

Holy Apostles Orthodox Christian Church

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM FR. MICHAEL

Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid." When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead."

--- Matthew 17:1-9

On August 19th (8/6 OS), we celebrate the feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ. This feast is not the mere recollection of a past historical event. Rather, the Church contemplates the meaning and significance of the revelation of Jesus as the Son of God and the Messiah. In the Creed which we recite together every week, we say "I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-Begotten, begotten of the Father, by whom all things were made. Light of Light, true God of true God, of one essence with the Father, by whom all things were made."

HOLY APOSTLES ORTHODOX MISSION

3214 N St, Vancouver, WA
www.Holy12.org

For Current Calendar of Services
and Office Hours Visit:
<https://holy12.org/calendar>

Rev. Michael Rozdilski, Rector
 425-999-0407



UPCOMING EVENTS, FEAST DAYS AND SPECIAL SERVICES

8.27.21
 Vigil - 6:00 pm

8.28.21
 The Dormition of The Theotokos
 Divine Liturgy - 9:00 am

In the Gospel account, we read of Christ revealing his true glory, becoming transfigured before them and shining forth as Light of Light. He is true God of true God. Before this event in the Gospel, Jesus has asked Peter 'who do men say that I am?' Immediately Peter rightly proclaims that He is the Son of God, Jesus tells him that he will be killed. Peter denies that this will ever happen, but of course, Jesus insists. Now, Jesus shows Peter, James, and John not only that he is truly the Son of God, but that he will indeed suffer and die for the life of the world.

In this Feast, we see that all of Scripture, the Law and the Prophets, point to Jesus and His death and resurrection. Moses and Elijah speak with Him concerning his death. Regardless of Peter's zealotry or pious feelings, Jesus has come to suffer and die at the hands of the scribes and Pharisees. He has told them, He has shown them. When they see the Son of Man lifted up upon the Cross, it will not be an accident, it will be God Himself ascending the Cross and freely giving Himself up for all.

To follow Christ in this way requires faith and trust in Him. We have the witness of the Gospel, the Law, and the Prophets that Jesus truly is who he says He is. We have the testimony of Moses, of Elijah, of the Father Himself who says "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." He exhorts all of us, "Hear Him!"

And this brings us to the second Great Feast we celebrate in August (8/28, 8/15 OS), the Dormition of the Most-Holy Theotokos. At the very end of the Liturgical year, we celebrate the end of her life, a life that was spent hearing the word of God and keeping it. She is the model of how we are to live as Christians. When we look at Christ transfigured, we see Moses standing with Him. The Law given to Moses is fulfilled in Christ. The Theotokos and all the saints kept the Lord's commandments, walking with Him by faith in righteousness. On the other side of Christ is Elijah, representing the Prophets. Together with the Forerunner John the Baptist they exhort all of us to turn to Christ, pointing to him, encouraging all of us to obey the Lord, just as the Theotokos told the people at the wedding feast to 'do whatever He tells you.'

In August as we return from vacations, as we harvest our gardens, as we enjoy all the summer daylight that we know will soon begin to fade in the fall, we now turn to these two Feasts to contemplate the Light that will never fade, neither in this world nor in the world to come. Let us heed Moses and the Prophets, let us be inspired by the Theotokos and all the saints to live a life according to the commandments of God, filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, repenting before God and proclaiming all that He has done and is doing for us, realizing that whatever comes to us, it is for our salvation. Let us joyfully pick up our cross, deny ourselves as Christ has shown us, and follow Him.

With Love in Christ,
Priest Michael Rozdilski

UPCOMING EVENTS CONTINUED

8.29.21

Men's Cookout - 5:00 pm
(feel free to come later if needed)

Where: Holy Apostle's

Since this will be the day after Dormition, feel free to bring meat and other non-fasting food for yourself and/or to share.

8.30.21

The Fibre-Bearing Women - 7:00 pm
A women's night for knit, crochet, handiwork, felting or needlework
Starting Aug 30th and continuing EVERY MONDAY

Where: Ita McIlvain's home

Email for more details
shirelingparents@gmail.com

9.4.21

Coffee and the Grounds - 10:00 am

9.5.21

Houchins Rippe Wedding - 3:00 pm

9.11.21

Beheading of St. John the Baptist
Divine Liturgy - 9:00 am

9.15.21

Inquirer's Class Begins - 7:00 pm

We will be meeting weekly on
Wednesdays at 7pm after Vespers

9.18.21

Coffee and the Grounds - 10:00 am

9.20.21

Vigil - 6:00 pm

9.21.21

Nativity of the Theotokos
Divine Liturgy - 9:00 am

9.26.21

Vigil - 6:00 pm

9.27.21

The Exaltation of the Cross
Divine Liturgy - 9:00 am

Inquirers' Classes Begin on September 15th



As the new church year begins, we will be starting up Inquirers' Classes once again. For the Fall month and early Winter months, we will be meeting weekly on Wednesdays at 7pm after Vespers. For specific details, please consult the calendar.

The main focus of this series is to prepare those who are considering becoming Orthodox Christians. We cover the basic tenets of the Faith, pondering the basic questions posed by Christ in the Gospel, 'Who do men say that I am. Who do you say that I am?' When Christ says to Peter, "upon this rock I will build My Church," what is that Church? Where is that Church? What does it mean to be a part of it? How have people lived a full life in Christ in the Church, and how are we supposed to do that here and now, in today's world?

Though the focus is on those considering joining the Church, a desire to become Orthodox is not required. Indeed, in the past, some have attended simply to learn more about Orthodox faith and history. Some parishioners have attended when the topics seemed interesting to them. Others come to review particular topics relevant to living a spiritual life in the Church. Whatever the background or the intent, all are welcome and there will be something for everyone.

This year we will begin our sequence on September 15th at 7pm. We will begin by introducing everyone to the place where 99 percent of our worship together takes place, our temple. Father will give a tour, talk about some history, and discuss the layout, architecture and iconograph of the Church. Together, we will explore how all of this serves one purpose: to unite us in heavenly worship at the throne of God.

Remember, all are welcome. If you have any questions regarding topics or schedule, please contact Fr Michael directly through text, email or phone at frmichael@holy12.org or 425-999-0407.

7 Holy Maccabee Martyrs

Commemoration Date: August 1st

The seven holy Maccabee martyrs Abim, Antonius, Gurias, Eleazar, Eusebonus, Alimus and Marcellus, their mother Solomonia and their teacher Eleazar suffered in the year 166 before Christ under the impious Syrian king Antiochus IV Epiphanes. This foolish ruler loved pagan and Hellenistic customs, and held Jewish customs in contempt. He did everything possible to turn people from the Law of Moses and from their covenant with God. He desecrated the Temple of the Lord, placed a statue of the pagan god Zeus there, and forced the Jews to worship it. Many people abandoned the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, but there were also those who continued to believe that the Savior would come.

A ninety-year-old elder, the scribe and teacher Eleazar, was brought to trial for his faithfulness to the Mosaic Law. He suffered tortures and died at Jerusalem.

The disciples of Saint Eleazar, the seven Maccabee brothers and their mother Solomonia, also displayed great courage. They were brought to trial in Antioch by King Antiochus Epiphanes. They fearlessly acknowledged themselves as followers of the True God, and refused to eat pig's flesh, which was forbidden by the Law.



The eldest brother acted as spokesmen for the rest, saying that they preferred to die rather than break the Law. He was subjected to fierce tortures in sight of his brothers and their mother. His tongue was cut out, he was scalped, and his hands and feet were cut off. Then a cauldron and a large frying pan were heated, and the first brother was thrown into the frying pan, and he died.

The next five brothers were tortured one after the other. The seventh and youngest brother was the last one left alive. Antiochus suggested to Saint Solomonia to persuade the boy to obey him, so that her last son at least would be spared. Instead, the brave mother told him to imitate the courage of his brothers.

7 Holy Maccabee Martyrs Cont.

The child upbraided the king and was tortured even more cruelly than his brothers had been. After all her seven children had died, Saint Solomonia, stood over their bodies, raised up her hands in prayer to God and died.

The martyric death of the Maccabee brothers inspired Judas Maccabeus, and he led a revolt against Antiochus Epiphanes. With God's help, he gained the victory, and then purified the Temple at Jerusalem. He also threw down the altars which the pagans had set up in the streets. All these events are related in the Second Book of Maccabees (Ch. 8-10).

Various Fathers of the Church preached sermons on the seven Maccabees, including Saint Cyprian of Carthage, Saint Ambrose of Milan, Saint Gregory Nazianzus and Saint John Chrysostom.

Troparion — Tone 7

Let us praise the seven Maccabees, / with their mother Salome and their teacher Eleazar; / they were splendid in lawful contest / as guardians of the teachings of the Law. / Now as Christ's holy martyrs they ceaselessly intercede for the world.

Kontakion — Tone 2

Seven pillars of the Wisdom of God / and seven lampstands of the divine Light, / all-wise Maccabees, greatest of the martyrs before the time of the martyrs, / with them ask the God of all to save those who honor you.

Holy Apostles Business Corner



Branding, Photography
and Video Production

Amanda Goff
360-213-5112
amanda@silverkeysmedia.com

The church offers this as a way to support our congregation. We do not endorse any specific businesses advertised here.

If you would like to have your business included, please contact
amanda@silverkeysmedia.com



Olga Ivkin
olga@ivkin.net
503-962-0739
www.olgaicons.com

Contributions from the Congregation



ST. JOHN MAXIMOVITCH

St. John Maximovitch was born in 1896, into a noble family in a province of South Russia. His given name was Michael Maximovitch, and he eventually became a bishop with the name John. The following are accounts that happened while St. John was a bishop.

Once, two of Vladika John's altar boys were wrestling, and made their way into his office. There they stopped, afraid of the bishop. St. John looked at them, then took off his Panagia, or icon of the Mother of God, and said, "I can take both of you."

Another time, St. John saw a dying Jewish child in the hospital. He said, "Christ is Risen!" and made the sign of the cross over him, and the child came back to life.

Once Bishop John was asked to give Communion to a dying man, but he went to the hospital and communed a healthy young man instead. His clergyman asked why he did this, and the Saint said that the young man would die that night, while the dying man would live for many years. This prediction came true; the young man died, and the sickly one survived.

The Blessed Saint reposed on June 19th/ July 2nd, 1966. Here is one miracle that happened after his death.

A young girl had a complete loss of hair, but she prayed, weeping, at St. John's tomb. Then, eyelashes, eyebrows, and body hair, which she asked him for, started growing miraculously.

Written by Marina Namee - Age 11

Family Activity

Exercise:

INSTRUCTIONS:

Use the clues given below to help you fill in the correct words in the crossword puzzle on the next page. Answers must be written using a pencil.

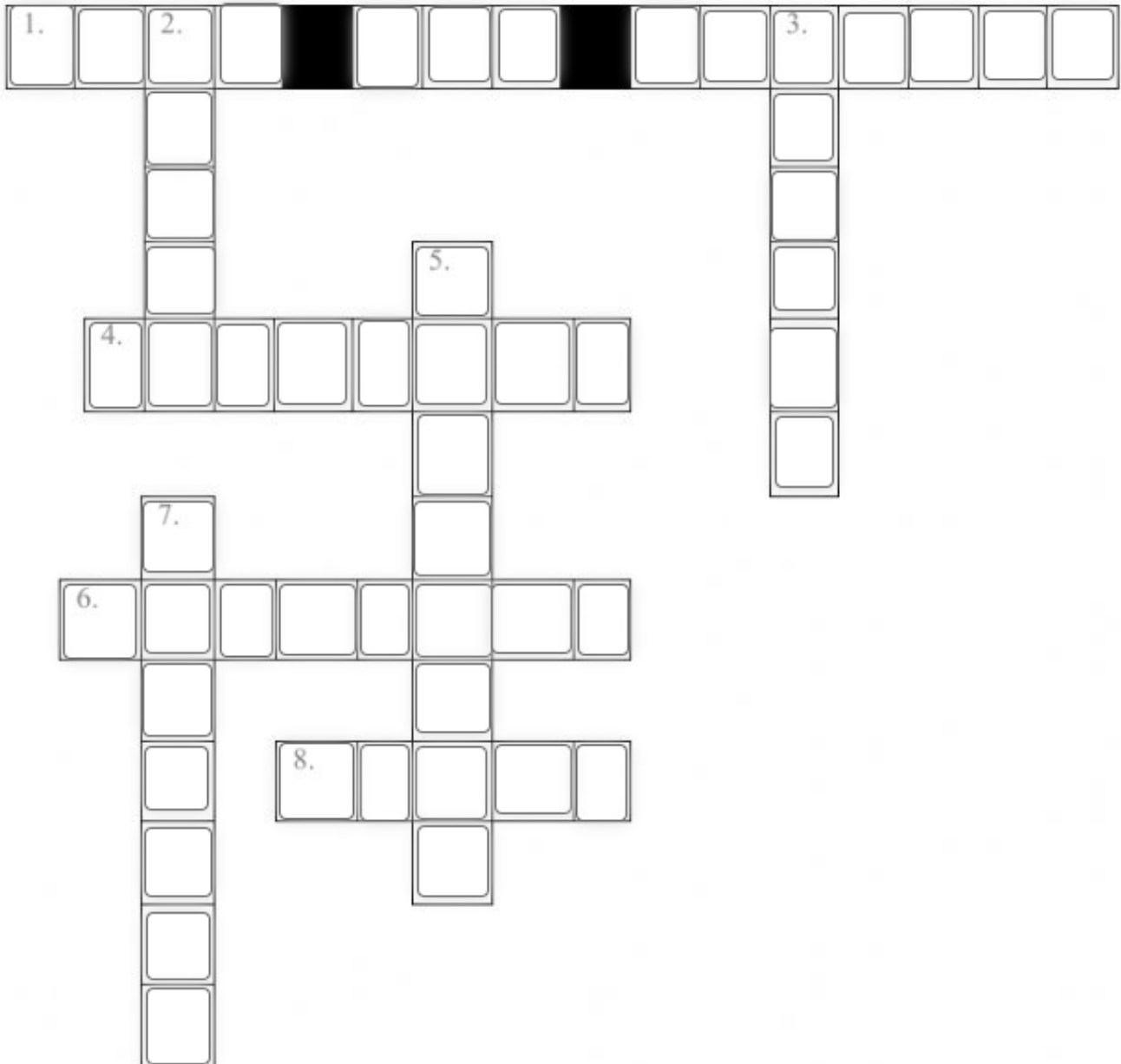
ACROSS

1. Jesus' reputation had spread everywhere. Some people said that he was _____.
4. John the Baptist accused Herod of committing _____.
6. John the Baptist was beheaded on Herod's _____.
8. John the Baptist's head was placed on a _____.

DOWN

2. He had John the Baptist's head cut off.
3. This person was Herod's brother.
5. Her daughter danced and pleased Herod and his guests.
7. Herod's stepdaughter was promised up to half of his _____.

Family Activity



The Beheading of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John

Commemoration Date: August 29th

The Beheading of the Prophet, Forerunner of the Lord, John the Baptist: The Evangelists Matthew (Mt.14:1-12) and Mark (Mark 6:14-29) provide accounts about the martyric end of John the Baptist in the year 32 after the Birth of Christ.

Following the Baptism of the Lord, Saint John the Baptist was locked up in prison by Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch (ruler of one fourth of the Holy Land) and governor of Galilee. (After the death of king Herod the Great, the Romans divided the territory of Palestine into four parts, and put a governor in charge of each part. Herod Antipas received Galilee from the emperor Augustus).

The prophet of God John openly denounced Herod for having left his lawful wife, the daughter of the Arabian king Aretas, and then instead cohabiting with Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip (Luke 3:19-20). On his birthday, Herod made a feast for dignitaries, the elders and a thousand chief citizens. Salome, the daughter of Herod, danced before the guests and charmed Herod. In gratitude to the girl, he swore to give her whatever she would ask, up to half his kingdom.

The vile girl on the advice of her wicked mother Herodias asked that she be given the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Herod became apprehensive, for he feared the wrath of God for the murder of a prophet, whom earlier he had heeded. He also feared the people, who loved the holy Forerunner. But because of the guests and his careless oath, he gave orders to cut off the head of Saint John and to give it to Salome.

According to Tradition, the mouth of the dead preacher of repentance once more opened and proclaimed: "Herod, you should not have the wife of your brother Philip." Salome took the platter with the head of Saint John and gave it to her mother. The frenzied Herodias repeatedly stabbed the tongue of the prophet with a needle and buried his holy head in a unclean place. But the pious Joanna, wife of Herod's steward Chuza, buried the head of John the Baptist in an earthen vessel on the Mount of Olives, where Herod had a parcel of land. (The Uncovering of the Venerable Head is celebrated February 24). The holy body of John the Baptist was taken that night by his disciples and buried at Sebastia, there where the wicked deed had been done.

After the murder of Saint John the Baptist, Herod continued to govern for a certain time. Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea, later sent Jesus Christ to him, Whom he mocked (Luke 23:7-12).

The Beheading of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John

The judgment of God came upon Herod, Herodias and Salome, even during their earthly life. Salome, crossing the River Sikoris in winter, fell through the ice. The ice gave way in such a way that her body was in the water, but her head was trapped above the ice. It was similar to how she once had danced with her feet upon the ground, but now she flailed helplessly in the icy water. Thus she was trapped until that time when the sharp ice cut through her neck.

Troparion — Tone 2

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise, / but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for you, O Forerunner. / You were shown in truth to be the most honorable of the prophets, / for you were deemed worthy to baptize in the streams of the Jordan Him whom they foretold. / Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy, / you proclaimed to those in hell God who appeared in the flesh, / who takes away the sin of the world, / and grants us great mercy.

Kontakion — Tone 5

The glorious beheading of the Forerunner, / became an act of divine dispensation, / for he preached to those in hell the coming of the Savior. / Let Herodias lament, for she entreated lawless murder, / loving not the law of God, nor eternal life, / but that which is false and temporal.



Her corpse was not found, but they brought the head to Herod and Herodias, as once they had brought them the head of Saint John the Baptist. The Arab king Aretas, in revenge for the disrespect shown his daughter, made war against Herod. The defeated Herod suffered the wrath of the Roman emperor Caius Caligua (37-41) and was exiled with Herodias first to Gaul, and then to Spain.

The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist, a Feast day established by the Church, is also a strict fast day because of the grief of Christians at the violent death of the saint. In some Orthodox cultures pious people will not eat food from a flat plate, use a knife, or eat food that is round in shape on this day.

Today the Church makes remembrance of Orthodox soldiers killed on the field of battle, as established in 1769 at the time of Russia's war with the Turks and the Poles