

*Thomas Sunday  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after  
Pascha*

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Acts 5:12-20  
John 20:19-31  
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*Homily by  
Subdn. Chris Kies*

*Epistle Reader:  
Steve Templeton*

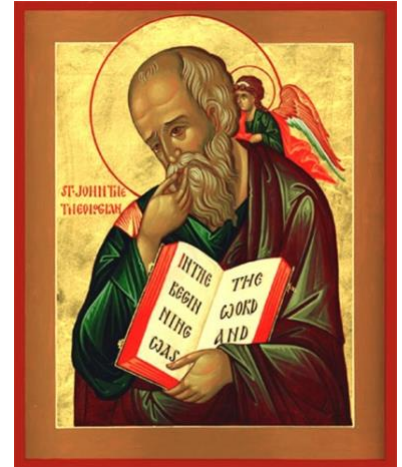
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Coffee Hour Hosts:  
Dougherty / Goetz*

# *St. John Orthodox Cathedral*

## *~~~~~ Weekly Bulletin*

*Sunday, April 27, 2025  
And the Days Following*

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*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*



### **Church Family Meeting – May 17 at 5:30pm**

Please save the date for our upcoming church family meeting that will take place in the church basement on Saturday, May 17, from 5:30pm to 7pm facilitated by the Parish Council. An agenda will be release later.

### **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Atrium) Resumes Sunday, 2:30pm – 2:00pm**



### *Coffee Hour This Sunday - April 27, 2025 Group D - Fourth Sunday of the Month*

**Hosts Families: Dougherty / Goetz**

*Snacks: Alexander, Arvidson, Clement, Clodfelter, Cowan, Dougherty, FrM & Kh. Betsy Dunaway, Dyal, Fletes, Haines, Goetz, Hightower, B & M Johnson, Jones, Kies, Lamb, Mee, Moses, Palmer, Parker, Ray, Snider, Stogsdill, I. Temple, Terrell, Van Dyke, Webster*

*~~~~~  
Next Sunday – Group A – May 4, 2025 – Bower / Patras*

*Snacks: Abel, Bower, Cook, Davis, Dozier, Gillquist Families, Haley, Jenkins, Justus, Lindblom, Macalino, Mellor, Northey O'Fallon, Patras, Sorensens, Stallmans, Templeton, Tysver, VanDewater, Weaver, Wells*

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## *News From Our Antiochian Archdiocese*

### **Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew on the Death of Pope Francis**

“In an atmosphere of great Paschal joy, this morning, Monday of Renewal Week, came the sorrowful news of the repose of Pope Francis, a precious brother in Christ, with whom from the very moment of his ascent to the papal throne, we had a fraternal friendship and collaboration for the good of our Churches, for their further rapprochement, and for the good of humanity.

Throughout these twelve years of his Papacy, he stood as a faithful friend, a fellow pilgrim and supporter of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, a genuine friend of Orthodoxy, a true friend of the least of the Lord’s brethren, on whose behalf he often spoke, acted, and even washed their feet in an example of true humility and brotherly love.

We shall always remember him.

When in 2014, just one year after his election and inauguration, upon my proposal and initiative, we went to Jerusalem and prayed on our knees side by side before the Lord’s Tomb, and had meetings and discussions during those two or three days we spent together in the Holy Land; I said to him: ‘Your Holiness, in a few years we shall mark the 1700th anniversary of the convocation of the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea of Bithynia. It would be a wonderful and symbolic act for us to go together, to celebrate this historic anniversary, and to speak about the further path of our sister Churches toward the common Chalice.’

He showed enthusiasm and said: ‘It is a tremendous thought, a tremendous idea and proposal. If we are well, God willing, let us make this pilgrimage to Nicaea. If not—if the Lord does not permit it—then our successors.’

Indeed, he very much wished to come within the current year to celebrate th

is historic anniversary jointly, and he stated this many times in the media and to representatives of the Ecumenical Patriarchate who visited him from time to time in Rome.

As we say, it was not meant to be that he should come in person. If I myself am well, of course the Ecumenical Patriarchate will do something in this regard. It will not let this historic anniversary pass unnoticed. As for the Catholic Church, it will depend on the person, views, and intentions of the elected Pope—whether he will wish and when he will want to come with us to Nicaea (Iznik) and underline the importance of this great anniversary, a most significant event in the history of Christianity.

Today, as we gather at the Ecumenical Patriarchate with all the holy Hierarchs of the All Venerable Ecumenical Throne (that is, those serving in Türkiye) to exchange the fraternal greeting of the Risen Christ, we commemorate the beloved figure of the recently reposed Pope Francis and we all pray, ‘with one mouth and one heart,’ for the repose of his soul in the land of the living and in the tents of the righteous. We pray that the Lord of life and death will reward him for his many labors for the Church and humanity and will raise upon the Throne of Saint Peter a worthy successor, one who will embrace and adopt the visions of Pope Francis and continue his valuable work for all humanity—especially for Christendom, and even more particularly for the rapprochement of our sister Churches, with the ultimate goal of their full encounter in the common Chalice.

May your memory be eternal, brother Pope Francis.”

His Eminence  
The Most Reverend  
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York  
and Metropolitan of  
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE**  
OF NORTH AMERICA

**Prot. no.:** 155/2025

**Great and Holy Pascha - 2025**

Beloved in Christ:  
The Most Reverend Hierarchs,  
The Reverend Priests and Deacons,  
And the devout People of God in this blessed Archdiocese,

**Christ is risen!** I greet you with the most beautiful proclamation on this radiant and divine Pascha. I offer my heartfelt prayers for each of you daily, asking for God's abundant mercy and the joy of victory over death—every kind of death—for all of you.

I will not address the glorious event of the Resurrection from a doctrinal perspective today, but instead, I wish to offer a brief reflection.

In our Church, each feast is a moment where we relive the event itself. At Pascha, as you know, we walk with our Lord Jesus through every step of His salvific journey, culminating in His resurrection from the dead. The Cross precedes the Resurrection; death precedes life. This is why we begin our Paschal celebration on Great and Holy Friday evening. In the middle of the service, immediately after the chanting of the lamentations for the death of the Lord, we begin chanting the Resurrectional verses: *"Blessed art thou, O Lord, teach me thy statutes."*

There is a beautiful tradition in some churches where this funeral service begins with clergy wearing dark purple vestments, the color of the Lenten season. Then, following the lamentations, they change into white vestments. It is worth noting that white, the color of the Resurrection, becomes predominant in the church coverings and clergy vestments following the service.

All of this is an outward expression affirming that the Cross (death) and the Resurrection are one inseparable event. If we walk with Christ in His Passion, it is to prepare for the joy of His Resurrection.

Thus, it is only the repentant—those who recognize their sins and feel the need to be freed from them—who know how to crucify their sins with Christ, bury them in His tomb, and rise with Him in His Resurrection, striving toward the face of the Risen Lord. Then their eyes become fixed on Christ the Risen One, and through His Resurrection and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit,

they come to understand that they are called to live not on earth, but in heaven—and thus realize that their Christian calling is to make earth itself a piece of heaven.

After our Christ defeated death, we now understand—by the grace of the Risen Lord—that we are responsible for transforming the world and restoring it to the Kingdom of God, beginning by purifying it from sin. But we have also begun to understand that this great work does not begin with others – it begins with us and within us.

What remains is for us to live a new life: a life free of sin, a life the world does not know, for it is according to God's will, not our own. I invite you to reflect with me on words written by Metropolitan Georges Khodr on Pascha 2014, when he had reached the age of ninety-one:

“I am a crossing, O Lord, until I meet You. Do not allow me to distract myself: ‘Shine Your face upon Your servant,’ that I may become of Your light. Take me to You, that I may know You. Do not leave me in the wilderness of this world. Do not leave me prey to the beasts. Come, for in Your coming I am formed. If You come to me, I will complete my journey toward Your face, O Lord. If I see You, Your face becomes my world. Nothing benefits me but Your face. That is Pascha. Let no other face distract me from You. Fix my eyes upon it. Each day, I desire Your face, O Master. Let it suffice for me as my life. Train me to see You as my all in this age and the one to come, so that I may understand You are existence itself. Discipline me to forsake all things to see You. If I attain You, You will take care of me. I will become Paschal in You. And if I reach You, my journey ends.” (From **"Who Am I at Pascha," Pascha 2014**)

May the joy of our Risen Lord flood your hearts at all times.

Yours in the Risen Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "+SABA". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'S' and 'A'.

+SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

*“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)*

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**Bridal Shower Honoring Kathleen  
Sorensen  
Saturday, May 3 at 11am**

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

**SUMMER DAY CAMP 2025**

**JUNE 3RD-5TH**  
9:45AM - 12:30 PM

**AGES 2-12**  
ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL & THE ST. JAMES HOUSE

**JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP, FRIENDS, & FUN!**  
**PLEASE REGISTER BY MAY 5TH**  
**REGISTRATION FORMS IN THE NARTHEX 😊**

**PARENT VOLUNTEERS ARE APPRECIATED!**

A \$10.00 DONATION PER CHILD WOULD BE APPRECIATED!  
SCAN THE QR CODE TO DONATE!

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CALL  
CARA FLETES AT 907-854-6632, OR  
JESSICA KIES AT 907-390-7032.

**CAMPERS AND PARENTS:  
JOIN US FOR A CAMPOUT  
ON THE CHURCH LAWN!  
6PM JUNE 5 TO 10AM JUNE 6**

**Save the Date for Day Camp and  
Register Now  
June 3, 4 and 5**

This summer we are excited to offer a St. John Day Camp June 3rd, 4th, and 5th. The camp will run from 9:45 am - 12:30 pm and is open to children ages 2-12. We have a wonderful set of volunteers to help lead the camp. See more information in the camp flyer below.

If you are interested in registering for Day Camp, please find a form to fill out and put in the Cara Fletes' mail-box folder. Thank you!

Please call or email Cara Fletes or Jessica Kies with any questions!

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## *St. John's School News*



A yellow poster for a BBQ event. At the top are icons of a flame, a cowboy hat, and another flame. The text reads: **BETTER-THAN-TEXAS ALASKA BBQ**. Below that is a location pin icon followed by **SAINT JOHN'S SCHOOL**, **Friday, May 9 | 5:30-7:30 PM**, and **(Early school release at 1:30 PM)**. A ticket icon is followed by **Tickets:**, **\$25 - Ages 12 & up**, **\$10 - Ages 6-11**, and **Free - Ages 5 & under**. A cowboy boot icon is to the right of the ticket information. Below the boot is **Fun for All Ages!** with a list: **• Games & Cake Walk**, **• Line Dancing**, **• Unveiling of Our All-School Mural!**. To the left of the boot is a hand icon followed by **Parent Volunteer hours available!** and a phone icon followed by **Call Kali Macalino: 907-696-3920 for tickets or to volunteer**. To the right of the boot is **Raffle Tickets: \$20 each** with a list: **• 2 Alaska Airlines Tickets (up to 50 k miles each)** and **• 2 Alaska Railroad Tickets to Seward (Adventure Class)**.

**BETTER-THAN-TEXAS  
ALASKA BBQ**

**SAINT JOHN'S SCHOOL**  
Friday, May 9 | 5:30-7:30 PM  
(Early school release at 1:30 PM)

**Tickets:**  
\$25 - Ages 12 & up  
\$10 - Ages 6-11  
Free - Ages 5 & under

**Fun for All Ages!**

- Games & Cake Walk
- Line Dancing
- Unveiling of Our All-School Mural!

**Parent Volunteer hours available!**

**Call Kali Macalino:**  
907-696-3920 for tickets or to volunteer

**Raffle Tickets: \$20 each**

- 2 Alaska Airlines Tickets (up to 50 k miles each)
- 2 Alaska Railroad Tickets to Seward (Adventure Class)

**Fund Raiser for St. John's School  
Friday, May 9, 5:30-7:30pm**

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## *Notes and Pictures from Parishioners*

### **"Checking In" with Each Other**

Is there something you'd like to share? Please email [cathedral@stjohnalaska.org](mailto:cathedral@stjohnalaska.org)

**Come, take light from the light that is never overtaken by night. Come, glorify Christ, Who is risen from the dead.**





## Ian Burton's Chrismation April 19, 2024



## House For Rent - 1 Mile from Church

2 large bedrooms, 2 bath, garage, large fenced-in yard with garden, good well. Located at 16207 Old Glenn Hwy. If interested, please contact Michael and Meghan Jones via [michael907@protonmail.com](mailto:michael907@protonmail.com), or WhatsApp or Signal at +1 (316) 416-7027

## Slay the Dragon

Around 10 children helped slay a dragon pinata at the Bower family's St. George Day celebration on April 23 at their home in Hiland. St. George is Frederick "Freddie" Bower's patron saint.



## A Note from Jennifer Gillquist

I am thinking of hosting a question-and-answer session regarding Helen's epilepsy and the upcoming procedure she is having in Seattle. Please reach out to me if you are interested. It may be at my home and the time will depend on the number of people who would like to come. Please reach out to me if you are interested.

Jennifer Gillquist, 907-632-1064, [Jennifergillquist@gmail.com](mailto:Jennifergillquist@gmail.com)

## Dates to Remember

### Birthdays This Week

April 28 - Brian Okuley

May 1 - Teri Van Dyke

April 29 - Levi Curry

May 4 - Henry Ihde

*M A N Y Y E A R S !*



### Anniversaries This Week

Fr. Robert & Kh. Colleen Polson - May 1, 1982

David & Kristine Lindblom - May 3, 2002





### *Remembering in Prayer...*

*Gwyn Jones  
Joe Dunham*

*Kerry Jones  
Elisa Betson*

*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*

*Chris Grasse  
Joséphine Hanna & her  
family*

*Sylvia Villafana  
Helen Gillquist*

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



\* Presbyterian Garland Peters - May 6, 1979

\* Abner Picon - May 1, 2016

\* Infant Lazarus Frizelle - May 2, 2018

\* Eloise Mae Lamb - May 10, 2024

\* Infant Benjamin Ray - May 12, 2022

*M E M O R Y   E T E R N A L !*

### *Monday 'Moms with Kids' Reading Group*

Please join us for reading group on Mondays at 10 AM. We meet at Saint James House in the living room area.



### *Thursday Reading Group*

Thursday Readers will meet at the Chugiak Senior Citizen Center at 10am

### *Clare House Meal - 4th Saturday of Each Month*

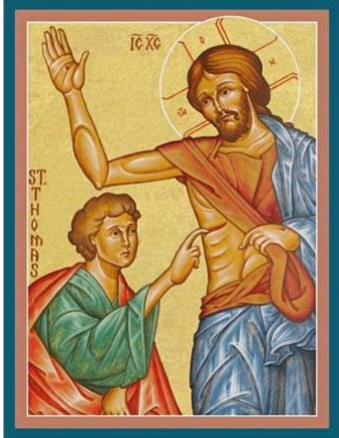
For the Month of **MAY** – our scheduled meal that we provide Clare House is:  
**Saturday, May 24.** Contact Cara Fletes to see how you can help.





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## THE SYNAXARION



### Thomas Sunday

On April 27, in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate Hieromartyr Simeon, Bishop of Jerusalem and the kinsman of the Lord; John the Confessor, Abbot of the Monastery of the Chaste; Eulogios the Hospitable of Egypt; and Stephen, Abbot of the Kiev Caves and Bishop of Vladimir.

On this day, the first Sunday after Pascha, we continue with the celebration of Christ's Resurrection, and the occasion of when the Holy Apostle Thomas touched the Savior's side.

#### Verses

*If the seals of the Virgin's womb and of the grave did not hold You back,  
How could the seals of the doors hinder Your might, O Savior?*

This day is called New Sunday, Thomas Sunday or Anti-Pascha. The last term means "in place of Pascha" because Thomas did not see for himself Christ's Resurrection and openly doubted it. We remember his doubt but do not repeat it. After this Sunday, the Church dedicated Sunday to commemorate the Resurrection.

As the Disciples were gathered on the Sunday following the Resurrection, Jesus passed through closed doors and greeted them in His usual way, saying, "Peace be with you." He then showed them His hands, feet and side. Jesus also ate before His Disciples and reassured them of His Resurrection. However, Thomas was not with them at that time, and insisted upon seeing the Savior's scars, the print of the nails in His hands and feet, and the spear in His side, before he would believe that Jesus was actually risen from the dead. *Eight days later, Christ appeared again to the Disciples, this time with Thomas present.* The Master told Thomas to see and feel the scars and imprints of the nails. Then Thomas immediately cried out, "My Lord and my God!" But Jesus tells His Disciples, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." This event also clearly illustrates the human nature and the divine nature of Christ.

By the intercessions of Your Apostle Thomas, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

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#### Bulletin Announcement Guidelines

Send announcements to church email address: [cathedral@stjohnalaska.org](mailto: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.

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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