

*Sunday before the  
Cross  
Postfeast Nativity of  
Theotokos*

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*Galatians 6:11-18  
John 3:13-17*

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*Homily by  
Fr. Robert Polson*

*Epistle Reader:  
Jerry Finkler*

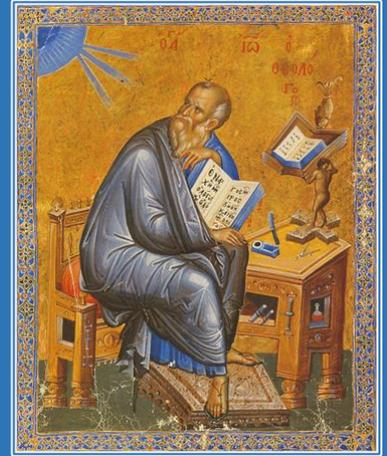
*Coffee Hour Hosts:  
Peyton / Keener*

# *St. John Orthodox Cathedral*

## *Weekly Bulletin*

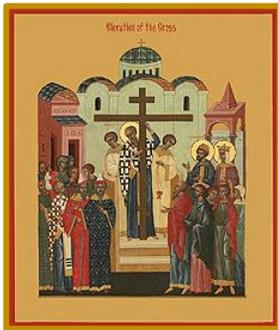
*Sunday, September 11, 2022*

*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.*

### *Feast Days and Services*



#### **Elevation of the Cross**

**Feast Day is September 14**

Great Vespers, Tuesday, September 13

Divine Liturgy, Wednesday, September 14

This Service will include the Procession of the Cross with the 500 Lord Have Mercy's chanted in English, Greek and Arabic.

*September 14<sup>th</sup> is a strict fast day.*

### *Parish Events and News*



#### **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd**

**New Start Date - September 18 - 12:30pm – 2:00pm**

Be sure to sign up for an orientation time slot for your level 1 child. The orientations will be given this Sunday, September 11. Contact Rhonda for any questions at [clodfeltersrj@mtaonline.net](mailto:clodfeltersrj@mtaonline.net)

#### **Kids Running Races, Sunday, September 18 at 4pm**

All kids are invited to enjoy running races on Sunday Sept 18th at 4pm, on the Church lawn. Races will include team relay races, kid-size hurdles, "dinosaur chases", and other fun races. Joachim Labrecque with Dn. Kevin will assist. Enjoy! Call Dn Kevin for questions at 907-947-5345.





## Coffee Hour This Sunday - September 11 Group B - Second Sunday of the Month

**Hosts Families: Peyton / Keener**

Snacks: Agnew, S. Alvarez, Betson, Coverdell, B & D Dunaway, J & B Dunaway, Finkler, Grasse, Hattensburg, Hoyt, Keener, Klatt, Komar, Lineer, Moffatt, Parker, Peters, Peyton, N & M Ray, Schlicting, Sturdevant, Villafana.

Please bring snacks to serve at least 4 families.

**Note: New Coffee Hour Hosts List October thru January – posted on Website under Resources**

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*Next Sunday – Group C – September 18, 2022*

*Hosts: Kendall Families*

*Snacks: Ashcroft, Amundson, Clement, Curry, Dunham, Fisher, Greene, Hawi, Hunter, Johnson, Kelly, Kendall families, Labrecque, Medders Families, Okuley, Polson, Saur, Scherer, Sparks, Stiehr, Temple, Wasile*

*If you cannot host on your assigned Sunday, please find your own replacement and then let Jennifer Gillquist know of the change. Text 907-632-1064 (preferred) or email [Jennifergillquist@gmail.com](mailto:Jennifergillquist@gmail.com)*

## Sisters of Mary and Martha General Meeting October 8 at 5:30pm

Please join us for our next Sisters of Mary and Martha general meeting. I'm looking forward to seeing you all on Saturday Oct 8th at 5:30 pm in the church basement. Just to peak your curiosity, I've got some fun activities planned and hope to see you all there. - Katy Arvidson

### Maris Kelly Out of the Office



I will be out of the office from September 15 through October 16 and working remotely as much as possible. Please continue to send announcements by Thursday or at the latest Friday by 9am to the church email address – [stjohnalaska@aol.com](mailto:stjohnalaska@aol.com). I will work on the Bulletins and deploy them to the website remotely. (*Myles and I will be pet/housesitting for my daughter and her husband and I look forward to this opportunity to be in Vancouver, for Myles to recuperate and to be with their cat.*)

For any bills and reimbursements, please drop them off at the church office and Rhonda Clodfelter will be able to write a check for you on Monday mornings. —Thank you, Maris Kelly, Secretary/Bookkeeper  
You can contact me anytime at 907-350-9283, the church email or my email [MarisKelly75@gmail.com](mailto:MarisKelly75@gmail.com).

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## Notes and Pictures from Parishioners

### “Checking In” with Each Other

Is there something you'd like to share about what your family is up to? Please email [stjohnalaska@aol.com](mailto:stjohnalaska@aol.com)

### Thank you note from the Haley's

Dear Family of St. John's,  
May God bless you for your kindness and helping by bringing meals to us during Anna's recovery from surgery. Her recovery is still ongoing and has been complicated by long term Covid. We thank you and ask for your continued prayers.  
—Keith and Anna Haley.

## *Farewell Gale & Robin Armstrong*

On Wednesday night after the Vespers Liturgy for the Theotokos we said our final goodbyes to Gale and Robin Armstrong who are leaving Alaska after some 49 years.

They both came to Alaska, Gale from Ohio and Robin from Georgia, in June of '73; and while working at Providence Hospital met each other in August. Robin was already visiting *Maranatha North* (St. Johns) and invited Gale to the community. They were married in December '73 and six months later moved into an apartment at the "Big House" under the ministry of Harold & Barbara Dunaway. Gale had become a commercial pilot and worked for Aerotech and eventually Era Airlines for many years. Robin had majored in art and minored in English and landed a job at Chugiak High School as an English teacher. Their two children, David and Katie grew up in this community.

In addition to their "daytime jobs" Gale and Robin were blessed with remarkable artistic talent. In 1984, Gale, with the help of Myles Kelly, built the beautiful iconostas and the icon panels; Robin painted the beautiful icons which adorned that iconostas as well as many of the icons in our church. The dome icon of Christ the Pantocrator was a combination effort. Robin first drew a gridded icon of Christ on a piece of paper. Gale took this paper, climbed up the scaffolding on the outside of the Cathedral and then climbed through a dome window onto a temporary floor constructed for this purpose. He then gridded the dome and using Robin's sketch he transferred the image in a 1 inch to 1 foot scale. Robin followed and using acrylics, painted the icon. It took six weeks to finish, with others, including children, helping to paint the blue sky & clouds.

In their time here Robin and Gale became the godparents of many of our children. In 2000, Robin's 9 year old twin nephew's, Austin & Justin Hatcher, (who would lose their mother to brain cancer), came to live with them. They stayed with the Armstrongs for seven years. Gale during this time continued to use his woodworking talent to make many coffins in his workshop. He also constructed the caisson which we now use to transport our loved ones to the cemetery. Gale retired from his pilot job in 2012. During that summer the Armstrongs traveled to Spruce Island to build a "summer cottage" for themselves. For the next several years they would leave Eagle River after Pascha and return in the fall for Thanksgiving. During the summer months they hosted many visitors in their cottage home and bunk house which Gale also built on their property.

In 2016 Gale began construction on a new living quarters for the nuns on nearby St. Nilus Island. That building is nearing its completion. In 2017 the Armstrongs officially left St. John's to become part of the parish in Kodiak selling their home on Darby Road. In the fall of 2020, the Jones: son-in-law Chris, daughter Katie & grandson, Elijah, joined them in Kodiak. Katie was having health problems and Robin was eager to help with babysitting.

It was in the spring of 2022 that it became apparent that it was time to make a move. Gale was beginning to realize that he needed to "really retire" and they were both longing to be near family in a place that had better medical care for Katie. So they decided to move back to the South - this time to Nashville, Tennessee. Katie, Chris and 2½ year old, Elijah will be following in the next couple of months. Their son, David, and his wife will be "close" in Austin, Texas. Their nephews, Austin & Justin, and their families will also be "nearby" in Georgia.

May God be with them as they travel and start this new adventure in their life. - D. Stallman

*pictured with friends in front of the first icons Robin painted.*



## *Saint John's School* **Stone Soup Day Sale (in spite of the rain)**



### *Dates to Remember*

#### *Birthdays This Week*



September 11 - Gloria O'Fallon

September 12 - Marshall Alexander

September 12 - Sean Fisher

September 12 - Amara Finkler

September 15 - Kasey Medders

September 17 - Hannah Johnson

September 18 - Stan Snider

September 18 - Melinda Kendall

**M A N Y   Y E A R S !**



### *Thursday Reading Group*

The Thursday readers will meet at JoAnn Webster's home at 10am. We will read "Ultimate Things" starting with chapter 13.

Hope to see some new people there! —JoAnn Webster



## *Remembering in Prayer...*

*Jennifer Medders  
Eloise Lamb  
Nicholas Guio  
Gwyn Jones  
And for those suffering from Covid*

*Jan Northey  
Myles Kelly  
Valorie Sparks  
Ann Patras*

## *Remembering Those Who Have Fallen Asleep This Month*



- \* Priest Thomas Moffatt - September 2, 2008
- \* Dorothy Calberg Keating - September 11, 2012
- \* Laura Belle Scott - September 13, 2014
- \* Agileen Lund - September 17, 1983
- \* Infant Mary Elizabeth Dunaway - September 20, 1984
- \* Russell Raoul Labrecque - September 30, 1986

*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 **SEPTEMBER** – our scheduled meal that we provide Clare House is:  
**Saturday, September 24.** Contact Cara Fletes to see how you can help.



### **Bulletin Announcement Guidelines**

Send announcements to church email address: [stjohnalaska@aol.com](mailto:stjohnalaska@aol.com). 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.

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## THE SYNAXARION

Theodora of Alexandria – September 11



On September 11, in the Holy Orthodox Church, we continue to celebrate the Nativity of the Most-holy Theotokos, and we commemorate our righteous Mother Theodora of Alexandria.

### *Verses*

*Aspect and mind Theodora makes manlike,  
And shames the great mind before her departure.  
On the eleventh, Theodora rests with the last sleep.*

Urged on by a fortune-teller, Theodora committed adultery with another man. Her conscience immediately began to trouble her, and she cut off her hair and dressed in a man's garb and went off to the men's monastery of Octodecatos under the man's name of Theodore. Her labors, fasts, vigils, meekness and tearful repentance were a source of wonder to all the brethren. She eventually left the monastery and spent seven years wandering in the forests and deserts, caring for a harlot's child. Theodora overcame all devilish illusions by making the sign of the Cross; they all vanished like smoke. After seven years, the abbot of the monastery received her back, and she lived there in asceticism a further two years and then entered into rest in the Lord in the year 490. Only then did the monks learn that Theodora was a woman, when an angel appeared and explained everything. Thus God glorified this true penitent, who with heroic endurance, spent nine years repenting of one sin.

On this day, we also commemorate the Righteous Euphrosynos the Cook; Martyrs Demetrios, Evanthia and Demetrianos; and Venerable Sergios and Herman of Valaam.

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

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### **Saint John Orthodox Cathedral**

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• Diocesan Website: <http://www.antiochianladiocese.org>

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese

Pastor: Fr. Marc Dunaway • Assistant Priest: Fr. Robert Polson