

# St. James Orthodox Church Bulletin

## January 26, 2020

### **Our Holy Father Ephraim the Syrian (January 28)**

"He is often called 'The Harp of the Holy Spirit' for the sublimity of his writings. He was born in Nisibis of Mesopotamia about the year 306. He embraced the Christian faith while young and for this was driven from his home by his father, a pagan priest. He came under the care of St James of Nisibis (January 13), who was one of the bishops at the Council of Nicaea. He took up a strictly ascetical life, renouncing all possessions and denying himself all comforts. It is said that his eyes constantly flowed with tears: tears of compunction for his own sins, or tears of joy as he contemplated the wonders of God's grace.

He was baptized at the age of twenty and withdrew to the desert, then settled in Edessa. Once, as he was walking to the city, a harlot approached him. Pretending to accept her proposition, he took her to the city's public square and suggested that they lie together there, in plain view. Horrified, the woman rebuked him, saying 'Have you no shame?' The Saint answered, 'Poor woman, you are afraid of being watched by other people; but why are you not afraid of being seen by God, who sees everything and, on the last day, will judge all our actions and most secret thoughts?' The woman repented and, with the Saint's help, embarked upon a new life.

The Saint returned to the desert for a time, then to Nisibis to aid the Persian Christians, persecuted because they were seen as allies of the Romans. When Nisibis finally fell under Persian rule, St Ephraim and his spiritual father St James both settled in Edessa. At that time Edessa was troubled by the gnostic heretic Bardaisan, one of whose devices was to compose attractive hymns, which became popular and enticed many away from the truth. Taking up Bardaisan's own weapons, St Ephraim composed a number of hymns, beautiful in word and melody, which poetically set forth the true Faith.

Hearing of the sanctity of St Basil the Great, St Ephraim traveled to Cappadocia to meet him. It is recorded that at their first meeting, St Basil greeted him: 'Art thou the Ephraim who hath beautifully bended his neck and taken upon himself the yoke of the saving Word?'; to which St Ephraim replied, 'I am Ephraim who hinder myself from traveling the way to heaven.' After discoursing with the Syrian Saint for some time, St Basil cried out 'O, if only I had thy sins!' Basil then ordained St Ephraim to the diaconate. He would have ordained him a priest but St Ephraim, feeling unworthy, refused to be ordained, then and for the rest of his life.

The Saint returned to a life of solitude; but when a famine broke out in Edessa in 372, he came forth to rebuke the wealthy for failing to share their wealth with the poor. Some replied that they knew no one whom they could trust with their goods, so St Ephraim persuaded them to give their alms to him for distribution to the poor. A true deacon, he cared for the sick with his own hands. The following year, he reposed in peace.

St Ephraim was the first to use hymnody and song to express the teaching of the Church, and so might be called the Church's first hymnographer. His works were probably an inspiration to St Romanos the Melodist, also a Syrian. He is said to have written more than three million lines of verse in Syriac, in addition to many homilies and treatises. Only a fraction of his work has been translated.

A beautiful selection of St Ephraim's writings can be found in A Spiritual Psalter, a collection edited by St Theophan the Recluse, available in English." Abbamoses.com



*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**

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## 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: 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke

<b>Sunday -</b>	<b>Epistle:</b> St. Paul's 1 <sup>st</sup> Letter to Timothy 4:9-15	<b>Gospel:</b> Luke 19:1-10
<b>Monday -</b>	<b>Epistle:</b> St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 7:26-28; 8:1-2	<b>Gospel:</b> John 10:9-16
<b>Tuesday -</b>	<b>Epistle:</b> St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2	<b>Gospel:</b> Luke 6:17-23
<b>Wednesday -</b>	<b>Epistle:</b> St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 10:32-38	<b>Gospel:</b> Mark 9:33-41
<b>Thursday -</b>	<b>Epistle:</b> St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 13:7-16	<b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 5:14-19
<b>Friday -</b>	<b>Epistle:</b> St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 12:27-31; 13:1-8	<b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 10:1, 5-8
<b>Saturday -</b>	<b>Epistle:</b> St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 8:28-39	<b>Gospel:</b> Luke 10:19-21
<b>Sunday -</b>	<b>Epistle:</b> St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 7:7-17	<b>Gospel:</b> Luke 2:22-40

## This Week's Schedule:

**Sunday / Today:** One Year Memorial for Lou (Elias) Boulmetis, Annual Parish Meeting after coffee hour  
**Wednesday:** Bible Study @ 6:00 PM, Akathist @ 7:00 PM  
**Saturday:** Vespers @ 5:00 PM & Adult Ed/Catechism Class @ 6:00 PM  
**Sunday:** Matins @ 8:50 AM & Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM

**Confessions Heard During/Following Vespers, During Matins & By Appt.**

## Weekly Sponsors:

<b>Olive Oil for Lamps:</b> No Offering	<b>Bulletin Sponsor:</b> No Offering
<b>Vigil Candle for our Patron Saint:</b> No Offering	<b>Altar Vigil Candle:</b> No Offering

If you would like to sponsor an item, please contact Katie at [katiekadlec@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## 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!

## Follow Our Church & Diocese On-Line At:

Parish Web Site: <https://www.stjamesorthodoxchurch.org/>  
Archdiocesan Website: <http://www.antiochian.org/>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/St-James-Orthodox-Church-Westminster-MD-166347036771272/>

## Save the Dates!

**Women's Book Club:** February 16, 2020 @ 12:00 PM - "Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives," Chapter 3  
**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 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

## 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". Jan 26 – Rivera Feb 2 – Slavnikov

## Coffee Hour Rotation

If you would like to be added to this rotation please contact Leanne Kitsko at: [leanne.kitsko@gmail.com](mailto: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.

January 26: Zach & Eva (Main, & Side), Jane (Side, Dessert & Drinks)

February 2: Potluck

February 9: Jim (Main, & Side), Leanne (Side, Dessert & Drinks)

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

Thank you for your time, efforts, and baking skills.

Jan 26 – Eleni Feb 2 – Heidi Feb 9 – Carol Feb 16 – Katie Feb 23 – Mel

## 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, Fr. John Dixon, Gregory, Catechumens Christian and James, Jesse and Juanita, Stavros, Joseph, Thomas, Yvgenia, Salvia Family, Repose of Priest Patrick. Please see Fr. Timothy to make an addition to this list.

## Translation of the relics (437) of St John Chrysostom (January 27)

"In the year after the Saint's repose both the Emperor Arcadius and his wife Eudoxia, who had been most responsible for St John's exile, died. Their son Theodosius II succeeded to the throne. Soon most of the exiled supporters of St John were restored to their sees. In 434 St Proclus, a disciple of St John Chrysostom, was made Archbishop of Constantinople, and persuaded the Emperor to have St John's relics solemnly translated from Comana to Constantinople. But all efforts to disinter his remains failed, as if his coffin were sealed in the earth. Learning of this, the Emperor wrote a letter to St John asking forgiveness for his father's persecution, and pleading with him to agree to return to the Imperial City for the benefit of the faithful. As soon as this letter was placed over the Saint's tomb, his coffin was removed with no difficulty and conveyed solemnly to Constantinople.

When the cortege reached Constantinople, the Emperor met it and prostrated himself before it, once again begging the Saint's forgiveness for the sins of the State against him. At last, the relics were deposited beneath the altar of the Church of the Holy Apostles, where they worked many miracles during the celebration of the Liturgy. Since then, the relics have been scattered throughout the world, where they never fail to reveal the Saint's loving presence." Abbamoses.com



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



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

