

*Holy Forefathers*

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*Colossians 3:4-11*

*Luke 14:16-24*

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*Homily by*

*Fr. Marc Dunaway*

*Epistle Reader:*

*Stan Snider*

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*Coffee Hour Hosts:*

*B & D Dunaway*

*J & B Dunaway*

# *St. John Orthodox Cathedral*

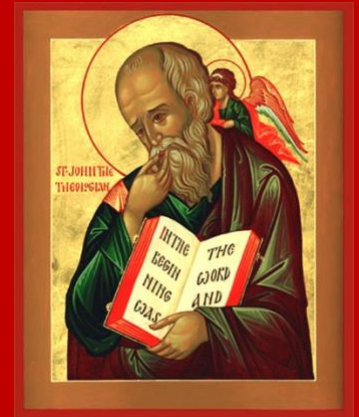
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## *Weekly Bulletin*

*Sunday, December 14, 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.*

## *Feast Days and Services*



*Tonight (Friday)...*

### *Akathist Hymn to St. Herman Service Friday Evening - December 12, at 6:15pm*



Following the "Akathist" Hymn there will be hot spiced tea and cookies in the upper parking lot to share around a campfire. Children can bring sleds to sled on the hill. A few sleds from the school will be set out too.

*(St. Herman's Feast Day is December 13)*

### *We will also have a "Cookie Exchange and Giveaway" on Saint Herman's Night*

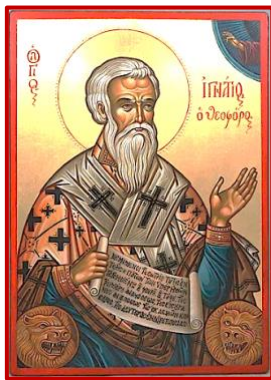


Families are invited to bring 4-dozen holiday cookies divided into small baggies with 3 cookies each. Before the Akathist Hymn begins, these are arranged on tables set up in the Narthex, labelled with the family name and kind of cookie.

After the Akathist, one member from each family can go in line along the tables and pick up a bag of cookies of each kind. (Bring your own container.) Even families who do not bring cookies should be able to receive cookies to take home. Mary Curry will again direct the "Cookie Exchange and Giveaway".



*New This Year - Next Friday...Please Sign-up*



## *Saint Ignatius Day and Decorating for "Christmas Holy Week" Friday Evening, December 19*

- ❖ 5:15pm - Decorate the Cathedral for Christmas
- ❖ 6:30pm - Meal of Tasty Soup and Bread for Decorators
- ❖ 7:15pm - Vespers for Saint Ignatius with Litia Bread
- ❖ Choir after Vespers "In the Dark Night" and "Din Cer Senin"

*Please sign-up (sign-up sheet in the Narthex) so we know who we can count on to help and how much soup to make.*

Come be part of this special evening to prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth! - For questions contact Lori Mellor



### **Bring A Poinsettia to the Church**

As a continuing tradition of our church decorating, please bring a poinsettia plant this week to be placed on the steps before our iconostasis. It's cold out there so – so please bring covered so they don't die as quickly from cold exposure.

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## *Parish Events and News*



### **Children's Choir Practice This Sunday at 12pm**

We will continue to practice on Sundays for Christmas music at 12:00. If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Kies.



### *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Atrium)*

**Sundays from 12:30 – 2:00pm**

*(Last class – Resumes January 11)*



### **Youth Group-Tuesday Nights-6:30-8pm at the St. James House**

We'll have dinner together at 6:30pm with a discussion and activities in the living room wrapping up at 8pm. —John Marc and Bethany Dunaway (907) 317-9549.

### **No Thursday Night Class – December 18**

**St. John's School Program**

**Next Class – January 15**

## Advent Project - 2025



### 2025 Advent project

We are still gathering items for Homestead Elementary's weekend food bag program and for the Downtown Soup Kitchen Hope Center (DSKHC).

Homestead Elementary distributes shelf stable food bags to over 100 children in Chugiak and Eagle River each weekend that need food when out of school. The school is asking the community for support with providing food items.

In addition, DSKHC recently provided me with a list of items they are in dire need of. DSKHC provides shelter for up to 75 women, warm clothing, job assistance, laundry, showers, mail service, and meals to roughly 300-400 people in need every single day. If you are willing to contribute, please bring the following items to the good works basket collection in the Narthex over the next several weeks or contact Sydney Ihde for more questions or ways to contribute.

Thank you! -Sydney Ihde (907)854-5517

**Items Needed: Individual packs of Ramen / Protein/granola bars / Hand warmers / Warm long socks (wool preferably) / Large cans of mixed vegetables / Bulk coffee**



### *Coffee Hour This Sunday - December 14, 2025 Group B - Second Sunday of the Month*

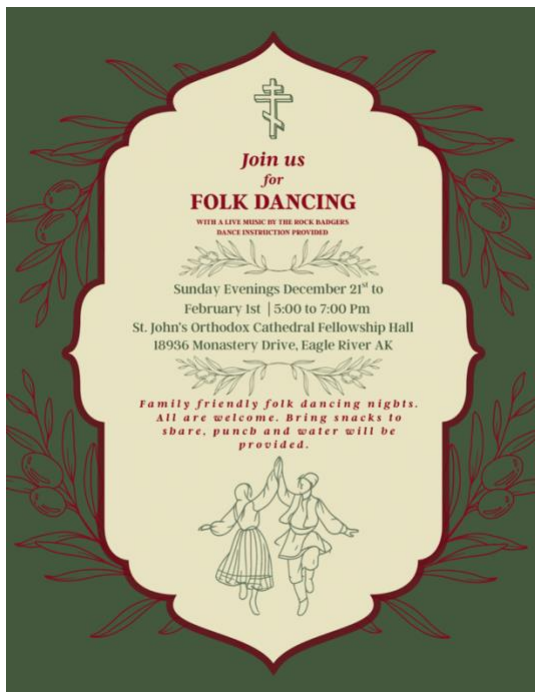
**Hosts: B & D Dunaway / J & B Dunaway**

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

**~ Please Bring Fasting Foods During Advent Season ~**

**Next Sunday - Group C - December 21, 2025 - Hosts: Saur / Terrell**

Snacks: Arnold, Curry, Dunham, Fisher, Hanna, Hawi, Hunter, E & H Johnson, Kelly, Kendall, Labrecque, Medders, Okuley, Polson, Saur, Scherer, Sparks, Stiehls, Temple, Wasile



### Folk Dancing Nights

**Join us Sunday evenings from December 21 through February 1 for a joyful season of Folk Dancing! We'll gather from 5:00-7:00 PM in the Church Basement.**

Enjoy live music performed by our local folk band, The Rock Badgers, along with guided dance instruction—perfect for beginners and seasoned dancers alike! These evenings are family-friendly and open to everyone.

Feel free to bring a snack to share; punch and water will be provided.

We hope this series will be a wonderful opportunity to build fellowship among members of all the local Orthodox Churches. Inquirers and visitors are warmly encouraged to attend—it's a great chance to learn something new or refresh your folk dancing skills ahead of upcoming celebrations.

We look forward to dancing with you! For questions, please contact Emilia Lam at 360-202-5049



## Choir Appreciation Week

This Sunday, December 14 is [Musician Appreciation Sunday](#) in our Archdiocese. It's a time to recognize and thank our church musicians for their year-round dedication, service and sacrifice for our churches.

His Eminence  
The Most Reverend  
Metropolitan SABA  
Ms. Mareena  
Boosamra Ball



Archbishop of New York  
and Metropolitan of  
All North America  
Chairwoman,  
Dept. of Sacred Music

### ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

**Musician Appreciation Sunday, December 14, 2025**

Dear friends, our church musicians across the Archdiocese: Christ is in our midst!

Let me begin with a huge THANK YOU! Your service and dedication to our God-protected churches and communities is truly a blessing.

As I reflect on this past year, it is just astonishing how quickly time has passed since the writing of my last letter!

At my church's recent choir rehearsal, I brought out all the beautiful hymns that we will be singing for the Nativity of our Lord's divine services in just a few short weeks. It was like greeting an old, special friend who you haven't seen in a long time.

The familiarity of the music with those who have been singing in the choir for decades, combined with the introduction of these beautiful melodies to new members, resonates with unending possibilities. This blend ensures that our musical traditions will not only continue to thrive within our own churches but will also spread across the Orthodox world.

There is an instant synergy in the choir that blends the voices of the individual singers to create a single, beautiful tapestry of sound. With the antiphonal song of prayer between our beloved clergy and singers, our combined goal is to aid the faithful of our churches in prayer and worship. As church musicians, we never lose sight of our true purpose of spreading the word of God through our beautiful melodies.

Your dedication to the sacred music of our blessed Archdiocese has enriched our liturgical life and deepened the spiritual experience for the faithful across North America. I encourage you to continue to expand your musical horizons and stay strong by attending classes being offered through our Antiochian Orthodox Ecclesiastical Online Music School, becoming a student at our biannual Sacred Music Institutes to recharge your batteries, but most of all, approaching your ministry with love, humility and prayerfulness.

May our incarnate Lord bless you always and give you strength. Please remember that your Department of Sacred Music is always here to help you in any way we can.

With deepest appreciation and admiration, your servant in Christ,

Mareena Boosamra Ball  
Chairwoman, Department of Sacred Music  
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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

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## *St. John's School Weekly News*



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### *Notes and Pictures from Parishioners*



#### **Craft Items for Sale**

Mary Greene will be selling her cute little handmade Christmas ornaments (\$5) and tote bags (\$15) at Coffee Hour this weekend. Stop by and take a look! Cash or Venmo accepted.

#### **Rides Needed for Oksana Atrz to Get to Church**

Please consider if you could drive Oksana to church. Please let Dn. Kevin know which dates you can cover at [doughertykb@yahoo.com](mailto:doughertykb@yahoo.com) or 907-947-5345.

**The following are the dates Oksana will need a ride: December 14, December 21, December 28**

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### *Dates to Remember*

#### ***'Moms with Little Ones' Reading Group - Wednesdays 10am***

We will meet at the St. James House. If you have any questions, contact Natasha Haines at 907-351-4942.



#### ***Men's Book Club - Wednesdays 7-8pm***

We will meet at the St. James House. If you have any questions, you can text Sam Lowry at 616-928-5181.



#### ***Women's Reading Group - Thursdays at 10am***

The next time we will get together will be January 8.



## *Anniversaries This Week*

Will & Virginia Oliveria - December 17, 2017

*M A N Y   Y E A R S !*

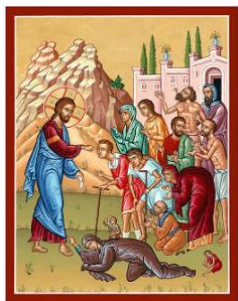
## *Birthdays This Week*

Dec 17 - Jennifer Gillquist

Dec 20 - Nora Ray

Dec 20 - Donnie Amundson

*M A N Y   Y E A R S !*



## *Remembering in Prayer...*

*Mary Greene*

*Zoie (Oksana's Mom)*

*Jay Keener*

*Krya & Skylynn Lineer*

*Jan Northey*

*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*



\* Thomas Hyde Webster - December 1, 2021

\* Paul Frederick Schanzenbach - December 25, 2016

*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 **DECEMBER** – our scheduled meal that we provide Clare House is:  
**Saturday, Dec. 27th.** Contact Cara Fletes to see how you can help.



## **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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## THE SYNAXARION



### Holy Forefathers - December 11-17

On December 14, in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the Martyrs Thyrsos, Leukios and Kallinikos of Apollonia; and the Martyrs Philemon, Apollonios, Hypatios and Arrianos of Alexandria.

On this day in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers of our Lord Jesus.

#### *Verses*

*Receive joy, O Forefathers who lived aforetime,  
As you now behold Christ the Messiah.  
Be glad, O Abraham, for you are shown to be the  
forefather of Christ.*

We remember all the holy Patriarchs of the Old Testament who prefigured or foretold Christ: Adam the first Father, Enoch, Melchizedek, Abraham, the friend of God, Isaac, the fruit of the Promise, Jacob and the twelve patriarchs. We then commemorate those who lived under the Law: Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Samuel, David, and the Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel; the twelve minor prophets; Elijah, Elisha, Zachariah, and John the Baptist; and finally, the Virgin Mary, the intermediary between mankind and her divine Son. Indeed, the Lord Jesus did not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to redeem humanity which lamented under the weight of evil since Adam; to realize the promise made to Abraham; to change the Law of Fear into the Law of Love; and to give Resurrection and Life to mankind. This feast prepares us for the Nativity of Jesus Christ, placing before us the anticipation and hope for His coming among us.

By the intercessions of Your Saints, 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