

Hieromartyr Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna (Feb 23)

"He was born at Ephesus around the year 70. St Irenaeus of Lyons, his disciple, says that St Polycarp was 'a disciple of the Apostles and acquainted with those who had seen the Lord.' His parents died as martyrs, and he was given into the care of a devout lady named Callista. As a child, the Saint was so eager to follow the commandments of Christ that he repeatedly emptied his foster-mother's pantry to feed the poor. Since her supplies were always miraculously renewed, Callista changed his name from Pancratius to Polykarpos, meaning 'Much fruit.'

When grown, Polycarp became a disciple of St John the Theologian, and in time became Bishop of Smyrna; it is told that the messages to the Church at Smyrna in the Book of Revelation are addressed to St Polycarp and his flock. He knew St Ignatius of Antioch personally, and some of their correspondence is preserved.

Polycarp led his Church in holiness for more than fifty years, and became known throughout the Christian world as a true shepherd and standard-bearer of the Faith. About the year 154 he traveled to Rome and consulted with Pope Anacletus on the defense of the Faith.

Not long after he returned to Smyrna, a fierce persecution was unleashed against Christians in Asia Minor; along with many others, St Polycarp was arrested, having predicted his imminent martyrdom. (The account of his martyrdom that follows is based on eyewitness accounts gathered immediately after his death.)

On the evening of Holy Friday, soldiers burst into the farmhouse where he was staying. The Bishop welcomed them cheerfully, and ordered that a meal be prepared for them. He was granted some time to pray, and for two hours stood commemorating everyone that he had known and praying for the Church throughout the world. His captors sorrowed that they had come to take such a venerable man, and reluctantly took him to the Proconsul. When urged to deny Christ and save his life, the aged Saint replied, 'For eighty-six years I have been his servant, and he has wronged me in nothing; how can I blaspheme my King and Savior?' Told that he would die by fire if he did not apostatize, Polycarp replied 'You threaten me with a fire that burns for a short time and then goes out, while you know nothing of the fire of the judgment to come and of the everlasting torment awaiting the wicked. Why wait any longer? Do what you will!'

Placed on the pyre, Polycarp lifted his eyes heavenward and gave thanks to God for finding him worthy to share with the holy Martyrs of the cup of Christ. When he had said his Amen, the executioners lit the fire. The eyewitnesses write that the fire sprang up around him like a curtain, and that he stood in its midst glowing like gold and sending forth a delightful scent of incense. Seeing that the fire was not harming him, the executioners stabbed him with a sword. His blood flowed so copiously that it put out the fire, and he gave back his soul to God. His relics were burned by the persecutors, but Christians rescued a few fragments of bone, which were venerated for many generations on the anniversary of his repose." Abbamoses.com

1st (4th c.) & 2nd (9th c.) Findings of the Precious Head of St John the Baptist (Feb 24)

"After the Forerunner was beheaded at the order of Herod and his illicit wife Herodias, his head was discarded in what the *Synaxarion* calls "an unseemly location," presumably a privy. According to some, it was secretly recovered by Joanna, one of the Myrrhbearing women, and given honorable burial near Jerusalem. There it was found, through a revelation of the Forerunner, by two monks who had come to Jerusalem to worship at the tomb of our Savior (the first finding). Putting the head in a bag, the monks returned home. On the way, they met an indigent potter from Emesa. That night the Forerunner appeared to the poor man and instructed him to make off with the relic. He returned with it to Emesa and immediately began to prosper in his business. Just before he died, he put the holy relic in a chest, which he left to his sister with these instructions: never to open it without instructions from the one hidden inside it; and to pass it on to a pious man beloved of God. Thus the Head of the Baptist passed through many generations, eventually being concealed in a cave near a monastery founded during the reign of Marcian (450-457), whose abbot was the godly Marcellus.

The blessed Forerunner appeared several times to Marcellus, embracing him and once even giving him a pot of honey. The Baptist ordered Marcellus to follow a star which led him to the cave and came to rest in front of a niche in the wall. Marcellus dug there and came upon a marble slab, under which was a large jar containing the precious Head. The holy relic was taken with rejoicing to the cathedral in Emesa, where it worked many wonders. In the reign of Michael III (842-867), it was taken to Constantinople. It was at this translation that the present Feast was instituted.

The version given here is that of St Symeon Metaphrastes. Other sources give substantially different accounts.

The *Prologue* observes: "It is important and interesting to note that, while he was alive, John did not work a single miracle (Jn 10:41), but to his relics was given the blessed power of working miracles." Abbamoses.com

St. James Orthodox Church Bulletin **February 23, 2020** **Judgement (Meatfare) Sunday**



Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
His Eminence Metropolitan Joseph
His Grace Bishop Thomas
Fr. Timothy Barkley - Pastor

"The love of Christ compels us"

St. James Orthodox Christian Church

30 York Street, Taneytown, MD 21787

(443) 821-7246

stjamesorthodoxchurch.org

apostlejamesorthodoxchurch@gmail.com

Welcome Visitors!

A warm welcome to our visitors! You may be new to us, but you are known and loved by God. So why not give us a chance to get to know you? If you belong to the Lord Jesus, we belong together. If you are a seeker, let us share with you what we have found in Him. Please join us in the parish hall for coffee hour following Liturgy.

Church Rubrics: Judgement (Meatfare) Sunday

Sunday -	Epistle: St. Paul's 1 st Letter to the Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2	Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46
Monday -	Epistle: St. Paul's 2 nd Letter to the Corinthians 4:6-15	Gospel: Matthew 11:2-15
Tuesday -	Epistle: St. Jude's 1 st Universal Letter 1:1-10	Gospel: Luke 22:39-42, 45-71; 23:1
Wednesday -	Old Testament Reading: Joel 3:12-21	Old Testament Reading: Joel 2:12-26
Thursday -	Epistle: St. Jude's 1 st Universal Letter 1:11-25	Gospel: Luke 23:1-31, 33, 44-56
Friday -	Old Testament Reading: Zechariah 8:7-17	Old Testament Reading: Zechariah 8:19-23
Saturday -	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2	Gospel: Matthew 6:1-13
Sunday -	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4	Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

This Week's Schedule (Confessions Heard During Vespers, During Matins & By Appt.)

Wednesday:	Bible Study @ 6:00 PM, Akathist @ 7:00 PM
Thursday:	Divine Liturgy for St. Raphael @ 7:30 AM
Friday:	Akathist to the Theotokos @ 6:00 PM
Saturday:	Choir Rehearsal @ 3:15PM, Vespers @ 5:00 PM, & Adult Ed/Catechism Class @ 6:00 PM
Sunday:	Matins, 8:50 & Div. Liturgy, 10:00 AM Followed by Memorial for Dale Cormany & Forgiveness Service

Weekly Sponsors:

Olive Oil for Lamps: In Memory of Lou Boulmetis – Anonymous **Bulletin Sponsor:** In Memory of Dr. Pete - Anonymous
Vigil Candle for our Patron Saint: Asking his intercession for a good Lent **Altar Vigil Candle:** For a good Lent
If you would like to sponsor an item, please contact Katie at katiekadlec@gmail.com by Wednesday to be included in the next bulletin. Include intention, what you would like to offer. **All sponsor items are only \$5.00** and can be placed in an envelope marked with your name and the item you are sponsoring and place it in the Offering Box or Offering Plate.

Coffee Hour Rotation

If you would like to be added to this rotation please contact Leanne Kitsko at: leanne.kitsko@gmail.com. Remember that if you are assigned to Coffee Hour you are responsible for cleaning the Kitchen area and wiping down tables.

February 23: Jim (Main, & Side), Mel (Side, Dessert & Drinks)

March 1: Potluck (Main, Side, Dessert & Drinks)

Cleaning Rotation

The following are responsible for overseeing the cleaning and lockup of the Church on their assigned day. We ask that our entire Church family pitch in and help clean after services. If you are scheduled to lock-up and are unavailable to do so please find someone to cover for you. Thank you in advance to all those who assist the designated families in cleaning "our home". **Feb 23 – Lund** Mar 1 – Kitsko Mar 8 - Pruzinsky Mar 15 – Quigley Mar 22 – Slavnikov

St. James Prayer List

Metropolitan Joseph, Bishop Thomas, Fr. Tim/Kh. Anna Barkley, Sisters at St. Nina's, Fr. Thomas/Pani Linda Kadlec, Fr. Elias Bitar, Gregory, Stavros, Kyra, Yvgenia, Vladimir; Catechumens Kimberly, Christian and James; Repose of Thomas Joseph. Jr. Please see Fr. Timothy to make an addition to this list.



**New Members Are Welcome & Crying Babies Are Loved
Come & Join Us In Worship and Prayer!**



Christ Is Among Us! He Is & Ever Shall Be!



Much Appreciation & God's Blessings

Thanks to all who baked prosfora, provided our coffee hour meal and cleaned our home. May Our Lord bless you!

Committees: Sign Up Today!

There are various committee sign up- forms located in the hall. Please review and sign up if you are interested in volunteering your time. If you have any questions, please see one of the members of the parish council. Thank you!

Adopt A Road

The next date for Adopt a Road program will be March 21st. We will meet at the church @ 9:30 am; please remember to dress for the weather. All equipment will be supplied. If you are interested in volunteering please see Jim Napier.

Save the Dates!

Antiochian Women of the East Lenten Retreat: March 13 - 15, 2020 @ Antiochian Village

Spring Lenten Retreat: April 3 - 5, 2020 @ Antiochian Village

Parish Life Conference: June 24 - 28, 2020 @ Antiochian Village - hosted by our sister parish Holy Cross!

Scrip Fundraising Program: Every 1st & 3rd Sunday of the Month

Earn money for St. James every day on the purchases you're already making just by paying with a gift card purchased from the church, or download the app and pay using your credit card! Gift cards can be **ordered from Heidi**; simply place your check (made out to St James with "scrip" in the memo) in the box located at the back of the church. The other option is to download the app and purchase items using your credit card information. **Setting up an account is easy:**

1. Go to <https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/Login/Enroll>
2. St James enrollment code: 57A99L955213L

Prosfora Rotation (Interested in offering the Holy Bread? See Heidi)

Thank you for your time, efforts, and baking skills. **Feb 23 – Katie** Mar 1 – Eleni Mar 8 – Carol

Special Collections:

1. **Comforting Creations:** Collections will be **ongoing until March 1**. Please make a donation by check (memo: Comforting Creations) or cash (envelope noted: Comforting Creations) and drop in the offering plate or in any slot in the box in the back of the Church.
2. **Paschal Flowers:** Donations for flowers and palms will be **collected from March 8 - April 4**. Flyers will be available for special intentions. Please make a donation by check (memo: Pascha Flowers) or cash (envelope noted: Pascha Flowers) and drop with the flyer in the offering plate or in any slot in the offering box. In either case above, gifts may be made (and clearly marked) "in memory" or "in honor," and those so memorialized or honored will be remembered at the Proskomedie and in the Great Entrance.
3. **Food Bank:** Please continue to remember those in need with your gifts of canned goods, each time you come to the Church. Please place your offerings in the blue bins in the Parish Hall.
4. **Seminarians:** Collection will be made on **Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 8**. Please make a donation by check (memo: Seminarians) or cash (envelope noted: Seminarians) and drop in the offering plate or in the offering box.
5. **Patriarchate of Antioch:** On **Palm Sunday, April 11**. Please make a donation by check (memo: Patriarchate) or cash (envelope noted: Patriarchate) and drop in the offering plate or in any slot in the box in the back of the Church.

Meatfare Sunday:

Today is normally the last day to eat meat before Pascha. Please consume or freeze all meat products by sundown today. *This does not apply to everyone.* See Fr. Timothy to discuss your particular circumstances.