

THE FORGOTTEN FAST

Since the early days of the Church, fasting has been an important discipline. Christ Himself stressed the need for prayer and fasting repeatedly to His Apostles. It is no wonder then that our Church Fathers balanced our times of celebration in our ecclesiastical year with penitential periods. Most Orthodox Christians do their best to follow the fasting regulations prescribed on the Church Calendar. It probably can be said, however, that there is one particular fast that many of us neglect, or possibly ignore: THE APOSTLES' FAST. This may largely be attributed to when it falls: often in the middle of summer when our thoughts are focused on picnics & outdoor activities. Nevertheless, the Church provides us with a sound basis for the Apostles' Fast. When the Apostles received the Holy Spirit on the first Christian Pentecost, they were ready to embark upon their appointed task of taking the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. Before their departure from Jerusalem, it is said that the Apostles prepared themselves for this work by fasting, asking God to strengthen their resolve and to be with them in all of their missionary endeavors. Christ had alluded to the necessity of His followers doing this when He said: "Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast." (Matthew 9:15)

The existence of the Apostles' Fast can be traced back to the end of the 5th century. St. Leo the Great (461 AD) writes in one of his homilies: "After the long feast of Pentecost, fasting is especially necessary to purify our thoughts and render us worthy to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit." In today's Church, the Apostles' Fast begins on the 2nd Monday after Pentecost and lasts until the Feast Day of Sts. Peter & Paul.

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Welcome our Visitors! We invite you to venerate the cross at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. However, only Orthodox Christians who are in good standing and who have prepared by prayer, fasting, and Confession may receive Holy Communion.

A Gift of Blessing
Visit the Church Gift Shop.
See the Beautiful Icons, Crosses & Home Censers

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"The path of fasting
 leads to the path of purity."

St. John Climacus

Church Calendar: Check the Link. <http://www.stgeorgevicksburg.org/service.html>

SAINT GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Very Rev. Father Gabriel Karam, Pastor

Saturday Great Vespers 6:00 p.m. - Sunday Orthros 9:15 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. - Confessions: By Appointment

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2026

TONE 1 / EOTHINON 2

THE SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS OF ANTIOCH & NORTH AMERICA

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE ONE

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

APOLYTIKION OF ALL SAINTS OF ANTIOCH IN TONE FOUR

O fellow travelers in the way of the faithful, * the saints of Antioch now let us all honor: * the pure and blest Apostles with the hierarchs, * martyrs with the righteous ones, * their worn path wisely walking, * wond'ring at their holy lives * overflowing with wonders; * thus let us walk in peace and fear of God * so that we all win * the dwelling in Paradise.

APOLYTIKION FOR ALL SAINTS OF NORTH AMERICA IN TONE EIGHT

As the bountiful harvest of Thy sowing of salvation, the lands of North America offer unto Thee, O Lord, all the saints who have shone in them. By their prayers, keep the Church and our land in abiding peace through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. GEORGE IN TONE FOUR

As deliver of Captives: And defender of the Poor, Healer of the Infirm, champion of Kings, Victorious Great Martyr George, Intercede with Christ our God for our souls' salvation.

ORDINARY KONTAKION IN TONE TWO

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

We Celebrate Today

On June 14 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the **Prophet Elisha**; and **Methodios the Confessor**, patriarch of Constantinople.

On the Second Sunday after Pentecost, we celebrate the memory of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles, the Christ-loving shepherds and hierarchs, the holy and God-bearing Fathers, the glorious and victorious Martyrs and New Martyrs, and all the Saints who have shone as stewards of the Most Holy Patriarchate of Antioch, the Great City of God, from time immemorial to the present.

Most precious in the eyes of the Church is her choir of heavenly intercessors which stand before the throne of the Lord of hosts. The See of Antioch, whose apostolic establishment is recorded

in the book of Acts (11:26), is especially blessed with an abundance of Saints in this glorified assembly. Being drastically reduced in both geographic area and numbers, having endured the ravages of time and wars, and bearing the loss of her finest church buildings and earthly goods, Antioch knows full well the worth of having laid up its treasures in heaven. The harvest of Antioch includes the Chief Apostles Peter and Paul; the Martyrs Ignatius, Artemios and Julian; and Barbara, Christina and Marina; the Melodists Romanos and Cosmas; John Chrysostom and John of Damascus; Ephraim and Isaac the Syrians; Joseph of Damascus and Raphael of Brooklyn; the Hieromartyrs Nicholas and Habib Khasha; and countless other saints known and unknown. For two millennia, the light of Christ has shown brilliantly upon the See of Antioch through these glorified children and heirs of their Heavenly Father.

On the Second Sunday after Pentecost, we also celebrate the memory of the Saints of North America. Holy Orthodoxy in North America has produced saints in nearly all of the major categories of saints: Apostles (and Equals of the Apostles); Martyrs (and Confessors); Hierarchs; Monastic Saints; and the Righteous. We honor the holy ones whom Almighty God has revealed to us: the first revealed is the blessed elder Herman of Alaska. We also have the holy martyrs Juvenaly of Iliamna and Peter the Aleut; the holy hierarchs and enlighteners: Metropolitan Innocent Veniaminov, Patriarch Tikhon Belavin, Archbishop John Maximovitch, Bishop Nicholai Velimerovich of Zhicha; the righteous priests Yakov Netsvetov of Alaska and Alexis Toth; the archpriests John Kochurov and Alexander Hotovitsky who labored in America; and most recently, our Righteous Mother Olga of Alaska. We also honor those saints who are known only to God and we pray that He will reveal them to us one day. As we contemplate the lives of these saints, let us remember that we are also called by God to a life of holiness.

By the intercessions of all Thy Saints, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+Healing & Recovery Fr. Paul Yerger. Dea. Terry. Kh. Janet Henderson. Joy Logue. Dolores Nosser. Rick Collins. George Michael Nasif. Lynne Abraham. Pam Smith, Irene Tzotzolas. Michael Farris. Athena. Georgia. Andrea Simon. Chuck Abraham. Carla Leese. Rex Whiteaker. Drew Anderton.

+Birthdays & Anniversaries, June Lori Tzotzolas (16), Rickey & Melba Mitchell (20), Gloria Dornbusch, Steve Angelo (22). Irene Tzotzolas, John & Misty Jabour (23), Gregory & Nancy Thomas, Christian Thomas (26), Thomas Henry Antwine (27), Brian West (28),

+The Apostles Lent started on Monday June 08 till Sunday June 28. We observe the traditional fasting discipline, with permission for seafoods & wine Except on Wednesday & Friday.

+Parish Council Meeting June 16th. @ 6 pm. |

The Church Fathers Teach

Fasting appears gloomy until the steps into its arena. But begin and you will see what light it brings after darkness, what freedom from bonds, what release after a burdensome life. Whoever rejects the fasts," deprives himself and others of weapons against his own much-suffering flesh and against the devil, who have power over us especially as the result of intemperance. + Saint John Chrysostomos

DIVINE LITURGY JUNE 14, 2026

****DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM****

THE SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS OF ANTIOCH & NORTH AMERICA & SECOND SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

THE EPISTLE

(For Sunday of All Saints of Antioch)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles. (11:19-30)

In those days, when the apostles were scattered because of the tribulation that arose over Stephen, they traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one, except to Jews only. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who upon coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number that believed turned to the Lord. The report concerning them reached the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas, to go as far out as Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad; and he exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they should cleave to the Lord; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great multitude was added unto the Lord. Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year, they were gathered together in the church, and they taught a great multitude of people, and the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch. Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. And one of them named Agabus stood up and signified by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over the whole world; and this took place in the days of Claudius Caesar. And the disciples, every one according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren who dwelt in Judaea; and they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

The GOSPEL

(For Second Sunday of Matthew)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (4:18-23)

At that time, as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. And going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and He called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. And He went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the Kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.