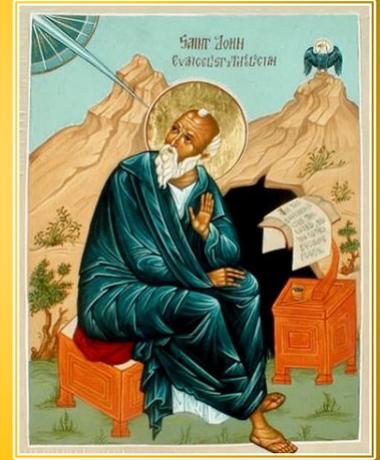


St. John Orthodox Cathedral

Weekly Bulletin

Sunday, September 5, 2021
And the Days Following



11th Sunday after
Pentecost

Prophet Zachariah

Tone 2

I Cor. 9:2-12

Matthew 18:23-35

Homily by

Fr. Marc Dunaway

Epistle Reader:

Russ Clodfelter

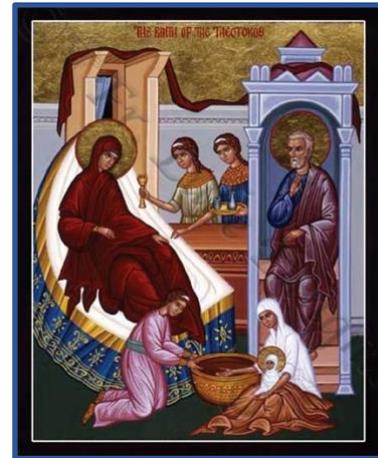
O Apostle John, speaker of Deity, the beloved of Christ our God, hasten to deliver your people powerless in speech, for He on Whose bosom you lean accepts you as an intercessor. Beseech Him, therefore, to disperse the darkness of ignorance and pray for peace and great mercies to be shown upon us.

Feast Days and Services

This Week

**Nativity of the Mother of God
Feast Day is September 8**

Vesperal Liturgy, Tuesday Night
September 7 at 6:15pm.
Live-Streamed



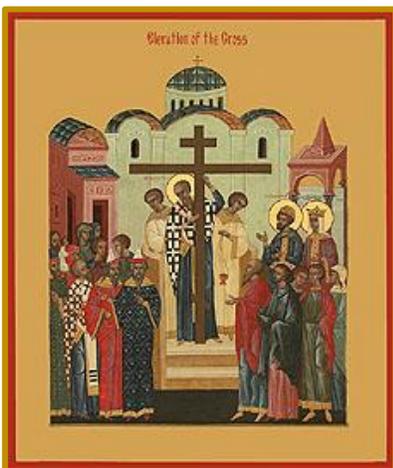
Next Week

Elevation of the Cross – Feast Day is September 14

Great Vespers, Monday, September 13

Divine Liturgy, Tuesday, September 14

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



Parish Events and News

ERI/Pilgrimage Photo Album

There is a new photo album on the Cathedral website. If you have a good photo from this summer's Institute, please send it to Fr. Marc to have it added to the album. Email: frmarcd@aol.com - Link to the new photo album [HERE](#).

Farewell to the Rogers Family

Last Sunday, the Rogers family said goodbye to Saint John's. After liturgy, Fr. John read a letter to the parish (see attachment to bulletin email) telling of their journey these past six months and expressing the deep gratitude of their family for all their years here at St. Johns. Their new home is in Palmer, near Kh. Christine's parents. They will be attending St. Herman's parish in Wasilla, where Fr. John is assigned as of September 1. Fr. Marc expressed his personal sadness at their leaving, but added that all the priests at St. John's are supportive of the needs their family is addressing in this move. May God bless them, keep them, and grant them "Many Years."

New Address: 2346 N. Comanche Trail Palmer, AK 99645

Fr. John phone: 907-830-6887 Kh. Christine phone: 907-830-1695

Rogers Family at the Fair – August 2021



Melanie, Kh. Christine, Marina, Gregory, Fr. John, Megan

Out of the Church Office...

Maris Kelly will be out of the church office from August 22 through September 7-10. If you need a reimbursement from the church – please email stjohnalaska@aol.com and Rhonda will be able to take care of you. For bulletin announcements, please contact Debbie Stallman at dbdgd@yahoo.com." She would like the announcement no later than Friday 9am. The sooner the better.

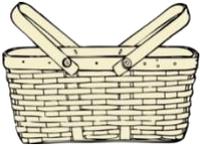
News About Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour outside after Liturgy will continue through the month of September. The Parish Council will meet on September 23 with the goal of finalizing plans to begin Coffee Hour indoors. In the meantime, please expect an email or bulletin notice from the Sisters of Mary and Martha requesting your cooperation and input to organize this.

Needs for Clare House

We are in need of someone to bake 25 potatoes for Clare House on the 4th Saturday of each month. If you are able, please contact Cara Fletes for more details. Thank you!

Good Works Basket



Did you know that September is “Hunger Action Month” in America? This movement was established in 2008 by Feeding America when it was decided it was time for a nationwide push to get involved with the hunger crisis across the country. As you know, St John has responded to this ongoing need through participation in the Archdiocese *Food for Hungry People Program* during Lent. It has also been our tradition to offer our generous support to the Chugiak Eagle River Food Pantry with canned and dried goods and other basic life essentials and home care products. Together with the support of other Chugiak/Eagle River churches along with private and organizational help the Food Pantry is able to provide temporary, emergency food assistance to the neighbors in our community. During the month of September please consider picking up a few of the items listed below to help meet the Pantry’s current needs.

- Canned Meat, Tuna, Vienna Sausage
- Cereals
- Fruit: Peaches, Mandarin Oranges
- Soups: Ramen (various flavors)
- Pasta and Pasta Mixes: Ravioli
- Condiments/Other: Saltine Crackers
- Personal Care: Tooth Brushes/Paste; Shampoo, Bath/Face/Hand Soaps
- Other: Laundry Soap; Dish Soap

Volunteers are also needed. For information on how to get involved call (907)694-5228.

For more information about Chugiak/Eagle River Food Pantry go to:

<https://umcchugiak.org/missions/chugiakeagle-river.org>

If you would like to learn more *Hunger Action Day* on Friday, September 17, 2021 or *Hunger Action Month* please visit:

<https://www.feedingamerica.org>

<https://www.commuityfoodshare.org>

Atrium Classes Begin October 3

Attention: All Saint John's Children - Ages 3 years through 6th Grade

NEW! We are going to try a new format by having our classes on Sunday afternoons following Liturgy. Below is what a schedule will look like. More information will come soon, including a link to register. Questions or comments? Please share with Shelley Finkler at shelleyfinkler@gmail.com.

11:30 Liturgy is over

11:35 Coffee Hour begins with usual light snacks

Atrium children eat a sack lunch prepared by their parents

11:45 Atrium children can play outside in the upper parking lot/sledding hill.

12:15 A bell rings and parents find their children and escort them to atrium locations.

12:30 Atrium classes begin

Parents are free to shop, have lunch, visit, etc.

2:00 Atrium classes end. Parents pick up their children.

Can We Keep the Peace?

Pastor's Reflection

When I stood with the people last Sunday at Liturgy I chose to wear a mask because I wanted to support the nurses and doctors in our parish who see our hospitals being overwhelmed by the many new Covid-19 cases due to the Delta variant. Most of these and their families are wearing masks. I wanted to support those who are concerned that their children, who cannot be vaccinated, might get Covid. I also know that in the past month 10 members of our parish have contracted Covid, two of them "breakthrough" cases in individuals who had been vaccinated. I am also aware, however, that many people in our parish do not want to wear a mask in Church, and neither our Metropolitan or our Mayor are asking us to do this. Who can blame them? Masks are uncomfortable and we all rejoiced early in the summer when we got to put them away for what we thought was the end.

But this situation now raises the question: How can we keep peace when half of the faithful choose to wear masks and half do not? How can we prevent feelings of destructive anger rising up among members of either group? This is a question several, sincere people asked me this past week.

One thing we can do is set aside a space in our Cathedral for those who have heightened concerns about Covid. We could do this with the side wings off the Nave. In these two areas, both the north side and south side, masks could be worn and social distancing could be observed. Another thing to do is to participate in the Church services by livestream for a period of time and talk to the priest about another time to receive Holy Communion.

A second approach could be for each person to simply believe in the path he or she has chosen to follow in dealing with this disease. If vaccinated, trust God and trust the vaccine. If not vaccinated, trust God and trust your immune system as it is. Choose to wear a mask or choose not to. And if you don't know what to do, ask your doctor or another reliable source. At the same time, try to lay aside any fear, fear of getting sick or fear of being pressured into something you don't believe. And while you are praying in Church, don't focus on what others are doing or not doing, what they are wearing or not wearing, or where they are standing. If necessary, close your eyes to pray. Be considerate, patient, respectful and slow to anger. Root for one another. Sooner or later, this confusing time will pass, and when that time comes, won't it be better if we are not carrying a load of grudges?

But then again, some suggest this could be the wrong approach to the whole question. Maybe we don't need to worry about "keeping the peace." Maybe now isn't the time for peace. Maybe people need to take sides, disagree, argue and sort themselves out. Maybe a few people will open their mind to the possibility that they could be terribly wrong.

Think about it, though. What approach will you take when the deacon says in Liturgy, "Let us stand aright; let us stand with fear; let us attend, that we may offer the holy Offering in peace"?

St. John's School Weekly News

It's time for Saint John's School Annual



"Stone Soup" Sale!

and Farmers Market

Tuesday, September 7, 2:30-3:15pm

Our Kindergarteners will make the traditional "Stone Soup."

All other classes will have other farm and fall items for sale.

Bring your dollars or checkbook at the end of School on Tuesday next week.

Bring your own pot, if you want to take home Stone Soup for dinner.

Local Community News

Welcome to the Klatt Family

Will, Elizabeth and their children: Iris and Finnegan and dog: Kodiak just moved into the Rogers home on Monastery. Welcome to the neighborhood Klatt Family!



Welcome to the Saur Family



Michael, Jennifer and their daughter Esther have just moved into a new house in Eagle River and have transferred their membership to St. Johns. Welcome Saur Family!

Notes and Pictures from Parishioners

“Checking In” with Each Other

Is there something you’d like to share? Please email stjohnalaska@aol.com

Dates to Remember



Wednesday Reading Group

The Wednesday readers will meet this Wednesday at 10am at JoAnn Webster’s home. Everyone is invited. JoAnn

Birthdays This Week

September 7 - Joe Dunham
September 8 - Janet Northey
September 8 - Gabe Betson
September 8 - Jonas Gillquist

September 11 - Gloria O'Fallon
September 12 - Sean Fisher
September 12 - Amara Finkler



M A N Y Y E A R S !



Anniversaries This Week

Dn. Pat & Jane Lamb - September 9, 1973
Jan & MaryAnn Northey - September 19, 1967

M A N Y Y E A R S !

Remembering in Prayer...



*Tisha Dunham
Eloise Lamb
Helen Gillquist
Laura Temple
Tom Johnson
Mother Galina*

*Anna Haley
Preston Collier
Gwyn Jones
Bruce Johnson*

Those Suffering with Covid

Remembering Those Who Have Fallen Asleep This Month



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

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

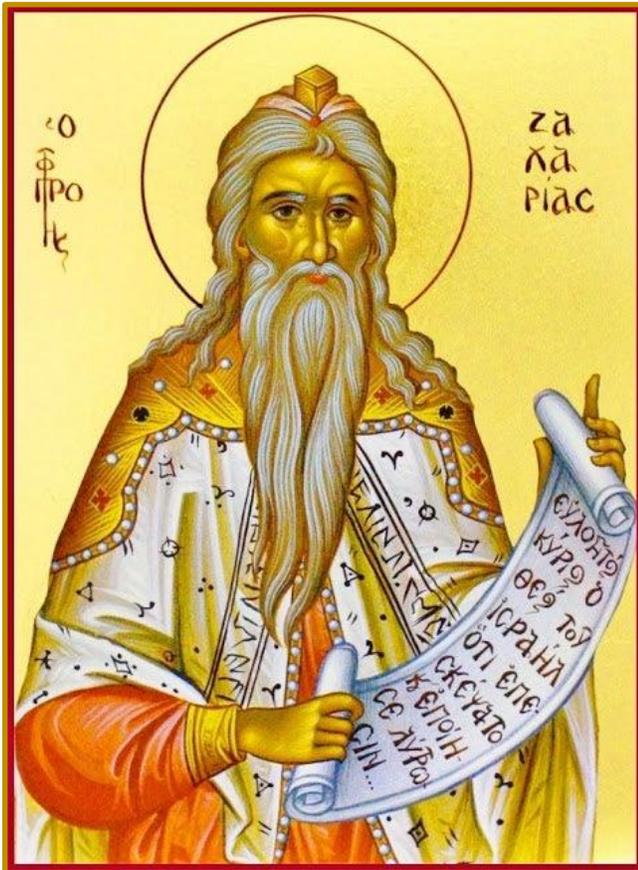
Clare House Meal - 4th Saturday of Each Month

For the Month of **September** – our scheduled meal that we provide Clare House is:
Saturday, September 25. Contact Cara Fletes to see how you can help.



THE SYNAXARION

Zachariah the Prophet – September 5



On September 5 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the glorious Prophet Zachariah, father of the Forerunner.

Verses

*For the Divine Lamb of God's sake, Zachariah
Is slain like a lamb in the midst of the temple.
On the fifth Zachariah lies slain on the temple's
floor.*

Herod and the Jews killed Zachariah in the temple near the altar. First, because even after the Virgin Mary gave birth, he continued to refer to her as virgin and number her among the virgins. And second, because Zachariah's son John was not found during the slaughter of the Innocents, when King Herod ordered the slaughter of all males under two years of age in his attempt to prevent the coming of the Messiah. It was during this heinous act that

Zachariah's wife, Elizabeth, had taken the infant John and carefully hid him in a cave that had sprung forth in her prayer to God. At Zachariah's martyrdom, his blood spilled over the marble and became as hard as stone, remaining as a testament to Herod's wickedness. Forty days after Zachariah's death, blessed Elizabeth also entered into rest. The child John stayed in the wilderness, fed by an angel and was guarded by God's providence, until that day when he appeared by the Jordan.

On this day, we also commemorate Obadiah, bishop of Persia; and the martyrdom of the Holy Passion-bearer Gleb. By the intercessions of Your Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

Saint John Orthodox Cathedral

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Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese • Pastor: Fr. Marc Dunaway
Assistant Priests: Fr. Robert Polson / Fr. Thomas Frizelle