

# HOLY ANGELS BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



November 3, 2024

24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

The Holy Martyrs Akepsimus, bishop; Joseph, priest; and Aithalas, deacon;  
Commemoration of the Dedication of the Church of the Holy Great  
Martyr George in Lydda, wherein his precious body was placed

# November 3, 2024

## Schedule of services for the week of November 4 – November 10

- Thursday, November 7 – *The Holy Martyr Hieron and his 32 Companions in Melitene; Our Venerable Father Lazarus the Wonderworker, who fasted on Mount Galesius*  
6:00 PM – Great Vespers with Litija for the Feast of Holy Angels
- Friday, November 8 – *Synaxis of the Holy Archangel Michael, Commander of the Heavenly Hosts; Archangels Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Salaphiel, Jegudiel, Barachiel, Jeremiel and the other Incorporeal Powers*  
9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy
- Saturday, November 9 – *The Holy Martyrs Onesiphorus and Porphyrius of Ephesus; Our Venerable Mother Matrona of Constantinople; Our Venerable Mother Theoktista of the Isle of Lesbos*  
9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy & Pahahida; + Theodore Deane; Req: Deane Family
- PLEASE NOTE: NO CONFESSIONS or GREAT VESPERS**
- Sunday, November 10 – *25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost; The Holy Apostles Erastus, Olympus, Rodion, Sosipater, Tertius and Quartus*  
8:40 AM – 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour  
9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy with Baptism of Fortunato Sandoval

“Daughter, be of good cheer! Your faith has made you well. Go in peace.” Our merciful Savior brought healing to the ill because he loves us all. By dedicating our lives to more prayer and devotion to him through a vocation to holy orders and monastic lives, this healing can be extended to the world. Is this something that may be in store for your future? Contact the Vocations Office at 206-329-9219 or email: [vocations@ephx.org](mailto:vocations@ephx.org)

### O Physician of Souls and Bodies, we pray for:

Pope Francis, Barbara Alexander, Maria Amaro, Peter Andre, Fr. Christopher Andrews, Harry and Virginia Bowden, Kim Camplisson, Patrick Carmack, Fr. Andriy Chirovsky, Julia Camberos, Dennis Cline, Amy Cohn, Vivian Corr, Maria Cruz, Joe Danscuk, Fr. Daniel Dozier, Gabriel Espedal, Ana Fandrey, Karen Foto, Christine Galgano, Janet Greenwell, Deborah Harris, Michael Havens, Martha Hill, Doris Huber, Rebecca Huber, Melissa Hunter, Taylor Kessler, Subdcn Paul Kilroy Jamie Kohanyi, Juan Lopez, Pauli Martin, Mila Mina, Linda Moffit, Maryann Nagrant, Julia Ohnysty, Genevieve Paquette, Sylvia Pasnak, Fr. Lee Perry, Anthony Porrello, Nina Porrello, Peter Porrello, Fr. Robert Rankin, Margaret Raya, Maha Salazar, Gretchen Sharpe, Karen Simonich, Debbie Stark, Tava Tomc, Hong Truong, Pat Walsh, Maria Zhukova, Gianna, Nicole, Subdcn Eddie and his wife Viane.

*Happy Anniversary!*

*Today, November 3, is the fifth anniversary of the Ordination to the diaconate of our beloved deacon Jonathan. We have been blessed with his service to God's faithful!*

*God grant him many blessed years!*

### Patronal Feast Potluck

**Save the Date!** Just 1 week till our Patronal Feast Celebration on November 10. There will be a potluck following Sunday Divine Liturgy. There is a sign up sheet in the church hall. We hope ALL parishioners will attend this special celebration.

**Please attend!**

### BASKET RAFFLE

**IN SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH LIFE EVENTS WE ARE HOLDING OUR ANNUAL BASKET RAFFLE NOW THROUGH NOVEMBER 10. CHECK OUT THE MARVELOUS BASKETS IN THE CHURCH HALL!**



## Hieromartyrs Akepsimas, Bishop in Persia, Presbyter Joseph, and Deacon Aeithalas

*Commemorated on November 3*

Martyrs Akepsimas the Bishop, Joseph the Presbyter and Aeithalas (Aeithalás) the Deacon of Persia were leaders of the Christian Church in the Persian city of Naesson. His flock devotedly loved their hierarch for his ascetic life and tireless pastoral work.

The emperor Sapor ordered his men to seek out and kill Christian clergy. Saint Akepsimas also was arrested, even though he was already an eighty-year-old man. They took him to the city of Arbela, where he came before the judge Ardarkh, a pagan priest of the sun god. The holy Elder refused to offer sacrifice to the Persian gods. For this he was fiercely beaten and thrown into prison, where on the following day the seventy-year-old priest Joseph and the deacon Aeithalas were severely beaten and thrown into jail with him. For three years the saints were held in confinement, and suffered from hunger and thirst.

Emperor Sapor came to the temple of the god of fire, located not far from Arbela, and wanted to take

a look at the three holy martyrs. Exhausted and covered with festering wounds, the saints were brought before the emperor. When he asked them to worship the pagan gods they firmly refused, confessing their faith in Christ instead.

The holy bishop was beheaded, but the presbyter and deacon were taken into the city to be stoned.

The execution of the presbyter Joseph was prolonged for several hours. A guard was placed near the place of execution, so that Christians would not take the body of the holy martyr. On the fourth night a strong windstorm raged near the city, lightning killed the guard, the wind tossed stones about, and the body of Saint Joseph disappeared.

Deacon Aeithalas was taken to the village of Patrias, where he was stoned. Christians secretly buried his body. A tree grew on the saint's grave, and its fruit brought healings.

– oca.org

### Patronal Icon

*By the hand of Oleh Skoropadsky.*



#### Front Row, Left to Right:

Jegudiel (Patron of kings, judges and other rulers), Raphael (Angel of Healing), Uriel (Flame of God), Michael (Angel of Protection), Gabriel (Messenger of God), Salaphiel (Angel of Prayer), Barachiel (Angel of Blessing)

#### Back Row - unnamed

Other Angels named in various early Christian writings (Ethiopian, Coptic, Slavic): Camael, Jophiel, Zadkiel, Raguel, Jeremiel, Phanuel, Remiel, Saraqael.

### 3 rules or principles of Satanism:

1. you may do all that you wish.
2. no one has the right to command you.
3. you are the god of yourself.

The obsessive repetition of these messages literally changes the way one thinks of and understands life, poisoning the soul and the spirit and, as a result, ruining lives.”

On the other hand.....

#### 2 Timothy 3

15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

#### Ephesians 4

11 And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipment of the saints, for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ; 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the cunning of men, by their craftiness in deceitful wiles. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by

every joint with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, makes bodily growth and upbuilds itself in love.

#### Fulton Sheen

"Once we recognize we are under Divine Wrath, we become eligible for Divine Mercy. It was because of famine the prodigal said: 'I will arise, and will go to my father.' The very disciplines of God create hope. The thief on the right came to God by a crucifixion. The Christian finds a basis for optimism in the most thorough-going pessimism, for his Easter is within three days of Good Friday."

Sheen offered this great, hope-filled encouragement too:

“One of the surprises of heaven will be to see how many saints were made in the midst of chaos, and war and revolution.”

He points out the great multitude standing before the throne of God and identified as

“These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” (Revelation 7:14)

There’s more to spur us on, firm in hope. Sheen strongly reminds that after

“Our Divine Lord had pictured the catastrophes that would fall upon a morally disordered civilization...he did not say ‘Fear,’ but "when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your “redemption” (deliverance) is at hand.” (Luke 21:28)

– Fr. Gabriele Amorth

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FEAST OF THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL NOVEMBER 8

THE FEAST OF THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL AND THE HOLY ANGELS INDICATES TO US THE SIGNIFICANT ROLE THE ANGELS PLAY IN OUR SALVATION. THIS FEAST ALSO REMINDS US OF OUR DUTIES TOWARDS THE ANGELS, ESPECIALLY TOWARD OUR GUARDIAN ANGEL. THROUGHOUT OUR ENTIRE LIFE, AT EVERY MOMENT AND IN EVERY PLACE OUR GUARDIAN ANGEL WATCHES OVER US, PROTECTS US, INSPIRES US WITH GOOD THOUGHTS, WARNS US AGAINST SIN, AND INTERCEDES FOR US BEFORE GOD.

OUR GUARDIAN ANGEL IS OUR GUIDE TO HEAVEN, OUR HELPER AGAINST TEMPTATION, OUR COMPANION AT THE HOUR OF DEATH. HE IS THE CONSTANT WITNESS OF OUR THOUGHTS, OUR WORDS, AND OUR DEEDS. ONLY IN HEAVEN WILL WE ONE DAY SEE HOW MUCH WE OWE TO OUR GUARDIAN ANGEL. FROM THIS COMES OUR DUTY TO VENERATE THE HOLY ANGELS, TO PRAISE THEM, AND TO THANK THEM EVERY DAY FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION. "TO GLORIFY THE ANGELS IS OUR OBLIGATION," WE READ IN A SERMON ASCRIBED TO ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ON THE SYNAXIS OF ARCHANGELS, "FOR THEY GLORIFY THE CREATOR, REVEAL HIS LOVE AND MERCY TOWARD MAN."

LET US ENTRUST OUR CHILDREN TO THEIR GUARDIAN ANGELS FROM THE TIME THEY ARE IN THE CRADLE; LET US TEACH OUR CHILDREN TO LOVE THEIR ANGELS AND PRAY TO THEM EVERY DAY. CHURCH HISTORY RECORDS NUMEROUS INSTANCES IN WHICH THE GUARDIAN ANGEL MIRACULOUSLY PROTECTED CHILDREN WHO WERE IN DANGER. "THE ANGELS ARE GIVEN TO US," SAYS THE SERVANT OF GOD ANDREW

SHEPTYTSKY, "FOR GUARDIANS AND PROTECTORS THROUGHOUT OUR WHOLE LIFE; THEREFORE, IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THE DAILY PROTECTION OF OUR GUARDIAN ANGELS SHOULD LEAD EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US TO SINCERELY VENERATE AND THANK OUR GUARDIAN ANGELS." (ON THE VENERATION OF SAINTS, 1941)

DEVOTION TO OUR OWN GUARDIAN ANGEL IS PLEASING TO HIM, NOT ONLY WHEN WE VENERATE AND PRAY TO HIM, BUT ABOVE ALL, WHEN WE IMITATE HIM. HE GIVES US A BEAUTIFUL EXAMPLE OF HOLINESS. HE TEACHES US BY HIS EXAMPLE HOW TO LOVE GOD, HOW TO SERVE HIM AND GLORIFY HIM. THEREFORE LET US STRIVE TO LOVE GOD AS OUR ANGEL LOVES HIM, WITH GREATER FERVOR, AND ZEALOUSLY CARRY OUT GOD'S WILL, AS HE DOES AND AS DO ALL THE OTHER ANGELS IN HEAVEN.



## THE BATTLE AGAINST DESPONDENCY, SLOTHFULNESS & WEAKNESS

*WHEN THIS HAPPENS, occupy mind with the thought of death. Come mentally to the grave; behold there one who has been dead four days: how he grows dark, bloated, and gives off an intolerable foul odor, is eaten by worms, having lost his fair appearance and beauty. Then look in another place: here there lie in the grave the bones of young and old, the beautiful and the ugly; and consider: who was fair, or ugly? Who was a faster, a continent man, an ascetic, or a careless man? And did it bring benefit to rich men that they had repose and enjoyment in this world? Remember then the endless torments of which the holy books speak: the fire of Gehenna, the outer darkness, the gnashing of teeth, the infernal tartarus, the unsleeping worm. And depict to yourself how sinners cry out there with bitter tears, and no one delivers them. They lament and weep over themselves, and no one has pity on them. They sigh from the depths of the heart, and no one has compassion on them. They implore for help, complain about their grief, and no one heeds them. Think how creatures, each in its own time, unflinchingly serve the Lord their Creator. Reflect concerning the most glorious miracles of God which have been performed upon His servants from the beginning of the world, and especially of how the Lord, having humbled Himself and suffered for the sake of our salvation, has benefited and sanctified the human race; and for all this give thanksgiving to God, the Lover of mankind. Remember the future endless life and the Kingdom of Heaven, the repose and unutterable joy. Stand firm, do not leave off the Prayer of Jesus. If you will recall and reflect on all this, then despondency, slothfulness and weakness will disappear, and your soul will come to life as from the dead, by the grace of Christ.*

—St. Paisios (Velichkovsky) of Moldavia

## Christianity Quiz

1. Who was the first Christian martyr?
2. What Emperor falsely blamed Christians for the great fire which broke out in Rome in 64 AD?
3. What did the Gnostics claim to have that they said even the Apostles of Christ did not have?
4. When was the first time the books of the New Testament were listed as we have them today?
5. Who issued the Edict of Milan? And what did this do for Christianity?
6. According to the Acts of the Apostles, who presided at the Council of Jerusalem in 50 AD: the Apostle Peter, Paul, or James?
7. (True or False) In the early Church confession was public.
8. In what year was Jerusalem destroyed by Emperor Titus?
9. According to the *Didache*, “*The Teaching of the Apostles*” (100-120 AD), what do Christians do on Wednesdays and Fridays?
10. Who was the only one of the Twelve Apostles not to be martyred?

See answers below. No cheating! ☺

### Answers to the Quiz

1. Saint Stephen.
2. Nero
3. Secret knowledge. Each Gnostic leader claimed to know the true teachings of Christ.
4. 367 AD, the list first appeared in a Paschal Epistle of Saint Athanasius.
5. Saint Constantine the Great. The Edict made Christianity a legalized religion, though not the official religion of the Empire.
6. Saint James the Brother of the Lord, the first bishop of Jerusalem.
7. True
8. 70 AD
9. They fasted in honor of Christ's betrayal and crucifixion.
10. Saint John the Theologian

## DON'T LET ANYTHING DEPRIVE YOU OF HOPE

*St. Nectarios of Aegina*

We have within us deeply rooted weaknesses, passions, and defects. This cannot all be cut out with one sharp motion, but patience, persistence, care and attention. The path leading to perfection is long. Pray to God so that he will strengthen you. Patiently accept your falls and, having stood up, immediately run to God, not remaining in that place where you have fallen. Do not despair if you keep falling into your old sins. Many of them are strong because they have received the force of habit. Only with the passage of time **and with fervor** will they be conquered. Don't let anything deprive you of hope.

## A PRAYER FOR ONE WHO IS ILL

O holy Father, heavenly Physician of our souls and bodies, who hast sent Thine Only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to heal all our ailments and deliver us from death: do Thou visit and heal Thy servant \_\_\_\_\_, granting him (her) release from pain and restoration to health and vigor, that he (she) may give thanks unto Thee and bless Thy holy Name, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

## ON JUDGING OTHERS

From "*Unseen Warfare*" by  
Saint Theophan the Recluse

Since the enemy watches you constantly, waiting for an opportunity to sow evil in you, be doubly watchful over yourself, lest you fall in the nets spread for you.

As soon as he shows you some fault in your neighbor, hasten to repel this thought, lest it take root in you and grow. Cast it out, so that no trace is left in you, and replace it by the thought of the good qualities you know your neighbor to possess, or of those people generally should have. If you still feel the impulse to pass judgment, add to this the truth, that you are given no authority for this and that the moment you assume this authority you thereby make yourself worthy of judgment and condemnation, not before powerless men, but before God, the all-powerful Judge of all. This reversal of thoughts is the strongest means, not only for repelling accidental critical thoughts, but also for completely freeing yourself of this vice...

Even if a person's sin is not only obvious, but very grievous and comes from a hardened and unrepentant heart, do not condemn him, but raise your eyes to the wondrous and incomprehensible judgments of God; then you will see that many people, formerly full of iniquity, later repented and reached a high degree of sanctity, and that, on the other hand, others, who were on a high level of perfection, fell into a deep abyss. Take care, lest you also suffer this calamity through judging others.

## Holy Angels Byzantine Catholic Church

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### Parish Advisory Council:

Bruce Bitsko, Nelson Chase, Fr. Deacon Jonathan Deane, Joel Espedal, Janet Greenwell, Daniele Laman, Olena Bankston

### Finance Council:

Al Aparicio, Fr. Deacon Jonathan Deane, Bob Greenwell, Paul Washicko

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### Bless, O Lord, the worship and Stewardship of your faithful servants:

Adult tithes: \$905.00; Loose Change: \$188.60; Non-Parishioners: \$30.00; **Total: \$1123.60**

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**Vocation Icon:** This week: Fatima Rodriguez

Next week: Chase Family

**Please sign up in the narthex to host the vocation icon.**

THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF PHOENIX

SUBSCRIBES TO THE

*Charter for the Protection of  
Children and Young People*

*adopted by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops.*

*The Eparchy, within all its parishes, institutions and programs, is committed to assuring a safe environment in ministry for its children and vulnerable adults that conforms to the Charter for Protection of Children and Young People.*

*For additional information regarding the eparchial Safe Environment Program or to report any incidents of concerns, please contact:*

*Fr. Dcn. Michael Hanafin*

*Victim Assistance Coordinator*

*Cell: (480) 307-5182 -- email: [vac@ephx.org](mailto:vac@ephx.org)*

*- or -*

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