

SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION
OF THE HOLY CROSS



Icon of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross -- September 14th



September 20, 2015

SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS – TONE 8

POSTFEAST OF EXALTATION; THE HOLY GREAT MARTYR EUSTACE, HIS WIFE THEOPISTES, AND
THEIR CHILDREN AGAPIUS AND THEOPISTUS

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21 – SEPTEMBER 27

PLEASE NOTE: Saturday Vespers will resume in October.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 – THE CONCEPTION OF THE HONORABLE AND GLORIOUS PROPHET, FORERUNNER
AND BAPTIZER JOHN

9:30 AM – DIVINE LITURGY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 – 18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; THE HOLY MARTYR CALISTRATUS AND HIS
49 COMPANIONS

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

For All Parishioners

*If you are reading the bulletin during the Liturgy (including the homily),
please **stop** and be attentive – будьмо уважні!*

Cards for sale

Various Greeting Cards are available for
sale in the church hall following each Divine
Liturgy. See Mary Kitt to purchase.

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Haven't Seen Someone in a While?

*Give them a call. See how they are
doing. Let them know that you not only
miss them but also care enough to see
if everything is okay. A kind word can
go a long way.*



***Вічна Пам'ять
Eternal Memory***

Our dear parishioner, Anna
Sywyj, fell asleep in the Lord.
A Parastas will be held for her
soul. The schedule for this
service is to be announced later.
Please keep Anna and her whole
family in your prayers.

On the Respect Due to the Church of God and to the Sacred Mysteries

Very few have come here today. Whatever is the reason? We celebrated the Feast of the Martyrs, and nobody comes? The length of the road makes them reluctant; or rather it is not the length of the road that prevents them from coming, but their own laziness. For just as nothing stops an earnest man, one whose soul is upright and awake, so anything at all will stand in the way of the half-hearted and the lazy.

The Martyrs gave their blood for the truth, and you are not able to think little of a brief stretch of road? They gave their life for Christ, and you are reluctant to make a small journey for Him? The Martyrs' Commemoration, and you sit in sloth and indifference! It is but right that you should be present; to see the devil overcome, the Martyrs triumphant, God glorified, and the Church crowned with honour.

But, you will say to me, I am a sinner. I cannot come. Then if you are a sinner, come, that you may cease to be one! Tell me, who is there among men without sin? Do you not know that even those close to the altar are wrapped in sins? For they are clothed with flesh, enfolded in a body: as we also who are

sitting and teaching upon this throne are entangled in sin. But not because of this do we despair of the kindness of God; and neither do we look on Him as inhuman. And for this reason has the Lord disposed that those who serve the altar shall also be subject to these afflictions: so that from what they too suffer they may learn to have a fellow feeling for others.

How absurd and foolish is it that should a harper, or a dancer, or any one of these kind of people, invite us to his house, we would go there with all haste, and thank him for having invited us, and spend almost half the day there; paying attention only to him. But when God is speaking to us through His holy Prophets and Apostles we yawn, and we scratch, and we turn this way and that!

– St. John Chrysostom



God and the Tiger
By Fr. John Cox

*Tiger tiger, burning bright
In the forests of the night
what immortal hand or eye
could frame thy fearful symmetry?*
-William Blake



You are on a mission. You are deep in the mountainous forests of the Annapurna Conservation Area in northern Nepal. You are here to photograph the elusive and majestic Bengal Tiger. For hours you have been working your way, slowly and quietly, through a narrow, misty, crevasse with little light and little visibility. You push through a gnarl of conifers at the end of the crevasse just as a breeze carries the mist away. The full light of the sun dazzles your eyes and you gasp. You are standing on top of the world; tower upon mighty, Himalayan tower scraping the clouds around you. The ground falls away into a clean valley beneath your feet, and there, the hunt is on! He is stretched out, full speed, every muscle taught, 11 feet and 900 pounds of elegant power, gliding with silent, lethal grace over the valley floor.

You stand enthralled, camera forgotten, in reverent awe of the mountains and the tiger. This is fear.

We commonly use the word fear to mean psychological terror; the kind of gasping, clutching feeling you have when a strange noise awakens you in the night. This kind of fear is a bad thing. But scripturally the word fear has more to do with reverence, respect, and awe than with sweat-inducing night terrors. This is important to know because fear is all over our scripture; in a good way.

In Proverbs we learn that *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom*; (9:10) and that *The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever*. (19:9) The prophet Jeremiah, speaking with the words of God, says, *I shall give them one heart and one way so*

that they may fear me during all their days, so that all will be well for them and for their sons after them... so that they may never go away from Me. (32:39-40) Lest we think this is just an Old Testament thing, St. Paul says that, *Since we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others...*, (II Cor. 5:11) and St. John the Theologian, in his Revelation, asks in wonder, *Who will not fear you, O Lord?* (15:4) Clearly fear is an important part of our relationship with God. In fact, it is essential. If you do not fear God you cannot love him.

Why? Because you meet God through the scripture and the services of the Church, especially in holy communion, and the One you encounter there is the Holy One who kills and makes alive; (Duet. 32:39) He is the source of all being; (Anaphora of St. Basil) He is beauty, truth, and love embodied; He is the One who hung on a cross, enduring the shame and pain – death itself – to give us eternal life and make us whole again. To meet this One and, in that encounter, refuse your reverence, your respect, and your awe is to behold the tiger and the mountains and yawn in boredom. The door to the heart of such a person is locked from the inside. Either they refuse to see God as He is, or, seeing Him that way, choose to pretend He's no big deal. This is the opposite of love. **This is a profound self-centeredness that makes love impossible. Love contains**

the capacity to be astounded, transformed, and humbled by another. You cannot love what you will not adore and refuse to be awed by.

Our God is a consuming fire. (Heb. 12:29) When we approach Him *in the fear of God*, as the priest says when he calls us to communion, that holy fire, ensconced in bread and wine, consumes our sins and fills us with the Holy Spirit – eternal life. The primary quality of this life is love; love for God, love for others, and love for the whole world. St. John tells us that this perfect love casts out fear of judgment or condemnation. So, the healthy kind of fear drives out the bad kind and makes us capable of bearing a love so strong it cannot die This is why St. Anthony the Great says *The one who fears God will live forever.*

Priest John Cox is Priest-in-Charge at Dormition of the Theotokos Orthodox Church (OCA) in Norfolk, VA. He is originally from Knoxville, TN where he was brought into Orthodoxy at St. George Greek Orthodox Church. Fr John is a 2011 graduate of Saint Vladimir's Seminary, a husband, and father of four.



SOCIETY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM - WESTERN REGION NEWS

www.lighthoftheeast.org

The Society of St. John Chrysostom-Western Region is an ecumenical organization of laity and clergy of the Eastern and Oriental Orthodox Churches and the Eastern Catholic and Roman Catholic Churches, which works to make known the history, worship, spirituality, discipline and theology of Eastern Christianity, and for the fullness of unity desired by Jesus Christ.

Dear Members and Friends of the Society of St. John Chrysostom -Western Region,
Christ is in our midst!

Reminder!

Sept. 26, 2015
10a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

“The Different Translations of Holy Scripture used by Catholics and Orthodox”

Holy Angels Byzantine Catholic Church
2235 Galahad Rd, San Diego, CA 92123
Office: 858-277- www.holyangelssandiego.com

Parish Divine Liturgy is at 9:a.m. All are welcome.

Contact: Robert Greenwell: (619) 644-3600; rjgreenwell@sbcglobal.net

Speakers:

Michael Barber, PhD,
Professor, Theology & Scripture, John Paul the Great University, San Diego

Presbytera Eugenia Constantinou, PhD,
Adjunct Professor of Biblical Studies, University of San Diego.

Public Welcome!

Freewill offering will be taken.



Everything we need to know about life, we learned from Noah's Ark...

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead! It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
4. Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
5. Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9. When you're stressed, float a while.
10. Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
11. No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.



Sunday offering for September 13

Amount	Number
\$5.00	1
\$15.00	1
\$20.00	1
\$25.00	1
\$40.00	2
\$50.00	3
<u>\$300.00</u>	<u>2</u>
\$595.00	

Parishioner Total: \$595.00

Average / parish household (42): \$7.17

Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2200.00

Deficit: (\$1530.00)

Year-to-date deficit: (\$37769.00)

Pastor:

Fr. James Bankston: (619) 905-5278

Pastoral Council:

Vladimir Bachynsky: (619) 865-1279

Mark Hartman: (619) 446-6357

Luke Miller: (858) 354-2008

Jeanine Soucie: (718) 674-4529

Social Committee Chair:

Megan Hartman (619) 540-4291

Finance Committee:

Bohdan Knianicky: (619) 303-9698



**Українська Греко-Католицька Церква
Святого Йоана Хрестителя
St. John the Baptizer
Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church**

4400 Palm Avenue
La Mesa, CA 91941
Parish Office: (619) 697-5085

Website: stjohnthebaptizer.org

Pastor: Fr. James Bankston
frjames@mac.com
Fr. James' cell phone: (619) 905-5278

Taking Up the Cross

Therefore if you wish to attain that which you strive for and long after, that is, the good things of God, and from among men become an angel on earth, you must love bodily affliction and embrace suffering. As for trials, love them as the means of obtaining every blessing. Tell me, what is more beautiful than a soul undergoing tribulation, which knows that by enduring it will inherit joy in all things? What is more courageous than "a humble and contrite heart" (Ps 51: 19)? Without difficulty it routs the massed troops of devils and pursues them to their end. What is more glorious than spiritual poverty, which is the means of obtaining the kingdom of heaven (Mt 5: 3)? Can anything equal it either now or in the world to come? To have no care for any earthly thing for oneself (Mt 6: 25ff.) but to have one's mind wholly set on Christ, how great are the eternal benefits that you think this will procure, how great an angelic state? To despise all temporal things alike, including even the

urgent needs of the body, yet without any rivalry with anyone on this account, so that peace and love may be preserved undiminished in a tranquil state of mind, what rewards will this not deserve, what crowns and prizes? In truth the commandment is beyond nature and its rewards beyond words. For such, Christ will become all, and take the place of all things. Christ – as you hear this do not heed the simplicity of the word or the brevity of the expression. Rather, join with me in thinking of the glory of the Godhead, which is beyond thought and understanding. Think of God's unutterable power, His immeasurable mercy, His inconceivable riches, which He generously and bountifully gives to men. These will suffice them in place of all things, as they receive into themselves Him who is the Cause and the Bestower of all blessing.

St. Simeon the New Theologian

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