

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

602 Park Avenue, Omaha, Nebraska

Rev. Peter J. Pappas, *Presbyter* - Phone (402) 871-6241



Sunday, August 28, 2011

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost; Venerable Moses the Ethiopian (+400); Hezekiah, King of Judah; Righteous Anna the Prophetess; Diomedes and Laurence the Martyrs, Holy Martyr Akakios the Younger; Amphilochios, Bishop of Vladimir

The Bread of the Offering (*Prophoro*) was prepared by Olympia Axiotes.

Parish Council Ushers: Elizabeth Haddad / Nick Koliopoulos / Cathy Miedl / Joe Potratz

Community Ushers: Patrick and Randi Gude

Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Hymns of the Entrance



Resurrectional Hymn (Second Tone)

When you descended to the realm of death, You as life immortal rendered to Hades a mortal blow by Your all radiant divinity. And when You, from infernal depths and the darkness below, did raise the dead, all the hosts of heaven's powers did proclaim and cry out, "O life-giving Christ and our God we give glory."

Entrance Hymn (Second Tone): Come, let us bow down to Christ, as we worship Him, the Son of God. Save us, O Son of God, who are risen from the dead. We sing to You, "Alleluia!"

Resurrectional Hymn (Second Tone) - *Repeat*

Hymn of St. John the Baptizer (Second Tone)

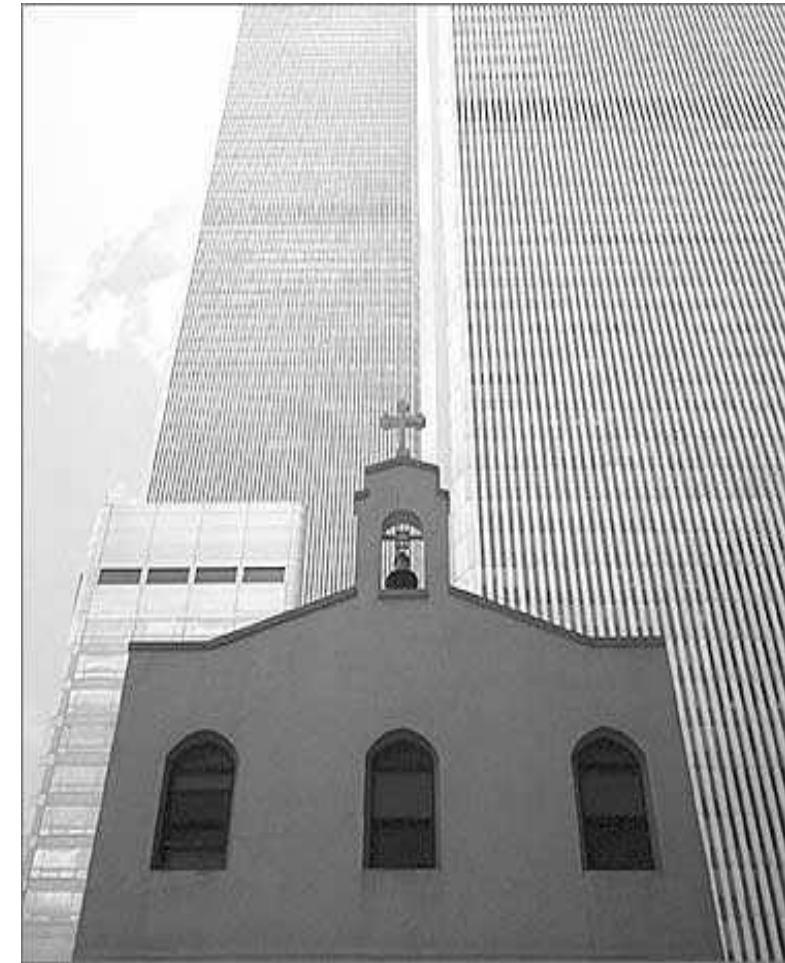
A righteous man is remembered with peace, for you Forerunner the Lord's witness is enough. You were shown to be greater in honor than the prophets, for you were revealed to baptize in the stream the One you had foretold. Therefore, rejoicing, you suffered for the sake of truth, and you proclaimed the good news to those in Hades, that God had appeared in the flesh to take away the sin of the world, and grant our souls His great mercy.

Kontakion Hymn of the Nativity of the *Theotokos* (Fourth Tone)

By your holy birth-giving, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness; Adam and Eve were delivered from the corruption of death. Your people do celebrate it, having been saved from the stain of iniquity, crying unto you, "The barren one gives birth to the Theotokos, who nourishes our life."

**September 11
Memorial Service**

on the tenth anniversary of the
terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001



Sunday, September 11
following the Divine Liturgy

Pan Orthodox Christian Council of Omaha

presents

Fall Retreat with Fr. Paisius Altschul

September 23 and 24

Friday, September 23

Time: 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Location:

St Mary Antiochian Church
10303 Boyd Street
Omaha, Nebraska

Cost: Free

Topics:

- The Story of St Mary of Egypt in Kansas City
- The African Christian Heritage

Saturday, September 24

Time: 8:30 am to 3:30 pm

Location:

St John's Greek Orthodox Church
602 Park Ave
Omaha, Nebraska

Cost (Includes Lunch):

\$10 pre-registration (see below)
\$15 at the door

Topics:

- Holiness in Contemporary Culture
- Overcoming the Passions
- The Saints of Africa



Fr. Paisius Altschul is an Orthodox Priest and Pastor of St. Mary of Egypt Orthodox Church in Kansas City, MO. He is the Executive Director of Reconciliation Services in mid-town Kansas City on Troost Ave, an interdenominational outreach to those in need and the social services arm of their parish—which focuses on substance abuse treatment and recovery, trauma support and recovery, case management, and cultural proficiency. Much of the work includes multi-system work with individuals, family, and community healing.

pre-registration form

Pan Orthodox Fall Retreat with Fr. Paisius

To register, please detach and mail this form with your \$10 fee, check payable to Pan-Orthodox Council of Omaha. Mailing Address: ATTN POCCO- 2502 N 51st St Omaha, Nebraska 68104

Early registration forms must be received by September 19, 2011 to qualify for the pre-registration rate

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Parish: _____

Address: _____ How did you find out about the event? _____



The Readings

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12 (p. 185 in the pew Bibles)

Reader: Adam Oleson

Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35 (p. 21 in the pew Bibles)

Welcome, Visitors! Please join us for refreshments following the Divine Liturgy in the fellowship hall. Today's Fellowship Hour is sponsored by the Brotherhood of St. Moses the Black in Omaha.

Church School classes will resume on September 11 following the Gospel Reading until Holy Communion and then the regular schedule following Holy Communion beginning on September 18. Registration materials are available in the narthex and the fellowship hall.

Festival News: Thank you to all who contributed to the success of the 2011 edition of Omaha's Original Greek festival last weekend at the Canfield Plaza. Preliminary (gross) financial results are available on the east bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

"You sure set up a great event! I am so happy I was part of it! Thank you so much - we had 26 people sign up and 21 good units of blood." - Mia Wilcoxson, American Red Cross

School Days: Please consider helping the children at Jackson School with school supplies. See the display in the second floor hallway for details.

Beheading of St. John the Baptizer: We will offer the Divine Liturgy on Monday, August 29, 10:00 a.m. This feastday of our patron saint is also a day of fasting.

Neighborhood Development: All are invited to a public hearing regarding proposed improvements to Park Avenue and Leavenworth Street on Thursday, September 1, 6:30 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, 542 S. 31st. Street (West of St. John's on Jackson Street).

Community Meals are held every Saturday at First Baptist Church (421 Park Avenue) for the needy in our neighborhood. St. John's is next scheduled to host the meal on Saturday, October 29. At the last meal our parish received a certificate of appreciation for our continuing efforts. Please contact Angie Lewis for details. The Pan-Orthodox Christian Council of Omaha (POCCO) will be hosting the meal on Saturday, December 10.



Join us for a Pan Orthodox Book Study

LIVING THE FAITH

THE *PRAxis* OF EASTERN ORTHODOX ETHICS



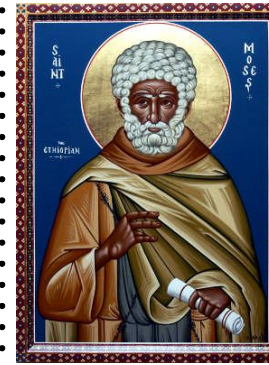
Monday Evenings, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
September 12 - November 21

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
602 Park Avenue, Omaha, Nebraska 68105
(402) 345-7103 • office@stjohnsgreekorthodox.org

Book by the Rev. Dr. Stanley Samuel Harakas
Please contact the St. John's church office
or your parish representative by September 8
to purchase the book (Cost: \$25).



Sponsored by the Pan Orthodox Christian Council of Omaha



Today is the Feast of St. Moses the Ethiopian, who was a former gang leader, murderer, and thief in ancient Africa. However, he became a model of transformation. His is one of the most inspiring stories among the African saints.

Moses, a slave who was banished because of his evil ways, became the leader of a group of 75 ruthless thieves. He was a large and powerful man, who with his gang terrorized the entire region. Moses was transformed after he and his group attacked a monastery, intending to rob it. He was met by the abbot, whose peaceful and warm manner overwhelmed him. He immediately felt remorse for all his past sins, sincerely repented, and begged to remain at the monastery.

Moses was tortured by his past and for years was tempted to return to his old ways. One day, as he was confessing his sins to St. Macarius, an angel appeared with a tablet full of his sins. As he confessed, the angel began wiping the tablet clean. The more he confessed, the more the angel wiped, until by the end it was completely clean. After meeting St. Macarius and St. Isidore, he completely left his old ways behind him and became a monk.

Later, St. Moses was ordained to the priesthood - a rare honor among the Desert Fathers - and founded a monastery with 75 monks, the same number as his former group of thieves. He was known for his wisdom, humility, love, and non-judgment of others. Once a brother had been caught in a particular sin, and the abbot asked St. Moses to come to the church and render judgment. He came reluctantly, carrying on his back a basket with a hole in it filled with sand. When he arrived, the brothers asked him what the basket might mean. He replied, "My sins run out behind me, and I do not see them, and I have come this day to judge failings which are not mine." At that reply, the brothers forgave the offender and returned to focusing on their own salvation rather than the sins of their brother.

At age 75, St. Moses warned his monks that brigands would descend upon the skete and murder all who were there. The saint blessed his monks to leave in order to avoid a violent death and they begged him to leave with them. However, he chose to remain there, along with seven others, one of whom hid nearby during the attack of the robbers. The attackers killed St. Moses and six monks with him about the year 400.

The Brotherhood of St. Moses the Black is a Pan Orthodox ministry that exists to offer the treasures of Orthodoxy to all Americans, black and white, and to highlight the African roots of Christianity. Margaret Rainbolt will have an information table in the fellowship hall today. Please see her and learn more about this important mission.



Looking Ahead...

Monday	8/29	Divine Liturgy Beheading of St. John the Baptizer (Fast Day)	10:00 a.m.
Thursday	9/1	Ecclesiastical New Year Public Hearing at First Lutheran Church (542 S. 31st St.)	6:30 p.m.
Saturday	9/3	Newcomb Baptism	11:00 a.m.
Sunday	9/4	Matins (Ushers: Team B) Divine Liturgy (<i>Prosporo</i> : Helen Amlin) (Ushers: Scott & Anastasia Goodman) Pantelogianis / Sgourakis Wedding	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 4:30 p.m.