# St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church


a parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
His Eminence Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop of New York &
Metropolitan of all North America
His Grace Bishop THOMAS, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Oakland & MidAtlantic
The Very Reverend Father Samuel Haddad, Pastor
Deacon Matthew Benefield
211 South Heber Street ☙ POB 5026 ☙ Beckley, WV 25801
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Tone 1 **June 14, 2026** Eothinon 2

## First Sunday after Pentecost & First Sunday of Matthew

# The Sunday of All Saints

Hieromartyr Theodotos, bishop of Ancyra; Venerable Sebastiana the wonderworker

**Today's Reader: Isaiah Benefield**

**Next Sunday – June 21, 2026**

*Reader for June 21, 2026*: **Isaiah Benefield**

*Commemorations and Bread Offering:* **The Clay Family**

***Luncheon for Next Sunday is being prepared by the Women of the Holy Myrrhbearers***

**Bread for the Holy Oblation is Offered by Valerie and Mike Comer for the health and salvation of** David, Amy, Abigail and Noah, and all the members of the Allen Family.

**It is also offered in loving memory of** Cecil, Tina Faye, Hassell, Pamela, Helen Carol, Ruth and Dana.

*"the Disciples were first called Christians in Antioch"* (Acts 11:26)

Please note that Holy Communion is reserved for members of the Holy Orthodox Church who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and confession. However, all are welcome to partake of the blessed bread at the dismissal.

Please join us during our fellowship at the Coffee Hour immediately after the Divine Liturgy.

## *Important Announcements . . .*

***We now are entering into the Summer months and a time of vacations. Just remember, this is not a time to take a vacation from Church! If you are travelling and would like to attend church while you are away, see Fr Samuel and he will help you find a church that is near your destination if you are uncertain what Church is nearby to the place you are visiting.***

***The Apostle's Fast continues this week.*** **It began on Monday after All Saints (June 16th) and continues to June 28th. Let us all observe this important and Holy Fast.**

***There will be a meeting of the Women of the Holy Myrrhbearers TODAY at 1:00 pm in the Church. This is a very important meeting as we are making our plans for the coming months.***

***The Parish Council meeting has been rescheduled to take place on Sunday, June 28 at 1:30 pm. See Fr Samuel if you are unable to attend on that day.***

## "Blessings Box" Collection Update

Beloved in Christ,
This year, we are collecting non-perishable food for our new BLESSING BOX! PLEASE KEEP BRINGING FOOD so that we may continue to stock our shelves and have food to stock adequately. We need to continue our efforts in providing food for those who are truly Hungry. God bless everyone for your holy efforts!

Tone 1 Eothinon 2

## The Sunday of All Saints of Antioch & North America & Second Sunday of Matthew

Prophet Elisha; Methodios the Confessor, patriarch of Constantinople

**Troparion for the Resurrection**, *in the First Tone*

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.

**Troparion for All Saints of Antioch**, *in the Fourth Tone*

O fellow trav'lers 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.

**Troparion for All Saints of North America, *in the Eighth Tone***

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.

**Troparion of St. Nicholas,** *in the Fourth Tone*

Thy righteous acts have manifested thee to thy flock as a model of faith, a reflection of humility, and a teacher of abstinence, O Father Bishop Nicholas. Therefore, through humility thou hast achieved exaltation, and through poverty riches. Intercede thou with Christ to save our souls.

**Kontakion for the Saints,** *in the Second Tone*

Undisputed intercessor of Christians, the mediatrix who is unrejected by the Creator, turn not away from the voice of our petitions, though we be sinners. Come to us in time with aid, as we cry unto thee in faith; for thou art good. Hasten to us with intercessions O Theotokos, who dost ever intercede for those who honor thee.

# Epistle

## Acts 11:19-30

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

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 Agabos 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.

# Gospel

## 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.

# St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
# Church School Semester End Ceremony

## Teachers

**Cynthia Deighan**
Church School Director &
Pre-School Teacher

**Hannah Roudbush**
High School Group Teacher

**Shaina Benefield**
Middle School Group Teacher

**Francis Deighan**
Youth Director

## Students

### High School

Varik Meiggs
Alexander Cadmus
Winter Meiggs
Isaiah Benefield
Joanna Martin

### Middle School

Elle Mae Owens
Elyana Biruk
Pierce Meiggs
Joseph Tomaino
Willow Meiggs

### Preschool

Eliora Biruk
Alayna Tomaino
Scotty Reesman
Markella Tomaino

# THE APOSTLES' FAST - AN OUTLINE

**Beginning the Monday after All Saints**
**and continuing until the Feast of Saints Peter & Paul (June 29)**

| DAYS | THE HOLY CANONS SPECIFY THE FOLLOWING: | |
|---|---|---|
| | Abstinence of: | No Abstinence of: |
| Monday<br>Tuesday<br>Thursday<br>Saturday<br>Sunday | Meat & Meat products<br>Dairy products | Fruit<br>Shellfish<br>Vegetables &<br>vegetable products<br>Fish<br>Wine<br>Oil |
| Wednesdays<br>Fridays | Meat & Meat products<br>Dairy products<br>Fish<br>Wine<br>Oil | |

**If the Feast of Saints Peter & Paul falls on a Wednesday or Friday, the fasting guidelines for that day apply, *except* that fish, wine and oil are permitted.**

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**IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT FASTING IS INCOMPLETE WITHOUT PRAYER AND ALMSGIVING.**

Fasting, to whatever extent, should be undertaken after consultation and with a blessing from your spiritual Father.

**FASTING PRIOR TO RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION**
**(Throughout the year)**

**Sunday Morning Divine Liturgy** — Complete fast from all food and drink from bedtime or midnight on Saturday evening. Saturday evening should be a quiet time of prayer and preparation for Communion.

**Evening Liturgies** — Complete fast from all food and drink after lunch. Any (very light) breakfast or lunch meal taken should include only fasting foods.

*It is understood that those desiring to partake of the Mystery of the Eucharist frequently and regularly, must also keep the Wednesday and Friday discipline.*

# SYNAXIS OF ANTIOCHIAN SAINTS

## St. Daniel the Stylite—December 11 (c. 409-493)

The boyhood wish of St. Daniel of Samosata, Syria was to be a devout monk. At age twelve he entered a monastery and became the youngest to have been tonsured a monk. On a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, St. Daniel and his entourage paused at the base of the pillar of the renowned St. Symeon the Stylite. He was singled out to ascend a rope ladder to receive the blessing of St. Symeon. He was told that his destiny laid in Constantinople. He traveled to Constantinople where he developed a reputation for spiritual assistance. When St. Symeon died, his robe was sent to Daniel to continue his work. A pillar was erected and St. Daniel continued the work of St. Symeon for 34 years. He died at age 84.

## St. Symeon the Stylite – September 1 (c. 390-459)

St. Symeon was the son of a shepherd. He had deep Christian roots originating in the Syrian city of Antioch. From his early youth, St. Symeon practiced the ascetic life. For some 20 years, he lived in various hermitages in northern Syria. In 423, he began to live on a 60-foot pillar at Telanissus. There he spent the remainder of his life. Thousands of Christian pilgrims came to view this amazing spectacle and to hear his religious wisdom.

## St. Isaac the Syrian – January 28 (c.—7th cent.)

St. Isaac began living the ascetic life at an early age in the monastery of Mar-Matthew near Nineveh. He became well known for his lifestyle and miracles. The people chose him as their bishop, but St. Isaac disliked ecclesiastical accolades. After five months as bishop, he secretly fled to a remote monastery in the deserts of Syria. Here St. Isaac devoted his life to writing sermons on spirituality and asceticism. He died peacefully at the end of the seventh century.

## St. Ephraim the Syrian – January 28 (c. 306-373)

St. Ephraim's father was a pagan priest. However, Ephraim was raised as a Christian. He was a disciple of St. James, Bishop of Nisibis, who encourage his young pupil to study theology, philosophy, and hymnology. Tonsured a monk and ordained a deacon, Ephraim spent his life teaching and writing. He attended the first Ecumenical Council in Nicaea in 325 and he is said to have met with St. Basil the Great. He is known for his hymnography, his famous "Lenten Prayer" and for his ascetic life. He died as a deacon in Edessa.

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## St. Joseph the Damascene – July 11 (c.1793 –1860)

St. Joseph was born to a poor pious family in Damascus, Syria. His family was not able to educate him, but he persisted in seizing every opportunity to gain an education. His tenacious scholastic endeavors caused his parents great concern. The parish in Damascus requested Patriarch Seraphim to ordain him as their pastor. Father Joseph was renowned among the Orthodox Arabs for his knowledge and preaching. Some regarded him as the successor of St. John Chrysostom. Father Joseph was tireless in doing his pastoral duties with no concern about payment. He took charge of the patriarchal school in Damascus and taught at the Balamand Seminary. He died as martyr in 1860 when the Moslem population of Damascus rose up against their Christian neighbors.

## St. John of Damascus – December 4 (c. 675-749)

At the time of St. John's life, Moslem Caliphs, who grudgingly tolerated Christianity, ruled Syria. St. John' father was a personal friend of the Caliph, enabling the Saint to hold a lofty position of Prime Minister in the ruler's court. St. John had many enemies who envied his position in the court as well as his talent for writing. His detractors convinced the Caliph that St. John was organizing an army to overthrow him. St. John was arrested and his right hand was cut off. Tradition tells us that John prayed fervently before an icon of the Theotokos and his hand was restored. John left his life of comfort and entered a monastery where, from a small monastic cell, he spent the rest of his life producing liturgical masterpieces for the Church. He is well known for his defense of icons during the iconoclastic period.

## St. Romanos the Melodos – October 1 (c. –510)

St. Romanos was born in Homs, Syria of Jewish parents and served as a deacon in Beirut and then went to Constantinople. Romanos was at an extreme disadvantage because no matter how hard he tried his voice was not only rasping but atonal as well. He made up for his shortcoming with his gift for composing sacred songs. At the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Constantinople a miracle occurred. One night the Virgin Mary, with a scroll in her hand, appeared to Romanos in a dream telling him not to despair. The next day, with the scroll in his hand he ascended the pulpit and burst into a glorious song. The Theotokos had given him the gift that he had so earnestly prayed for and with which he would sing the praises of the Lord for the remainder of his life.

## St. Artemios – October 20 (c. –363)

Born of a noble Roman family, Artemios was a high-ranking administrator, in the court of Constantine the Great. He came with the Emperor when he moved the capital from Rome to Constantinople. However, things did not go smoothly once Julian the Apostate became Emperor. Wishing to return the Empire to paganism, Julian tried to replace trusted governors and military commanders who were Christians with others who were not. Knowing the Artemios was an exceptional military governor and administrator, he did not want to lose him. He, therefore, invited him to Antioch to make him an offer. Artemios was asked to sacrifice to the pagan idols and give up Christ. To the embarrassment of the Emperor, Artemios remained loyal to his beliefs despite continual torture. He was finally beheaded.

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# SYNAXIS OF ANTIOCHIAN SAINTS (continued)

### St. Meletios – February 12 (c. – 382)

During the reign of Constantios, son of Constantine the Great there came upon the scene Meletios, a man destined for sainthood. When the see of Antioch was vacated St. Meletios was, because of his great piety, unanimously chosen to ascend the patriarchal throne. He proved himself a true man of God in his successful stand against the great heresy of Arianism. He convened the Second Ecumenical Synod held in Constantinople in 381AD. He ignored his failing health by working ceaselessly toward a united and viable Church. His impassioned arguments for the divinity of Jesus Christ won over even the most stubborn opponents. Meletios's frail health gave way and he died on February 12, 382, a martyr to the cause of Christianity. The Council of Nicaea condemned the doctrine of Arianism.

### St. Ignatius of Antioch – December 20 (c. – 107)

St. Ignatius of Antioch, was called *Theophorus* (God-Bearer). He was the third Bishop of the see of Antioch. Legend tells that it was St. Ignatius who was the child that Christ set down in the midst of his disciples (Matt. 18:1-6). He was a student of St. John the Apostle. During the reign of the Emperor Trajan (98-117), St. Ignatius was apprehended and called to Rome to account for his faith in Jesus Christ. It was during this long and brutal journey that St. Ignatius wrote his famous epistles, six to various churches and one to his friend St. Polycarp. These epistles reveal the heart of his pastoral teachings and show him to be a bishop par excellence of the Church of Christ. In a dialogue between Emperor Trajan and Bishop Ignatius the eloquence of Ignatius outstripped the Emperor. Ignatius was thrown to the lions in 107.

### St. John Chrysostom – November 13 (c. 347—407)

The title "Chrysostom" or "golden-mouthed," was reserved for John of Antioch who was born in 347. He was an eloquent speaker and foresaw a brilliant career as statesman and lawgiver. He abandoned the law to serve Christ. He entered a monastery and became a priest in 386. St. John became well known for his devout homilies and his immense popularity earned him election as Patriarch of Constantinople. For his preaching so strongly against immorality, St. John was twice deposed from his see, having been falsely charged. The humiliation of banishment did not deter the gallant, golden-mouthed St. John who continued to communicate with the Church and wrote his precious prose until he died.

### St. Raphael Hawaweeny – February 27, November 4 (c.1860—1915)

St. Raphael Hawaweeny was born in Damascus, Syria and immediately was taken by his parents to Beirut before the Druze massacre. He attended the Greek Orthodox Theological School in Turkey and studied at the Kiev Theological Academy. He was ordained a priest in 1889. St. Raphael became well known to the Arab communities in America who sought his leadership. In 1895, St. Raphael began to organize St. Nicholas Cathedral in Brooklyn. After just five months in America he set out on the first of several missionary journeys by rail across and up and down the United States, Canada and Mexico establishing Arabic parishes. He worked with Isabel Hapgood to prepare the famous English Language Service Book. He was the first Orthodox bishop consecrated in North America. Due to his tireless labors he established thirty parishes across North America. He fell asleep in the Lord on February 27.

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### St. Julian of Homs – February 6 (c. – 284)

St. Julian was born in Homs, Syria. In his early youth he studied medicine and became a physician. He led people to the true faith while he healed diseases. When Bishop Silwanus, Deacon Luke and Reader Mochius were taken to the Arena, St. Julian strengthened their faith by telling them not to be afraid to die for the sake of Christ. For his strong belief and strong teachings, he was thrown into a cave, had a long nail driven into his skull and was crucified. The faithful built St. Julian a tomb, as well as a church that they named after him, which contain his relics. Many miracles have been associated with his crypt.

## Troparion for All Saints of Antioch

*In the Fourth Tone*

O fellow trav'lers 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.

# Calendar: June-August 2026

| The Apostle's Fast 6/8/2026 - 6/28/2026 | | |
|---|---|---|
| 6/24/2026 | | Feast of the Nativity of the Forerunner John the Baptist |
| 6/29/2026 (Mon) | 10:00 am | Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul |
| 6/30/2026 (Tue) | | Synaxis of the 12 Apostles |
| **Diocese Parish Life Conference - 7/1/2026 - 7/5/2026** | | |
| 7/20/2026 | | Elias the Prophet |
| 7/25/2026 | | Dormition of the Righteous Anna |
| **Dormition Fast 8/1/2026 - 8/14/2026** | | |
| 8/5/2026 (Wed) | 6:30 pm | Eve Divine Liturgy—Transfiguration of Our Lord |
| 8/6/2026 (Thu) | | Transfiguration of Our Lord |
| 8/15/2026 (Sat) | 10:00 am | Divine Liturgy—Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos |
| 8/20/2026 | | The Prophet Samuel |
| 8/29/2026 | | The Beheading of John the Baptist |

| Calendar for the Week of June 14, 2026 | Saints of the Day |
|---|---|
| **Sunday—June 14, 2026** All Saints of Antioch Sunday<br>**9:20 am Orthros**<br>**10:30 am - Divine Liturgy**<br>**After Liturgy- End of Church School Prayers**<br>**1:00 pm Women of the Holy Myrrhbearers Meeting** | Elisha the Prophet<br>Methodius the Confessor |
| **Monday— June 15, 2026** | Prophet Amos & St. Lazarus of Serbia |
| **Tuesday—June 16, 2026** | Tichon, Bishop of Amathis, & St. Colman |
| **Wednesday—June 17, 2026**<br>**No Daily Vespers Today** | St. Nectan & Holy Martyrs Manuel, Sabel, & Ishmael |
| **Thursday—June 18, 2026** | Holy Martyr Leontios |
| **Friday—June 19, 2026** | Holy Apostle Jude, Brother of the Lord, & Paisius the Great of Egypt |
| **Saturday—June 20, 2026**<br>**5:00 pm Great Vespers**<br>**Confessions afterward** | St. Methodios, Bishop of Patara, & St. Kallistos, Patriarch of Constantinople |
| **Sunday—June 21, 2026**<br>**9:20 am Orthros**<br>**10:30 am - Divine Liturgy**<br>**Father's Day** | St. Methodios, Bishop of Patara, & St. Kallistos, Patriarch of Constantinople |

***Please note*** that Confessions are heard at the time noted above in the coming week's schedule, or by appointment by calling Fr. Samuel at: (304) 254-0470, (304) 562-9129, or (304) 541-8550.