelly

Stina Dozier

*We continue to pray for all those suffering in Ukraine
and for all those suffering in Israel and Gaza, for a quick end to
war and for peace*



Remembering Those Who Have Fallen Asleep This Month



- * Fr. John Downing - October 4, 2024
- * Kh. Nancy Downing - October 19, 2002
- * Helen Grace Edzards Peters - October 23, 1998
- * Isabella Joy Fletes - October 24, 2019

M E M O R Y E T E R N A L !

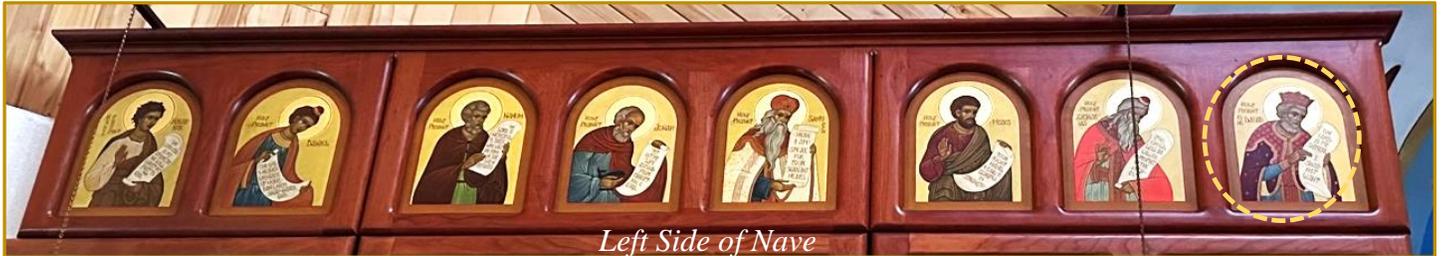
Clare House Meal - 4th Saturday of Each Month

For the Month of **OCTOBER** – our scheduled meal that we provide Clare House is:
Saturday, October 26. Contact Cara Fletes to see how you can help.

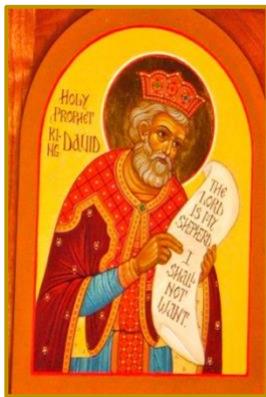


Who is that Prophet on the Iconostasis?

Answers to this question will be highlighted in the bulletin each Sunday



Left Side of Nave



Holy Prophet King David Feast Day – December 28

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.”

The Holy Prophet-King David was a forefather of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh. The youngest son of Jesse, David shepherded a flock of sheep belonging to his father. He was distinguished by his deep faith, and he zealously fulfilled the will of God.

During a battle with the Philistines, he vanquished the giant Goliath in single combat, which decided the outcome of the war in favor of the Israelites. He endured many things from King Saul, who saw him as a favorite of the people

and his rival. David, however, showed his own decency and magnanimity. Twice, when he had the possibility of killing Saul, he did not do so.

After Saul and his son perished, David was proclaimed king of the southern part of Israel, and after Saul's second son was killed, he became king of all Israel. He built a new capital, Jerusalem (“the City of Peace”), and a new tabernacle. His great wish to build a Temple was not realized. It was foretold to him that his son would build the Temple.

The life of the Prophet David was darkened by a grievous falling: he took Uriah's wife for himself and sent Uriah to his death in battle. He was also an example of great repentance, humbly and with faith bearing the sorrows sent in punishment for his sins. Saint David gave a model for repentance in Psalm 51 (*LXX50*). King David died in great old age with steadfast faith in the coming of the promised Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ. His divinely inspired Psalter is widely used in the divine services and in personal prayers. (See the Books of Kings and Chronicles).

THE SYNAXARION

Innocent, Apostle to America – October 6



On this day, we commemorate Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow, Enlightener of the Aleuts and Apostle to America, named in the world: John **Popov-Veniaminov**. John was born in 1797 in Irkutsk into the family of a sacristan. The boy mastered his studies at an early age and by age seven he was reading the Epistle in church. In 1806 they sent him to the Irkutsk seminary. The missionary service of the future Apostle of America and Siberia began in 1823. Father John spent 45 years laboring for the enlightenment of the peoples of Kamchatka, the Aleutian Islands, North America, Yakutsk, the **Khabarov** frontier, performing his apostolic calling in severe conditions and at great risks to life.

Father John baptized ten thousand people, built churches, taught the fundamentals of the Christian life and translated the holy services into the native tongues of the various lands he served. In 1840, after the death of his wife, Father John was tonsured a monk with the name Innocent by St. Philaret, the Metropolitan of Moscow, in honor of St. Innocent of Irkutsk. Innocent was consecrated Bishop of Kamchatka, the Kurile and Aleutian Islands. In 1868, Innocent succeeded Metropolitan Philaret on the Moscow cathedra. He fell asleep in the Lord in 1879, on Holy Saturday, and on October 6, 1977, Archimandrite Innocent was glorified as a Saint by the Russian Orthodox Church.

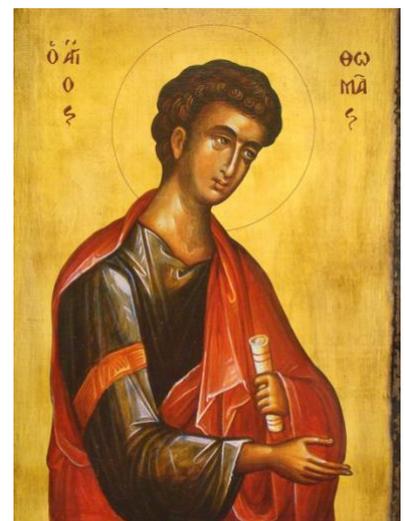
Apostle Thomas – October 6

On October 6 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we also commemorate the holy Apostle Thomas.

Verses

*Thomas, who placed his hand in Your side, O Word
Is now pierced in his own side for Your sake.
On the sixth with long spears, they pierced **Didymus**.*

Thomas was often referred to as Didymus, or “The Twin” in Greek, and he was one of the twelve original Apostles. Through his doubt in the Resurrection of Christ the Lord, a new proof was given of that wonderful and saving event. The Lord said to Thomas: Touch with your finger and behold My hands; and reach with your hand and place it into My side: and be not faithless but believing.



And Thomas replied: My Lord and my God! After the descent of the Holy Spirit, when the apostles cast lots to see where they would each go to preach, the lot fell to Thomas to go to India. Thomas converted many to the Christian Faith, and established the Church there, appointing priests and bishops. Before his martyric death, he and the other apostles were miraculously brought to Jerusalem for the burial of the Most-holy Theotokos. Arriving too late, he wept bitterly, and the tomb of the holy Most pure One was opened at his request, but the Theotokos' body was not found in the tomb. The Lord had taken His Mother to His heavenly habitation. Thus, in his tardiness Thomas revealed to us the wondrous glorification of the Mother of God, just as he had once confirmed faith in the Resurrection of the Lord by his unbelief.

On this day, we also commemorate the Venerable **Kendeas** of Cyprus; and Venerable-martyr **Makarios** of St. Anne Skete on Athos.

By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

Bulletin Announcement Guidelines

Send announcements to church email address: cathedral@stjohnalaska.org Have announcements submitted by Thursday or at very latest Friday 9am. If you have any questions regarding announcements – contact Maris Kelly at the church office. 907-696-2002.

Saint John Orthodox Cathedral

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Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
Pastor: Fr. Marc Dunaway ◦ Assistant Priest: Fr. Robert Polson