

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of John of Damascus -- December 4th

Saint John of Damascus

John spent most of his life in the monastery of St. Sabas, near Jerusalem, and all of his life under Muslim rule, indeed, protected by it. He was born in Damascus, received a classical and theological education, and followed his father in a government position under the Arabs. After a few years he resigned and went to the monastery of St. Sabas. He reposed in the Lord in the year 749.

He is famous in three areas. He is known for his writings against the iconoclasts, who opposed the veneration of images. Paradoxically, it was the Eastern Christian emperor Leo who forbade the practice, and it was because John lived in Muslim territory that his enemies could not silence him. Second, he is famous for his treatise, Exposit-

tion of the Orthodox Faith, a summary of the Greek Fathers (of which he became the last). It is said that this book is for Eastern schools what the Summa of Thomas Aquinas became for the West. Thirdly, he is known as a poet, one of the two greatest of the Eastern Church, the other being Romanus the Melodist. His devotion to the Theotokos and his sermons on her feasts are well known.

John defended the Church's understanding of the veneration of images and explained the faith of the Church in several other controversies. For over 30 years he combined a life of prayer with these defenses and his other writings. His holiness expressed itself in putting his literary and preaching talents at the service of the Lord.

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"Slava Isusoo Khristoo!"
"glory to Jesus Christ!"

Dec. 1, 2013
The 28th Sun.

ALL OUR NEWLY BAPTIZED CHILDREN have been invited, along with, of course, their parents and Godparents and grandparents to attend the 9 am Divine Liturgy this Sunday. We have chosen this Thanksgiving holyday to re-unite with our newly baptized, so that we all can give thanks together for the wonderful gift of new life. God bless all our new little Christians, new parents and new Godparents!

THE GREAT FEAST of St. Anna's Conception of Mary, the Theotokos, will be marked next weekend in our Parish. This Holyday celebrates the beginning of Mary's life within the womb of her saintly mother Anna. We will sing our hymns of joy to Mary and her mother next weekend at the Liturgy and anoint all the Faithful.

OUR ANNUAL DINNER AND CHRISTMAS PARTY for all our parish workers and volunteers is all set for Saturday, Dec. 14, at 3:30 pm at Chick's Tavern, Fourth St., Bridgeport. We invite all our ushers, officers, Sunday School Staff and Parish Auxiliary to be with us on the 14th.

THE PARISH CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON, Sunday School Christmas Pageant, Holy Supper Buffet will be held Sunday, Dec. 15, 10:30 am in our Hall. We hope and expect that ALL OUR FAITHFUL will be with us on the 15th to support our school children and share in our traditional holy Supper meal of 12 lenten dishes. It's all free and all for you!

OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL will be on vacation this Thanksgiving Weekend. We will resume classes next Sunday, Dec. 8, as we prepare for all the upcoming Christmas holydays and events.

THE WORLD'S BISHOPS AND POPE FRANCIS will meet next fall to discuss the Family in today's world. And the Pope has asked, for the first time, that our laity give their input on certain issues. We have provided, therefore, a general questionnaire for you for this purpose. So please take a copy home today, write your opinions and send the form to Archbishop Stefan.

DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, 6 pm +Helen Davis, Son Charles (Santangelo-Strouse Family)
Sunday, 9 am For all the Newly Baptized and Their Parents
Thursday, 7 am +Paul Plewinski (Frank and Sandi)
Friday, 7 am +Theodore Plush Sr. (The Martinick & Plush Family)
Saturday, 8 am +Steve Burry (Len and Rose Boris)
Saturday, 6 pm +Georgine Sedor (Mother Marie)
Sunday, 9 am +Marusia (Mother Irena, Brother Yuriij)

TODAY'S TROPAR: Let the heavens rejoice and the earth exult, for the Lord has shown strength with His Hand. He conquered death by death. He became the Firstborn of the dead, delivering us from the abyss of hell and to the world He gave great mercy.

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER...

TODAY'S KONTAK: Today You are risen from the tomb, O Bountiful One, and You led us from the gates of death. Today Adam and Eve rejoice, as the Prophets and Patriarchs sing the Divine Power of Your Divine Might.

TODAY'S PROKIMEN: Sing to Our God, sing. Sing to Our King, sing.

Love, Fr. Ronald