



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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ST. JOHN THE MERCIFUL, PATRIARCH OF ALEXANDRIA November 12, 2023

TROPARION, KONTAKION & PROKEIMENON

Troparion – Tone 6

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, // glory to Thee.

Troparion – Tone 8

By endurance thou didst gain thy reward, venerable Father; thou didst persevere in prayer unceasingly; thou didst love the poor and provide for them in all things. // Blessed John the Merciful, intercede with Christ God that our souls may be saved!

Troparion – Tone 8

By a flood of tears thou didst make the desert fertile, and thy longing for God brought forth fruits in abundance. By the radiance of miracles thou didst illumine the whole universe. // Our holy Father Nilus, pray to Christ our God to save our souls!

Kontakion – Tone 6

When Christ God, the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race. // He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

Kontakion – Tone 2

Thou didst distribute thy wealth to the poor and in return didst obtain wealth from heaven, O John the Merciful. Therefore, we honor thee and celebrate thy memory. // O namesake of mercy.

Kontakion – Tone 8

By thy vigilant prayer thou didst cut away the undergrowth of the body's insurgent passions. As thou hast boldness before the Lord, free me from every danger so that I may cry to thee: // "Rejoice, universal father Nilus!"

Prokeimenon – Tone 6

O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance!
V. *To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!*

LITURGICAL COMMEMORATION

St. John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria

Saint John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria, was born on Cyprus in the seventh century into the family of the illustrious dignitary Epiphanius. At the wish of his parents he entered into marriage and had children. When the wife and the children of the saint died, he became a monk. He was zealous in fasting and prayer, and had great love for those around him.

His spiritual exploits won him honor among men, and even the emperor revered him. When the Patriarchal throne of Alexandria fell vacant, the emperor Heraclius and all the clergy begged Saint John to occupy the Patriarchal throne.

The saint worthily assumed his archpastoral service, concerning himself with the moral and dogmatic welfare of his flock. As patriarch he denounced every soul-destroying heresy, and drove out from Alexandria the Monophysite Phyllonos of Antioch. He considered his chief task to be charitable and to give help all those in need. At the beginning of his patriarchal service he ordered his stewards to compile a list of all the poor and downtrodden in Alexandria, which turned out to be over seven thousand men. The saint ordered that all of these unfortunates be provided for each day out of the church's treasury.

Twice during the week, on Wednesdays and Fridays, he emerged from the doors of the patriarchal cathedral, and sitting on the church portico, he received everyone in need. He settled quarrels, helped the wronged, and distributed alms. Three times a week he visited the sick-houses, and rendered assistance to the suffering. It was during this period that the emperor Heraclius led a tremendous army against the Persian emperor Chosroes II. The Persians ravaged and burned Jerusalem, taking a multitude of captives. The holy Patriarch John gave a large portion of the church treasury for their ransom. The saint never refused suppliants. One day, when the saint was visiting the sick, he met a beggar and commanded that he be given six silver coins. The beggar changed his clothes, ran on ahead of the Patriarch, and again asked for alms. Saint John gave him six more silver coins. When, however, the beggar sought charity a third time, and the servants began to chase the fellow away, the Patriarch ordered that he be given twelve pieces of silver, saying, "Perhaps he is Christ putting me to the test." Twice the saint gave money to a merchant that had suffered shipwreck, and a third time gave him a ship belonging to the Patriarchate and filled with grain, with which the merchant had a successful journey and repaid his obligations.

Saint John the Merciful was known for his gentle attitude towards people. Once, the saint was compelled to excommunicate two clergymen for a certain time because of some offense. One of them repented, but the other fellow became angry with the Patriarch and fell into greater sins. The saint wanted to summon him and calm him with kind words, but it slipped his mind. When he was celebrating the Divine Liturgy, the saint was suddenly reminded by the words of the Gospel: "If you bring your gift to the altar and remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift before the altar ... first, be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift" (Mt. 5:23-24). The saint came out of the altar, called the offending clergyman to him, and falling down on his knees before him in front of all the people he asked forgiveness. The cleric, filled with remorse, repented of his sin, corrected himself, and afterwards was found worthy to be ordained to the priesthood.

There was a time when a certain citizen insulted George, the Patriarch's nephew. George asked the saint to avenge the wrong. The saint promised to deal with the offender so that all of Alexandria would marvel at what he had done. This calmed George, and Saint John began to instruct him, speaking of the necessity for meekness and humility. Then he summoned the man who insulted George. When Saint John learned that the man lived in a house owned by the church, he declared that he would excuse him from paying rent for an entire year. Alexandria indeed was amazed by such a "revenge," and George learned from his uncle how to forgive offenses and to bear insults for God's sake.

Saint John, a strict ascetic and man of prayer, was always mindful of his soul, and of death. He ordered a coffin for himself, but told the craftsmen not to finish it. Instead, he would have them come each feastday and ask if it was time to finish the work. Saint John was persuaded to accompany the governor Nicetas on a visit to the emperor in Constantinople. While on his way to visit the earthly king, he dreamed of a resplendent man who said to him, "The King of Kings summons you." He sailed to his native island of Cyprus, and at Amanthos the saint peacefully fell asleep in the Lord (616-620).

EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS

Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" So he answered and said, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'"

And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live." But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK, CAREGIVERS, AND DECEASED

Dates are when the name was added to the bulletin; names will remain in four bulletins and then removed. To add the name again, please email Darice at daricekeyes@gmail.com.

For the Sick / Caregiver

Michael (10/22)	Archpriest John (10/29)
Lynne (10/22)	Vera (11/5)
Melody (10/22)	Jude (11/5)
Subdeacon Serge (10/22)	DJ (11/5)
Claire (10/22)	Nancy (11/5)
Archpriest Andrew (10/29)	Archpriest Paul (11/5)
Liam (10/29)	Matushka Mary (11/5)
Kelly (10/29)	Alexandra (11/5)
His Grace, Bishop Matthias (10/29)	Haydee (11/5)
Archpriest Andrew (10/29)	
Melody (10/22)	
Subdeacon Serge (10/22)	
Claire (10/22)	
Archpriest Andrew (10/29)	

For the Deceased

Francis (10/22)
Ida Marie (10/22)
Ronald (10/22)
Robert (10/29)
Margaret (10/29)
Terri (10/29)
Gertrude (10/29)
Vincente (10/29)
Baby Michael (10/29)
Baby George (10/29)
Baby Alexander (10/29)

SERVICES

Service Schedule for the week of November 12

Sunday November 12 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Turkey Social (Bingo) in Daria Hall

Saturday November 18 – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

Sunday November 19 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

DONATIONS

Weekly Giving

November 5 – 67 adults, 10 youth, \$2,814

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The FOCA Club will have a meeting next Sunday November 19 during Coffee Hour.

The Ladies Altar Society is selling raffle tickets for two very special items:

Steinbach wooden German Smoker – "The Skier, Utah"

Hand-made Christmas Wreath

Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. Winners will be announced today at the Turkey Social.

The FOCA Club will be selling Christmas cards (pictures from our church) again this year. The cost is \$15 for 12 cards and envelopes. Sample cards will be available in Daria Hall – if you wish to order a specific number of one or more cards, you may pre-order. Otherwise, there are 3 cards each of 4 different images in a pack. Please see Nina Laushell, Mimi Berck, or Francine Brady to order or ask questions. Cards will be available early December. Thank you!

The FOCA Club is looking for new members! FOCA (Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America) meets monthly during Coffee Hour. We are a Club in the Colonial District of the National FOCA organization – the other clubs in our District include Baltimore (St. Andrew's) and NE Phila. (St. Stephen's). Our goal is not only fellowship, but also fundraising events to support various Orthodox charities throughout the year, such as Gifts of Love, St. Andrew's Fund, St. Nicholas Christmas Wish List (Christmas gifts for a Seminarian family), annual donation to Archbishop Michael's Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors Fund, and monetary assistance to a Seminarian family during the school year. Our clubs also host a District bowling day, a Religious Education Day, and the Annual District Convention. If you are interested, please see a FOCA Club member, or join us at our next meeting during Coffee Hour on November 19.

Upcoming Events for the Parish Children:

November 19 – Parish children will decorate the Christmas tree in Daria Hall during Coffee Hour. Children will also prepare Christmas cards for parishioners who are unable to attend services.

December 10 – Children's Yolka program during Coffee Hour

Yolka practices will be held on November 19, November 26, and December 3. If you wish your child(ren) to participate, please make sure they are in attendance on these dates.

There will be five openings for the Parish Council in 2024. Voting will take place at our Annual Parish Meeting, which will be held on Sunday January 28, 2024. If you are interested in running for Parish Council, please speak with Father Volodymyr.

Spring water used to make coffee and tea is needed for Coffee Hour. Please donate a few gallons!

A Parish "Directory" with photos and identifying names of all parishioners is in the works. This will help us all with "putting a face to the name"! When you are at Daria Hall for Coffee Hour, please see Awet Tesfa to get your picture taken. ***It is important to get your picture taken soon!***

The Ladies Altar Society is creating and publishing the first Parish Cookbook – with your help! We are interested in your favorite recipes, ethnic recipes, recipes from your grandparents, parents, children, relatives and friends, and Lenten recipes. They can include Appetizers, Main Meals, Side Dishes, Soup, Salad, Dessert, and Beverages. In addition to recipes, the Cookbook will include a Helpful Hints section. In order for the Cookbook to be a success, we will need many recipes! Each recipe should include your name, who you may have received the recipe from, and your phone number (phone number is only if we have questions and will not be published in the Cookbook). Please give your recipes to Alla Strauss, Melody Stavisky, or Nancy Mitsos. Thank you!

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Roxie Waite – November 12

Gabriela Plesa – November 16

Samson Manna – November 17

Tyler Burger – November 17

Have a blessed birthday and may God grant you many years!

COFFEE HOUR

Please remember the Coffee Hour Helpers do not bring any refreshments for Coffee Hour, but are there to assist in setting up for Coffee Hour. Hosts are responsible for: Providing the refreshments, setting up in Daria Hall at 9:00 AM with guidance from the Helper, cleaning up after Coffee Hour including washing and drying dishes, and taking out the trash. If you have any questions, please contact Melody Stavisky, Alla Strauss, or the Helper assigned to your date.

COFFEE HOUR PARAMETERS:

1. Plan on providing refreshments for 50 people.
2. Food items are limited to: 4 doz. Bagels/breads (2 doz. per host)
4 doz. Donuts/pastries (2 doz. per host)
Fruit

2 gallons water for coffee (1 gallon per host)
Green Salad
Sugar-free dessert/pie
Tortilla chips & salsa

NOTE: For Fasting Coffee Hour:

Bagels (except egg & cheese bagels) and some breads (rye) are non-dairy.

Fruit

Oreos and most apple pies are non-dairy.

Hosts may provide homemade non-dairy breads and/or desserts.

Salad

Tortilla chips & salsa

Sugar-free dessert/pie

Hummus

3. Hosts will be informed in advance if cream cheese/Tofu cream cheese, butter/margarine, or milk is needed.
4. The church will provide coffee, tea, assorted coffee creamers, peanut butter, jelly, paper products, water bottles, and juice.
5. Hosts may provide a luncheon for a specific event or holiday (panikhida, birthday, anniversary, holiday) with advance notice. The hosts will be responsible for all food preparation for such a luncheon.
6. Hosts take home or give away ALL leftover refreshments so the freezer and refrigerator do not get clogged with unused food.

(The third name listed is the Coffee Hour Helper)

- Nov. 12 **NO COFFEE HOUR DUE TO TURKEY SOCIAL**
Nov. 19 **FAST** Sophie Dumas, Melissa Braun, Nina Laushell
Nov. 26 **FAST** Gebrekvistos Amleset, Jessica & Blake Kilgore, Francine Meyer
Dec. 3 **FAST** Nicholas Torrisi, Lynne Sheedy, Darice Keyes
Dec. 10 **FAST** Victoryia Baranava, Madeleine Sekulich & Mark McDevitt, Francine Meyer
Dec. 17 **FAST** Paula & Ludwig Koerte, Melody Stavisky, Darice Keyes
Dec. 24 **FAST** Father Volodymyr & Matushka Oksana, Carmen & Cezar Mateiescu, Alla Strauss
Dec. 31 Nebiat Tesfa, Luwam Tesfa, Francine Meyer
Jan. 7 Darice Keyes, Anne Cheslock
Jan. 14 James & Monia Pitra, Valeria & Timothy Srock, Awet Tesfa
Jan. 21 Olga & James Bates, Walter & Tanya Tribbey, Darice Keyes
Jan. 28 **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** - Bill & Margie DiCicco, Chris Kasmer, Nina Laushell
Feb. 4 Aftan Chowansky, Matthew & Nana Barrett, Melody Stavisky
Feb. 11 Eleni & Tom Sowanick, Sami Bachir, Darice Keyes
Feb. 18 Nour Ragab, Tyler Burger, Francine Brady
Feb. 25 Mihaela & Tiberiu Milosav, Matthew & Kris Bohush, Melody Stavisky
Mar. 3 Karina Kotelnicki, Gabriela Plesa, Alla Strauss
Mar. 10 Blake & Jessica Kilgore, Alex & Rebeca Medina, Nina Laushell
Mar. 17 **NO MEAT** Fiyori Habtesilasse, Gebrekvistos Amleset, Awet Tesfa
Mar. 24 **FAST** Christine Waite, Alla & Perry Strauss
Mar. 31 **FAST** Svetlana Sosedov, Guy Radcliffe, Melody Stavisky
Apr. 7 **FAST** Germain & Tahara Ortiz, Vera Pschenyczny, Darice Keyes
Apr. 14 **FAST** Corneliu & Florica Balasa, Viktoryia Baranava, Francine Meyer
Apr. 21 **FAST** Alan & Mimi Berck, Paul & Patti Denko, Awet Tesfa
Apr. 28 **FAST** Alex & Brittani Brasowski, Anna & Leon Brasowski, Nina Laushell
May 5 **PASCHA – NO COFFEE HOUR**
May 12 Nina Schmidt, Alla & Perry Strauss