

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR ...

The health and salvation of –

Abducted Bishops Paul & John	Pauline
Hieroschemamonk Ambrose	Ann
Archpriest Eugene	Stefan
Archpriest Dimitrie	John
Priest James	Vivian
Priest John	Jung Sook
Reader Aleksei	Thomas
Reader Sergei	Cheyenne
Monk Philaret	Nancy
Matushka Mary	Randall
Matushka Mary Sara	Rose
Marie • Kyra	Don
John • Euphrosynos	Norma
Virginia • Thomas	James
John • Luke	
Catechumen Rebecca	
Catechumen Jennifer	

The repose and salvation of –

Mikhail (January 1)
Ann (December 6)

Please let Father know if there are any names you would like added to the list.

Contact Father to schedule your house blessing this month

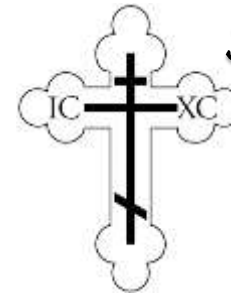
Saturday, January 27, 5:30 PM – Great Vespers

Sunday, January 28 – Annual Parish Meeting

Don't be left high & dry! Get a premium 6 oz. holy water bottle for only \$12! Buy now and get complimentary free refills for life!



*A mission parish under the omophorion of His Eminence Benjamin,
Archbishop of San Francisco and the Diocese of the West,
Orthodox Church in America*



**ST TIKHON ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

Sunday, January 7, 2018

Synaxis of St John the Baptist



Portion of the Right Hand of the Forerunner, Dionysiou Monastery, Mount Athos

Sunday Hours & Divine Liturgy at 9:10 AM, followed by agape potluck
Wednesdays at 6:30 PM – Evening Prayers & Saints of the Day
Other services as announced

Rev. Alexander Vallens, *Rector*
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Synaxis of St John the Baptist

In the Orthodox Church it is customary on the day following the Great Feasts of the Lord and the Mother of God to remember those saints who participated directly in the sacred event. So, on the day following the Theophany of the Lord, the Church honors the one who participated directly in the Baptism of Christ, placing his own hand upon the head of the Savior.

Having baptized the sinless Lamb of God, St John soon died a martyr's death, beheaded by the sword on orders of King Herod at the request of his daughter Salome. The body of St John was buried in the Samaritan city of Sebaste. The holy Evangelist Luke, who went preaching Christ in various cities and towns, came to Sebaste, where they gave him the right hand of the Holy Prophet John, the very hand with which he had baptized the Savior. The Evangelist Luke took it with him to his native city of Antioch.

When the Muslims seized Antioch centuries later, a deacon named Job brought the holy hand of the Forerunner to Chalcedon. In 956, on the eve of the Theophany of the Lord, it was transferred to Constantinople. In 1200, the Russian pilgrim Dobrynya, who later became St Anthony, Archbishop of Novgorod, saw the right hand of the Forerunner in the imperial palace. In 1263, during the capture of Constantinople by the Crusaders, the emperor Baldwin gave one bone from the wrist of St John to Ottonus de Cichon, who then gave it to a Cistercian abbey in France.

And at the end of the fourteenth to the beginning of the fifteenth centuries, the holy relic was seen at Constantinople in the Peribleptos monastery by the Russian pilgrims Stephen of Novgorod, the deacon Ignatius, the cantor Alexander, and the deacon Zosimus. When Constantinople fell to the Turks in 1453, sacred objects were gathered up at the conqueror's orders and kept under lock in the imperial treasury.

In 1484 the right hand of the Forerunner was given away by the son of the Muslim sultan Bayazet to the knights of Rhodes to gain their good will. The knights of Rhodes, having established their base on Malta, then transferred the sacred relic they had received to the island. When the Russian Tsar Paul I became Grand Master of the Maltese Order, the right hand of the Baptist, part of the Life-Creating Cross, and the Philermos Icon of the Mother of God (from the island of Rhodes) were transferred in 1799 to Russia (because of the Napoleonic threat), to the chapel at Gatchina. Later that year the sacred items were transferred into the church dedicated to the Icon of the Savior Not Made by Hands at the Winter Palace. But in 1917, out of fear of the Bolsheviks, the relics were taken out of the country, first to Germany, and then to Yugoslavia. Today portions of the Forerunner's right hand are found at the monastery church of Cetinje, Montenegro, and Monastery of Dionysiou on Mount Athos.

Also this week: *Ven. George the Chozebite, Abbot (January 8); Martyr Polyuctus of Melitene in Armenia (January 9); St Gregory of Nyssa (January 10); Ven Theodosius the Great, the Cenobiarh (January 11); Martyr Tatiana of Rome and those who suffered with her (January 12); St Hilary, Bp of Poitiers (January 13).*

*** Regular fasting this week ***

Epistles: Ephesians 4:7-13 (Sunday After) / Acts 19:1-8 (Forerunner)

Gospels: Matthew 4:12-17 (Sunday After) / John 1:29-34 (Forerunner)

Troparion – Tone 6 (Resurrection)

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 1 (Feast)

When Thou, O Lord wast baptized in the Jordan / The worship of the Trinity was made manifest; /
For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee / And called Thee His belovèd Son. /
And the Spirit in the form of a dove / Confirmed the truthfulness of His word. /
O Christ, our God, Who hast revealed Thyself /// And hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

Troparion – Tone 2 (Forerunner)

The memory of the just is celebrated with hymns of praise, /
But the Lord's testimony is enough for thee, O Forerunner; /
For thou wast shown to be more wonderful than the prophets, /
Since thou wast granted to baptize Him whom thou didst proclaim. /
Then having endured great suffering for the Truth, /
Thou didst rejoice to bring even to those in Hades the good tidings: /
That God who appeared in the flesh takes away the sin of the world ///
And grants us great mercy.

Kontakion – Tone 6 (Forerunner)

O Lord, before Thy presence in the flesh /
The Jordan River trembled and reversed its course out of fear; /
John, struck with awe, hesitated to perform upon Thee the baptism foretold by the prophets; /
The ranks of angels were rapt in wonder; /
All those in darkness received illumination and sang a hymn of praise to Thee, O Lord, ///
Who didst appear and didst shed Thy light upon the whole creation.

Kontakion - Tone 4 (Feast)

Today Thou hast appeared to the universe, /
And Thy light, O Lord, hath shone on us /
Who with understanding praise Thee; /
Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, ///
O Light Unapproachable.

**Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance;
the only thing it cannot be is moderately important. – C.S. Lewis**