

# Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

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HolyApostlesLansing.org

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## November 12, 2017

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 6.** St. John the Merciful, Patriarch of Constantinople (612-20). Ven. Nilus the Faster, of Sinai (5th c.). Bl. John “the Hairy”, Fool-for-Christ, in Rostov (1580). Prophet Ahijah (960 BC). Ven. Nilus the Myrrhusher, of Mt. Athos (1651).

**EPISTLES:** Ephesians 2:4–7: Christ has made us alive despite our sins.

**GOSPELS:** Luke 10:25–37: The parable of the merciful Samaritan.

**COFFEE HOUR:** This week: Allard Next week: Brady (Herman’s Baptism)

**ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM:** Monday, November 13 is the commemoration of St John Chrysostom, composer of the Divine Liturgy that we serve most Sundays, and of many homilies which form and important part of our tradition. We’ll celebrate Divine Liturgy in honor of his memory.

**NATIVITY FAST:** The Nativity Fast begins on Wednesday, November 15. This is a time for increased prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in preparation for the celebration of Our Savior’s birth. As a reminder, the four major fasting seasons of the year are also times to participate in the sacrament of Confession for those who do not do so more frequently.

**PARISH EDUCATION:** During the Nativity Fast we’ll have a series of classes on the Divine Liturgy (focusing on the spiritual significance of liturgical actions) and on the liturgical cycles of the Church. The classes will be held on Saturdays, beginning at 4:30 PM and ending in time for Vespers at 6 PM. One of the spiritual disciplines recommended for the fasting seasons is increased spiritual reading or study of the faith, and these classes will provide an opportunity to do that, as well as to understand better what it is that we do in church and its importance in our spiritual lives. A flyer for the classes has been included in the bulletin.

**BAPTISM:** Herman Brady’s baptism is scheduled for next Sunday, November 19. The Baptism will begin at 8:45 AM and be followed by Divine Liturgy.

**WELCOME VISITORS!** We warmly welcome all of our visitors! Please know that we are glad to have you here praying with us, and we invite you to stay after the service to enjoy a meal and meet everyone in our community.

## PRAYER SCROLL

### LIVING:

Apr Timothy H  
Apr Herman S  
Apr Sergius K  
Apr Thomas E  
Apr John R  
Apr Patrick C  
Pr James & Family  
Pr Seraphim  
Pr Michael M  
Pr Adam S & Angie  
Mother Raphaela  
Mother Christophora  
Mat Joanna B  
Mat Katya  
Mat Mary G  
Khouria Lynn  
Mat Rebekah  
Pani Amy  
Joshua  
Brittany  
Gretchen  
Marianne  
Terrence  
Helen  
Judy  
Mary & Susan  
John & Carmine  
Nathan  
Leah  
Helen

Lindsey  
Elizabeth  
Mary  
Joe A  
Daniel  
Andrew & family  
Carol  
Elizabeth  
David  
Shirley  
Christina  
Jim & Kim  
Rachel  
Constantine & Maria  
Gaetan  
Christine  
Samuel  
Lisa  
Lyudmila  
Nickolay  
Anetta  
Zachary  
Helena  
Natasha, Lena, Vera,  
Sergei  
Caleb  
Danielle  
Larry, Mark, Katie  
Ann  
Dorothy  
Ronald

Sheryl & Lacey  
Alexander, Angela,  
Anton  
Peter  
Gregory & Ann  
Raymond  
Vincent  
Photini  
Robert  
Dianna  
Elizabeth  
John  
Felicia  
Tom  
Vladimir  
Lou  
Seraphim & Anna  
Micah, Danielle, &  
Family  
Gregory & Ashley  
Petruta  
Ivan  
Elizabeth  
Anastasia  
Galina  
Michael  
Nikolas  
Jenny  
Gina  
Paula

Children: Anthony,  
Mia, Isabel, Bear,  
Victoria, Iva Bell,  
Panagiotis, Ada,  
Grace, Elias, Jack,  
Everett, Thomas  
Seminarians: Dcn  
Ivan, Rdr Robert  
**Birthdays:**  
**Anniversaries:**  
**Namesdays:**

### REPOSED:

Apr John U  
Priest Matthew  
Priest John  
Apr Alexander  
Priest William  
Pdn Gregory  
Rdr Gregory  
Daniel  
Ada  
Lillian  
Joseph  
Marie  
Joseph  
Laura  
Martha  
Stanley  
Taissia

Steluja  
Theophan  
Lynda  
Florence  
James  
James R  
James R  
Vasily  
Mordecai  
Alexandr  
Ron  
John  
Eleanor  
Harold  
Alfred  
Edward  
Michael  
Mat Julianna  
Mario  
Robert  
James  
Wilhelmina  
Barbara  
Sr Theophano  
Walter  
Martha  
Olga  
Hilarion  
**Newly Reposed:**  
Priscilla  
Apr Stephen M  
Pdn Keith

**BY THE NUMBERS:** Last Collection: \$1655. Building Fund: \$0. Weekly Budget: \$1150. MTD: \$1655. Monthly Budget: \$4600.

## SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

*Confessions are heard before and after Vespers, after Morning Prayers  
Tuesday–Thursday, or by appointment.*

**Sunday, November 12:** 9:10 AM Hours, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour

**Monday, November 13:** 9 AM Divine Liturgy (St. John Chrysostom)

**Tuesday, November 14:** 8:30 AM Morning Prayer

**Wednesday, November 15:** 8:30 AM Matins

**Thursday, November 16:** 8:30 AM Morning Prayer

**Friday, November 17:** 8:30 AM Morning Prayer

**Saturday, November 18:** 6 PM Great Vespers

**Sunday, November 19:** 8:45 Baptism, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour

## PRAYER FOR CHURCH GROWTH

Again, we pray to Thee, O Lord our God, that Thou wouldst renew us and this parish by the Power of the Holy Spirit. Fill us with love and longing for Thee. Grant that we would seek not our own will, but to do Thy will in all things and to be willing to lay down our lives out of love for Thee and for our neighbor. Draw thirsty souls to this place and remove their spiritual blindness, granting them through Thy grace to see the beauty of Thy Holy Glory in this place. Fill this community with new life, spiritual vigor, and an insatiable desire to live godly and holy lives. Forgive us all of our sins as we fall down before Thee. Bring us all to a greater repentance and to an amendment of our lives as we look to Thee, the only merciful and loving Lord, Who calls all to salvation. We beg Thee, our merciful Lord, hear us, grant all of these petitions and all of our requests unto salvation: we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

# HOLY APOSTLES ORTHODOX CHURCH LANSING, NEW YORK



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2017  
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Glory to God for all things!*

## ST JOHN THE MERCIFUL OF ALEXANDRIA

Saint John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria, was born on Cyprus in the seventh century into the family of the illustrious dignitary Epiphanius. At the wish of his parents he entered into marriage and had children. When the wife and the children of the saint died, he became a monk. He was zealous in fasting and prayer, and had great love for those around him.

His spiritual exploits won him honor among men, and even the emperor revered him. When the Patriarchal throne of Alexandria fell vacant, the emperor Heraclius and all the clergy begged Saint John to occupy the Patriarchal throne.

The saint worthily assumed his archpastoral service, concerning himself with the moral and dogmatic welfare of his flock. As patriarch he denounced every soul-destroying heresy, and drove out from Alexandria the Monophysite Phyllonos of Antioch.

He considered his chief task to be charitable and to give help all those in need. At the beginning of his patriarchal service he ordered his stewards to compile a list of all the poor and downtrodden in Alexandria, which turned out to be over seven thousand men. The saint ordered that all of these unfortunates be provided for each day out of the church's treasury.

Twice during the week, on Wednesdays and Fridays, he emerged from the doors of the patriarchal cathedral, and sitting on the church portico, he received everyone in need. He settled quarrels, helped the wronged, and distributed alms. Three times a week he visited the sick-houses, and rendered assistance to the suffering. It was during this period that the emperor Heraclius led a tremendous army against the Persian emperor Chosroes II. The Persians ravaged and burned Jerusalem, taking a multitude of captives. The holy Patriarch John gave a large portion of the church treasury for their ransom.

The saint never refused suppliants. One day, when the saint was visiting the sick, he met a beggar and commanded that he be given six silver coins. The beggar changed his clothes, ran on ahead of the Patriarch, and again asked for alms. Saint John gave him six more silver coins. When, however, the beggar sought charity a third time, and the servants began to chase the fellow away, the Patriarch ordered that he be given twelve pieces of silver, saying, "Perhaps he is Christ putting me to the test." Twice the saint gave money to a merchant that had suffered shipwreck, and a third time gave him a ship belonging to the Patriarchate and filled with grain, with which the merchant had a successful journey and repaid his obligations.

Saint John the Merciful was known for his gentle attitude towards people. Once, the saint was compelled to excommunicate two clergymen for a certain time because of some offense. One of them repented, but the other fellow became angry with the Patriarch and fell into greater sins. The saint wanted to summon him and calm him with kind words, but it slipped his mind. When he was celebrating the Divine Liturgy, the saint was suddenly reminded by the words of the Gospel: "If you bring your gift to the altar and remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift before the altar ... first, be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift" (Mt. 5:23-24). The saint came out of the altar, called the offending clergyman to him, and falling down on his knees before him in front of all the people he asked forgiveness. The cleric, filled with remorse, repented of his sin, corrected himself, and afterwards

was found worthy to be ordained to the priesthood.

There was a time when a certain citizen insulted George, the Patriarch's nephew. George asked the saint to avenge the wrong. The saint promised to deal with the offender so that all of Alexandria would marvel at what he had done. This calmed George, and Saint John began to instruct him, speaking of the necessity for meekness and humility. Then he summoned the man who insulted George. When Saint John learned that the man lived in a house owned by the church, he declared that he would excuse him from paying rent for an entire year. Alexandria indeed was amazed by such a "revenge," and George learned from his uncle how to forgive offenses and to bear insults for God's sake.

Saint John, a strict ascetic and man of prayer, was always mindful of his soul, and of death. He ordered a coffin for himself, but told the craftsmen not to finish it. Instead, he would have them come each feastday and ask if it was time to finish the work.

Saint John was persuaded to accompany the governor Nicetas on a visit to the emperor in Constantinople. While on his way to visit the earthly king, he dreamed of a resplendent man who said to him, "The King of Kings summons you." He sailed to his native island of Cyprus, and died at Amanthos, the saint peacefully fell asleep in the Lord (616-620).

Source: oca.org

# WEEKLY HYMNS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

**Troparion, Tone 6 (Resurrection)**

The Angelic Powers were at Your tomb;  
the guards became as dead men.

Mary stood by Your grave,  
seeking Your most pure body.

You took hell captive,  
not being tempted by it.

You came to the Virgin, granting life.//

O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.

**Troparion, Tone 8 (St John the Merciful)**

By endurance you gained your reward, venerable Father;

you persevered in prayer unceasingly;

you loved the poor and provided for them in all things.

Blessed John the Merciful, intercede with Christ God that our souls may be saved!

**Troparion, Tone 8 (Venerable Nilus)**

By a flood of tears you made the desert fertile,

and your longing for God brought forth fruits in abundance.

By the radiance of miracles you illuminated the whole universe.

Our Father Nilus, pray to Christ God to save our souls.!

**Kontakion, Tone 6 (Resurrection)**

When Christ God the Giver of Life,

raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand,

He bestowed resurrection on the human race.//

He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

**Kontakion, Tone 2 (St John the Merciful)**

You distributed your wealth to the poor

and in return obtained wealth from heaven, John the Merciful.

Therefore, we honor you and celebrate your memory,

O namesake of mercy.

**Kontakion, Tone 8 (Venerable Nilus)**

By your vigilant prayer you cut away the undergrowth of the body's insurgent passions.

As you have boldness before the Lord, free me from every danger so that I may cry to you:

"Rejoice, universal father Nilus!"

**Prokeimenon, Tone 6**

O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance!

v: To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

**Alleluia, Tone 6**

v: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God.

v: He will say to the Lord: "My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in Whom I trust."

**Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

# THE MERCIFUL SAMARITAN BY METROPOLITAN ANTHONY (BLOOM) OF SOUROZH

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

Today's Gospel in short, contains everything which is the way of the Christian. The first commandment is that we should love our God with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our strength, with all our being, and our neighbour as ourselves. To love means to prefer all that is dear to the beloved person, to what is dear to us. To love God means that we should live, and indeed be such that He could rejoice in what we are, that there should be nothing alien to Him in our lives.

And here comes the second commandment, which the lawyer did not understand: that we should love our neighbour as ourselves. To love again our neighbour, forgetting ourselves. Very often we think that we are worthy Christians if we feel that we have in our hearts a warmth, that we love God. But this is not enough. The test of this love is to share God's own love for every one of our neighbours. I remember a sad moment in my own life, when my father asked me: what was the dream of my life? I was young then, and I said, 'To be with God alone.' And he looked sadly at me and said, 'You have not begun to be a Christian.' Because if we love God we must share with Him all His concerns for the whole world and for each person in this world.

Let us, therefore, take this short event in the life of Christ and the parable as a rule. We will never be able to know how much we love God. It is difficult, because it is so easy to delude oneself. Even when we say that we love someone, a moment may come when selfishness, indifference, a quarrel may make an end, at least for a time, to our mutual friendship and closeness. But there is a criterion which is objective. How do you treat your neighbour? What does he mean to you? If he means nothing, if he is a passer-by, if he is only someone in your way, or if he is someone to whom you can pay attention when you are in the right mood, then we have not begun to love God and to love the world together with Him. Let us therefore think of it, ask ourselves pertinent questions, and redress our lives. Amen.

