

# St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America - [www.saintjohnnewken.org](http://www.saintjohnnewken.org)

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**26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 1. Sunday of the Forefathers. Ven. Daniel the Stylite of Constantinople (489-490)**

**Epistle:** Colossians 3:4-11

**Gospel:** Luke 14:16-24

## Parish Schedule This Week

**Tues., Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>**

Liturgy @ 9:30, St. Herman of Alaska

**Wed., Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>**

Vespers @ 6:30PM, followed by bible study

**Sat. Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>**

Great Vespers @ 5:00 PM, followed by confessions

**Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup>**

Hours @9:40, Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM, followed by Coffee hour

**The Advent Fast** continues. Keep the fast! ***Additionally***, in preparation for the holy day of Nativity, Orthodox Christians should strive to give confession and receive holy communion at the feast. Please talk to Fr. John about a time to have confession.

**Pierogie Workshops:** Mon. 12/12, Kraut & Cottage Cheese Pierogie making at 8:00AM. ALL YOUR HELP IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!

**Poinsettia donations are requested** to beautify our temple during the Nativity season. Plants can be donated for **\$7 each**, given to the council. Additionally, we are looking for one more **altar arrangement, which is \$75**. Speak to Fr. John.

**Altar Candles:** Offered Sun. Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> offered for Cathy Papaila on her birthday

**St. Pantaleimon Candles** offered for health and well-being of Valerie Kennedy, by Dawn, Alan & Natasha Miller

**We are continuing collections for the local foodbank distribution with St. George's.**

**If you are ever in need of prayers** for safe travel, health issues, etc., let father John know. There are both prayers that can be said in the liturgy as well as short blessings to be read after church or in the home. And of course please let Fr. John know if you are ever in the hospital or homebound and would like a visit.

**Bulletin and Website Information** Please email [saintjohnnewken@gmail.com](mailto:saintjohnnewken@gmail.com) with any information you need printed in the bulletin and/or uploaded to the parish website, ie Sarris candy orders, youth group activities, etc., by the Friday before.

## *Take every thought captive...*

*“It is God’s all-encompassing love that manifests itself in us. When this happens we see no difference between people – everyone is good, everyone is our brother, and we consider ourselves to be the worst of men, servants of every created thing. In this kind of love we are humbled; our soul is at peace and in humility. And humility is the perfection of the Christian life. It is not in the raising of the dead or in working miracles that Christian perfection lies, but in extreme humility. When we are illumined by the Grace of the Holy Spirit in the fullness of Divine love, then we want to serve everyone and help everyone. Even when we see a little ant struggling, we want to help him. So, love is sacrifice. Love sacrifices itself for its neighbor.*”

*God reveals Himself only to the meek and humble.... He who is not obedient cannot attain humility.*

*We can keep guard over the whole world by keeping guard over the atmosphere of heaven within us, for if we lose the Kingdom of Heaven, we will save neither ourselves nor others. He who has the Kingdom of God in himself will imperceptibly pass it on to others. People will be attracted by the peace and warmth in us; they will want to be near us, and the atmosphere of heaven will gradually pass on to them. It is not even necessary to speak to people about this. The atmosphere of heaven will radiate from us even when we keep silence or talk about ordinary things. It will radiate from us even though we may not be aware of it.*

*Our life depends on the kind of thoughts we nurture. If our thoughts are peaceful, calm, meek, and kind, then that is what our life is like. If our attention is turned to the circumstances in which we live, we are drawn into a whirlpool of thoughts and can have neither peace nor tranquility.”*

*Elder Thaddeus: Our Thoughts Determine our Lives*