

Gregory the
Theologian
Zacchaeus Sunday

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Hebrews 7:26-8:2  
Luke 19:1-10

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Homily by
Protodn. Pat Lamb

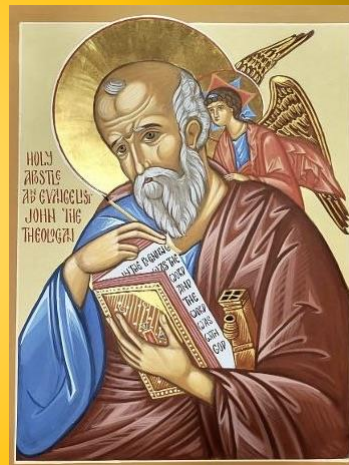
Epistle Reader:
Jerry Finkler

Coffee Hour Hosts:
Klatt / D & S Ihde
A. Ihde

St. John Orthodox Cathedral

~~~~~ Weekly Bulletin

Sunday, January 25, 2026
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

Meeting of the Lord in The Temple February 2, 2026

Great Vespers - 6:15pm, February 1, Sunday Evening
Divine Liturgy for the Feast - 6:15pm, February 2, Monday



The **Meeting of the Lord in the Temple** (also called the **Presentation**) is one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church, celebrated on Feb 2.

In the Gospel of Luke 2:22-40, Mary and Joseph took the infant Christ to the Temple in Jerusalem. He was received in the arms of the elder Simeon, who then prayed, "Now let Thy servant depart in peace... for I have seen Thy salvation." This was one of the things that Mary "pondered in her heart"—the fact that others recognized that her Son was the Messiah.

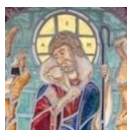
Parish Events and News

Folk Dancing

Please note that folk dancing will be **cancelled on February 1st**, as it conflicts with Vespers. However, dancing **will still take place from 5:00–7:00 PM in the Church Basement on Sunday, Jan 25th.**

Thank you so much to everyone who has come out to dance, and to all who have generously brought food and drink to share. It has been a true joy getting to know you and to dance together.

Many thanks, Emila Lam



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Atrium)
Sundays from 12:30 – 2:00pm



Ladies Tea – Saturday, January 24 10am to Noon

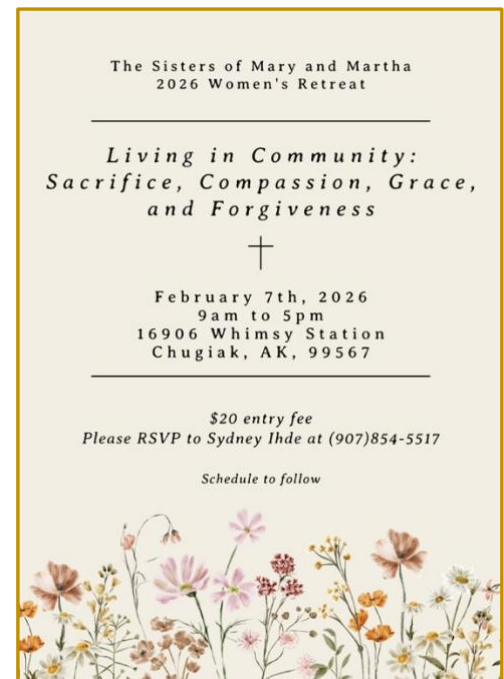
Kristine Lindblom and Sydney Ihde are hosting a women's teatime Saturday, January 24th from 10am to 12pm in the church basement. This is an open invite, and the details can be found on the flyer. Please bring a dish to share! Coffee and tea will be provided.

Women's Retreat 2026

Our annual women's retreat is quickly approaching! All meals for the day will be provided. Parking should not be too much of an issue, but we suggest carpooling. If you have a small and quiet craft project, you're working on, feel free to bring it to work on during the retreat! Please RSVP to Sydney Ihde within the next two weeks so we know the head count for food and chairs. A schedule of events will be posted soon.

There is a \$20 entry fee. This can be paid on the church website under the donate link and as "other" with SMMS written in the description. Payments can also be given directly to Natasha Haines or Sydney Ihde. If the fee is preventing you from coming, please contact Sydney and it will get sorted out. Thanks!

-Sydney Ihde (907) 854-5517



1/13/26 Parish Council Meeting Summary

- The PC members all shared about someone that is influential in their lives.
- The PC discussed the current PC members term lengths. Laurie S will extend for an additional year to allow two members per year to rotate off the PC.
- The PC discussed coffee hour. The results of our discussion were shared with the parish via letter the Sunday after our meeting.
- The PC reviewed and accepted the endowment bylaws. There will be a soft launch for the endowment at the March church family meeting
- We discussed the importance and process of new parish members getting sponsors.
- The Western Alaska Fundraiser was mentioned. Please see the Good Works Basket announcements in the bulletin for parish fundraising efforts.
- The PC discussed the charity budget. It was decided by the PC that all recurring charity contributions will be reviewed yearly to ensure that they align with the church mission. Additionally, no more than half of the charity budget will be reserved for recurring charitable contributions. The other half will be held for the emergency requests that come up regularly. We will discuss 2026 charitable contributions after finalizing the budget at our next meeting.
- The next church family meeting has been scheduled for March 21st
- The PC voted to approve the cemetery committee bylaws.
- Planning work continues for the SJH accessibility project.
- Plans to host coffee mornings at the SJH were discussed.
- The PC discussed the noise level in the church basement during coffee hour. A PC member was assigned to research possible solutions to this problem.



Coffee Hour This Sunday - January 25, 2026 Group John (4) - Fourth Sunday of the Month

Hosts Families: Klatt / D & S Ihde / A Ihde

Snacks: Alvarez, Arvidson, Barrios, Burton, Cooley, Dougherty, FrM & KhB Dunaway, Forbes, Goetz, Gresset, Haines, Hawi, D & S Ihde, M Johnson, Keener, Kies, Macalino, Mason, Minea, J Northey, Parker, DnJ & D Ray, Schlicting, Sparks, J. Stiehr, I. Temple, Templeton, Van Dyke, Watson, Weaver, VanDewater

Next Sunday – Group Matthew (1) – February 1 - Hosts: Mellor / E & H Johnson

Snacks: Abel, Amundson, Betson, Clodfelter, Culton, Curry, Dozier, J & B Dunaway, Finkler, G & J Gillquist, Grasse, G & A Ihde, Haley, Hightower, D & A Jenkins, K & G Jones, Kelly, Klatt, Lamb, Lineer, K & J Medders, Mee, Moffatt, Okuley, Patras, N & M Ray, Sluz, Stallman, Stogsdill, J. Temple, Terell, Webster

New Coffee Hour Hosts List and New Groups List

Below are links to the new hosting schedule and group lists have been placed on the Church website. They can also be found on the new coffee hour bulletin board in the basement. Please take some time to review the schedules and groups to see where and when you are scheduled. As Fr. Marc has stated, hosting coffee hour and helping to clean are opportunities to serve our fellow parishioners. The list used to schedule hosts has been expanded to ensure that a couple or individual should only need to do so once or twice a year. You will see that you may be assigned to host a coffee hour during a week that does not align with your assigned group. This is due to the various necessities of the schedule and has been avoided when possible. If you are unable to host on your assigned weekend, please find a replacement. Prior to requesting to be removed from the hosting schedule, it is asked that you read the attached letter from Fr. Marc regarding coffee hour. Again, you should only be asked to host once or twice a year. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the schedule or your place on the lists, please contact Tim Mellor. [Hosting List January through April](#) and [New Groups List](#). and [Host List](#)

Opening the Door to Orthodox Christianity Next Class Will Be Thursday, February 5, 6-7:30pm at the St. James House “Personal Prayer”

[Updated Schedule for January, February - Opening the Door to the Orthodox Christian Faith](#)

Diaper Wrap Party

Thank you to everyone who came to support the local community diaper pantry through Alaska Adoption Services! We wrapped hundreds of packages of diapers in a little over an hour (25 diapers in each package) to be easily distributed to those in need of diaper supplies. The pantry distributes 50 diapers and a package of wipes for free to each family in need once a month at multiple locations in Eagle River and Anchorage. They have distributed almost one million free diapers since starting in 2021! To learn more about how to help or how to donate, click on the following link: [The Community Diaper Pantry](#)

-Sydney Ihde



News From Our Antiochian Archdiocese



Writings by Metropolitan Saba: [Divine Education: The Old Testament](#)

Notes and Pictures from Parishioners

"Checking In" with Each Other

Is there something you'd like to share? Please email: cathedral@stjohnalaska.org

Congratulations!

Caleb and Victoria Bower recently welcomed their third child. Elizabeth "Ella" Rose Bower was born on 1/19/26 at 6:57 PM weighing 6lbs, 10oz. All is well and Freddie and Genevieve are excited about their new little sister.



A Note from Nicole Unser:

Hello everyone, it's time for the second meeting of Inkwell Locals AK, a creative gathering similar to the Inklings group of C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien. Inkwell is for anyone ready to cultivate creativity with actual people, in their actual community: writers, artists, thinkers, and creatives of all kinds. It is for both men and women and we will meet to spur each other along in our creative endeavors and find community in our creative callings.

We will meet this **Sunday January 25th at 2:00pm in the Maranatha House**. Find a summary of our last meeting and agenda for the next meeting at www.nicoleunser.com/inkwell-ak.

Rides Needed for Oksana Atrz to Get to Church

The church is looking for volunteer drivers to take Oksana to church for Sunday Divine Liturgy.

Please let Dn. Kevin Dougherty know which dates you can cover at doughertykb@yahoo.com or 907-947-5345.

The following are the dates Oksana will need a ride: January 25 and February 1, 8, 15, 22

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

We meet at 10am at the Senior Center Meeting Room, in the HUD building on the second floor. Hope to see you there! —Ann Patras

Birthdays This Week

January 25 - Khafani Abel

January 25 - Will Oliveria

January 26 - Macrina Labrecque

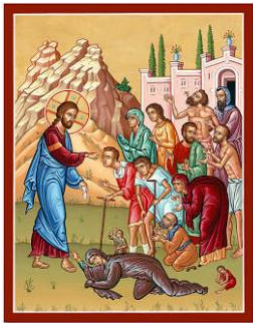
January 27 - Tim Mellor

January 31 - Tobias Haines

February 1 - Xenia Clodfelter

February 1 - Jaye Keener

M A N Y Y E A R S !



Remembering in Prayer...

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

*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



* Archpriest Harold Dunaway - January 3, 2012

* Kh. Barbara Ann Dunaway - January 25, 2011

* Infant Mark David McIlrath - January 25, 1986

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

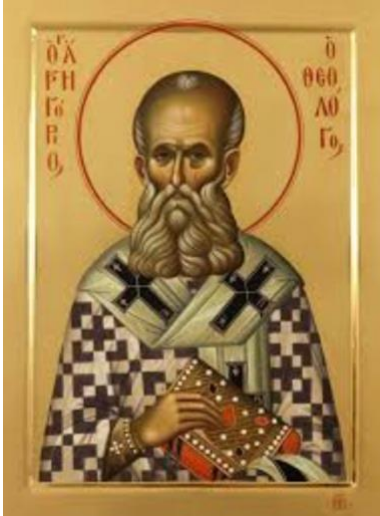
Clare House Meal - 4th Saturday of Each Month

For the Month of **February** – our scheduled meal that we provide Clare House is:
Saturday, February 28. Contact Cara Fletes to see how you can help.



THE SYNAXARION

Gregory the Theologian – January 25



On January 25, in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate our Father among the Saints Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople.

Verses

To acknowledge God's essence in Orthodox manner:

Such is this Gregory's legacy unto Christians.

On the twenty-fifth Gregory of divine speech died.

He was born in Nazianzus and studied in Athens with Basil the Great and Julian the Apostate. Gregory correctly prophesied that Julian would become an apostate, a renouncer and a persecutor of the Church. When he completed his studies, Gregory was baptized. Basil consecrated him as bishop of Sasima, and Emperor Theodosius the Great summoned him to fill the vacant arch-episcopal throne of Constantinople. Gregory wrote numerous works, of which his most famous are those concerning theology. Especially known because of its depth is his work Homilies on the Holy Trinity. Gregory wrote against the heretic Macedonius who erroneously taught that the Holy Spirit is a creation of God, and against Appolinarius who erroneously taught that Christ did not have a human soul but that His divinity took the place of His soul. Gregory died in 390 at age 80.

On this day, we also commemorate Venerable Demetrios the Sacristan; and New-martyr Auxentios of Constantinople.

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

Bulletin Announcement Guidelines

Send announcements to church email address: 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.

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