

Forefeast, Sunday  
before Nativity  
The Genealogy

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Heb 11:9-10, 32-40  
Matthew 1:1-25  
Homily by  
Dn. Kevin  
Dougherty

Epistle Reader:  
Russell Clodfelter

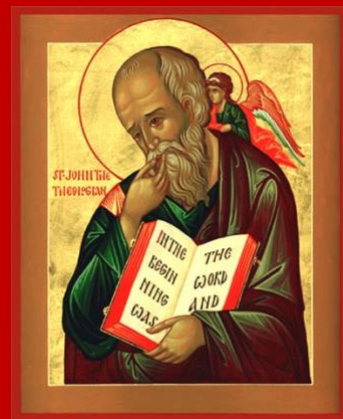
Coffee Hour Hosts:  
Kies / Davisson

# St. John Orthodox Cathedral

## Weekly Bulletin

Sunday, December 21, 2025

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

New This Year - Tonight (Friday)...



*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"



## Services for Christmas



December 24, Wednesday, "Royal Hours": 6:15am,  
9:15am, 12:15pm, 3:15pm (*Strick Fast Day*)



Christmas Eve - December 24, Wednesday -  
Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil at 6:15pm



Nativity of our Lord - December 25, Thursday -  
Christmas Day  
9am Matins for the Feast, 10am Divine Liturgy.



## Parish Events and News



### 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.

### 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.



### Regarding Tithes, Donations for 2025

At the end of each year the church provides a record of all your donations received for the calendar year January through December. These will be placed in your Mail-Box Folder located in the church basement in early January. The last deposit I'll be making is December 30 for the 2025 calendar year. Anything received after this (no matter the date of the check etc.) will be recorded in 2026. Thank you to everyone who supports our parish! Your giving is so important to keep our parish functioning and growing.

### Coffee Hour This Sunday - December 21, 2025 Group C - Third Sunday of the Month



#### Hosts Families: Kies / Davisson

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

~ Please Bring Fasting Foods During Advent Season ~

#### Next Sunday – Group D – December 28, 2025 - Hosts: Saur / Terrell

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

Coffee Hour Hosts for the Month of January: January 1: Patras/Labrecque/Mason, January 11: Templeton/Cooley, January 18: Okuley/Stogsdill, January 25: Klatt/Ihde

## Advent Project - 2025



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

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

## Dear Saint John's Parishioners:

The Parish Council is looking to form a "strategic planning committee" for Saint John Orthodox Cathedral that would meet after the holidays.

The goal of the strategic planning would be to think of ways to advance our stated mission *"to engage the world around us and reflect the light of Christ in the Orthodox way, especially through traditional worship, warm hospitality, and a loving community."*

To accomplish this, we need the help of people committed to our parish and who are willing to work and participate in this discussion. Being part of this strategic planning committee requires that you...

... are familiar with our parish community and its ministries

... are inclined to planning and envisioning

... feel strongly about the future direction of our Cathedral parish

... and watch this 45-minute video before applying: [Strategic Planning Video by Brad Leyland](#)

If you would like to share in this important effort, we want to hear from you. We anticipate meeting 4-5 times beginning in 2026. After you have watched the above video, please send a brief statement detailing why you would be a good fit for this committee to our Parish Administrator, Tim Mellor

at [timmellor@stjohnalaska.org](mailto:timmellor@stjohnalaska.org) by **January 12, 2026** (*deadline extended*). This will be shared with our Parish Council who will appoint the committee and plan the next steps to take.

Thank you, Saint John's Parish Council

## 11/25/2025 Parish Council Meeting Summary

- Each PC member shared something they are thankful for.
- We were updated that the volunteers assisting with the flood have not yet followed up with the church regarding their previous request for lodging. The plan had been to house them in the Maranatha House.
- The PC is to review the cost-of-living adjustment annually for church employees. We discussed how to create a process so this can be done.
- The PC reviewed SJOC 2025 charity funds and discussed several funding requests. We reviewed the current regularly funded charities and will plan to make adjustments to our process of establishing and maintaining charity funding. We will then decide on the recently received funding requests.
- The finance committee proposed to move the \$30,000 to begin the endowment fund from the Saint John's missions fund and this will be viewed as a loan to the endowment. The Parish Council unanimously agreed.
- There was discussion regarding various fundraising efforts that are happening simultaneously. It was discussed that future fundraisers must be approved before beginning.
- The PC discussed different ideas to launch the endowment fund, and we will continue the discussion at our next meeting.
- The previously discussed Ukrainian concert fundraiser will no longer be happening. Oksana Artz is considering other fundraising ideas which will be discussed at the next PC meeting.
- The PC discussed the challenges with coffee hour. Parishioners should participate in cleaning up and bringing food on the weeks they are assigned. Jennifer Gillquist will look at widening the pool of hosts to spread out the work of hosting between more families.
- The cupola base is complete, and more work is required before installation.
- Our next PC meeting will be January 13th, 2026.

*Please send any comments/questions/suggestions to the Parish Council at [parishcouncil@stjohnalaska.org](mailto:parishcouncil@stjohnalaska.org)*

## **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

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## ***News From Our Antiochian Archdiocese***

Writings by Metropolitan Saba: [Silent Hands](#)

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## ***Notes and Pictures from Parishioners and Friends***

### **Asking Prayers for Arlo and his Family**

#### **The Northey Family**

Arlo, the 5-year-old grandson of Jan & MaryAnn Northey, was recently diagnosed with a large brain tumor which is wrapped around the brainstem and arteries. They are asking for our prayers.

### **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 21, December 28**

### **Needing Tree Work**

“I am off work right now due to cold weather in Fairbanks and I’m available for tree jobs. Please contact Mary Curry at 908-764-9696 or me, James Curry, at 907-538-8700. Thank you.”—James Curry

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## ***Dates to Remember***

### ***Reading Groups are postponed till after New Years***

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### ***Birthdays This Week***

December 22 - Allison Justus      December 26 - AJ Mellor  
December 22 - George Kendall      December 26 - Wiley Ray  
December 24 - Oscar Davisson      December 27 - Heidi Fisher  
December 25 - Jennifer Medders      December 28 - Oscar Medders

***M A N Y   Y E A R S !***



### ***Remembering in Prayer...***

*Mary Greene  
Zoie (Oksana's Mom)  
Arlo Northey*

*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.



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## THE SYNAXARION

### Sunday before Nativity (Genealogy) – December 21



On December 21, in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Virgin-martyr Juliana of Nicomedia; Martyr Themistokles of Myra in Lycia; and Peter, metropolitan of Moscow and all Russia.

On this day, the Sunday before the Nativity of Christ, in the Holy Orthodox Church we have been enjoined by our holy and God-bearing Fathers to make commemoration of all those who, from the beginning of time, have been well-pleasing to God: from Adam through Joseph, the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, according to genealogy. Luke the Evangelist has recounted these righteous ones historically; and likewise for the Prophets, especially of Daniel the Prophet and the three holy youths.

It is also known as the Sunday of the Holy Genealogy. We remember those in the Old Testament who were related to Christ by blood, and those who spoke of His birth as a man. In the Divine Liturgy, we shall read of Jesus Christ's lineage from the Gospel of Saint Matthew. In this way, the Church shows us that Christ truly became a man, taking on human nature. He was not a ghost, not an apparition, not a myth, not a distant imagined god or the abstract god of philosophers; such a god does not have a family tree. Our God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He has flesh and blood, human ancestors -- many of whom sinned greatly, but like David, they also repented greatly. Yet, all of these righteous ones in every age had been well-pleasing to God because they loved Him. By taking on human nature, the Son of God became like us in all ways, in flesh and blood, in mind and soul, and in heart and will. He differed from us in only one way: He could not sin. Since we know that Christ's human nature remained sinless, He is also fully divine, and He shows us the way in which we can avoid sin and so improve and transform our human nature.

By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

#### 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