

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES

January 7 - 14

Sat. Jan. 13 – 6:00pm: Great Vespers

Sun. Jan. 14 – 9:00am: Orthros

Sun. Jan. 14 – 10:00am: Divine Liturgy

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ **WELCOME** to all who are visiting with us today! We hope you will feel at home here and, if you do not already have a church home, will consider becoming a part of the Saint Herman Church community.
- ❖ **OUTDOOR BLESSING OF WATER – Next Sunday January 14.** The outdoor blessing of water was postponed yesterday and has been rescheduled for next Sunday January 14.

IMPORTANT DATES in 2018:

Feb. 18 – Forgiveness Vespers (Cheesefare Sunday)

Feb. 19 – Clean Monday - Great Lent starts

April 1 – Palm Sunday – Start of Holy Week

April 8 – Pascha

May 12-13 – Visit of Metropolitan JOSEPH

May 27 – Pentecost

June 2 – Country Fair

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

“COME LET US WORSHIP”: A LOOK AT THE DIVINE LITURGY
Fr. Matthew's catechism classes run Sundays from 12:15 – 12:45pm in the parish hall basement. *All who can sit and listen are invited.*

Our next unit will focus on the meaning of the different parts of the Divine Liturgy using the book *Come Let Us Worship* by Fr. Patrick O'Grady, which is available in our parish bookstore.

Class 1 - Jan. 14: Introduction to Liturgical Theology

SAINT HERMAN

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

*Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
Diocese of Los Angeles and the West*

PRIMATE and DIOCESAN HIERARCH

His Eminence, the Most Reverend Metropolitan JOSEPH

PASTOR

Rev. Fr. Matthew Howell

DEACON

Rev. Dn. Thomas Ross

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*Synaxis of the
Holy Forerunner
and Baptist John
January 7, 2018*

A NOTE REGARDING HOLY COMMUNION

Welcome! In the Orthodox Church, reception of the Holy Eucharist is reserved for baptized, chrismated Orthodox Christians who have *prepared by prayer, fasting and a recent confession*. If you are visiting from a non-Orthodox church or otherwise are not prepared to commune today, you are welcome to receive some of the unconsecrated, blessed bread which the acolytes are holding. We pray for all to be united in the Body and Blood of Christ! If you would like to learn how you can enter into communion with the Orthodox Church, please speak with our clergy.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Synaxis)

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord. O God, hear my prayer.

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (19:1-8)

In those days, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the One Who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve of them in all. And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, arguing and pleading about the Kingdom of God.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Synaxis)

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (1:29-34)

At that time, John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of Whom I said, 'After me comes a man Who ranks before me, for He was before me.' I myself did not know Him; but for this I came baptizing with water, that He might be revealed to Israel." And John bore witness, "I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on Him. I myself did not know Him; but He Who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on Whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He Who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

SAINTS AND FEASTS OF THE DAY

Synaxis of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner & Baptist John;
New-martyr Athanasios of Attalia; Venerable Brannock of Branton

A GOOD WORD

VITAMINS FOR THE SOUL

- ❖ "So, read the Fathers, even one or two lines a day. They are very strengthening vitamins for the soul." -- Elder Paisios of Mt. Athos
- ❖ "Beloved Christians, you and your children shall appear at that Judgment of Christ, and you shall give account for them to the just Judge. He will not ask you whether you have taught you children the arts or whether you have taught them to speak French, or German, or Italian, but whether you have taught them to live as Christians." -- St. Tikhon of Zadonsk
- ❖ "Let us become like Christ, since Christ became like us. Let us become gods because of Him, since He for us became man. He took upon Himself a low degree that He might give us a higher one. He became poor, that in His poverty we might become rich." --St. Gregory of Nazianzus
- ❖ "We have to overcome sentimentalism in our prayer if we want to experience its healing power." -- Metropolitan JOSEPH
- ❖ "Prayer is a branch (of the tree) of meekness, and freedom from anger. Prayer is an expression of joy and thankfulness. Prayer is a remedy against sorrow and depression." -- St. Nilus of Sinai
- ❖ "The heart is refined, spiritual and heavenly by nature. Guard it. Do not overburden it; do not make it earthly; be temperate to the utmost in food and drink, and in bodily pleasures in general. The heart is the temple of God. 'If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy' I Cor. 3:17." -- St. John of Kronstadt
- ❖ "When you see poor homes, or live in such, bring to your memory the cave and the manger in which your Lord was born as man." -- St. Theophan the Recluse
- ❖ "The only-begotten Son of God, brethren, begotten in eternity of the Father without a mother, was born in time of a mother without a father. That first begetting is an unfathomable mystery of the Holy Trinity in eternity, and the second is the unfathomable mystery of God's power and love for mankind in time. The greatest mystery in time corresponds to the greatest mystery in eternity." -- St. Nicholai of Zica
- ❖ Abba Agathon said: An angry man, even if he raises the dead, is not pleasing to God."
- ❖ "The worst kind of sin is not to acknowledge that you are sinful." --St. Caesarius of Arles