

The Conception of St. John the Baptist

In the hills of Judea lived the righteous priest Saint Zachariah and his wife Saint Elizabeth. The couple remained childless in their old age, and they prayed unceasingly to God to grant them a child.

Once, when Saint Zachariah went behind the veil of the Sanctuary, he beheld an angel of God standing at the right side of the altar of incense. Saint Zachariah was astonished and halted in fear, but the angel said to him, "Fear not, Zachariah, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John." But Zachariah did not believe the words of the heavenly messenger, and then the angel said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stand in the presence of God; and I was sent to speak to you, and to bring you the good news. Behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things come to pass, because you did not believe my words...."

When Zachariah left the sanctuary he explained by gestures that he was unable to speak, the people then understood that he had experienced a vision. The prophecy of the Archangel was fulfilled, and Righteous Elizabeth was delivered from her barrenness, and gave birth to John, the Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord.

St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the West

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Reflection adapted from oca.org; Hymnography from oca.org

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Sunday, September 23rd, 2018

Conception of St. John the Baptist

17th Sunday after Pentecost

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Readings

Epistle 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1; Galatians 4: 22-31
Gospel Luke 5:1-11; Luke 1: 5-25

Tone 8 Troparion (Resurrection)

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!// O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

Tone 4 Troparion (Conception of John the Baptist)

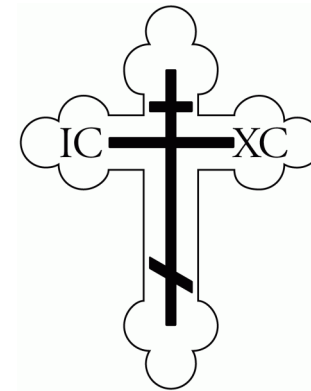
Rejoice, O barren one, who formerly didst not bear a child, for thou hast conceived the Lamp of the Sun, Who is to illumine the whole universe darkened by blindness! Rejoice, O Zachariah, and cry out with boldness:// "The Prophet of the Most High desires to be born!"

Tone 8 Kontakion (Resurrection)

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam. Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

Tone 1 Kontakion

Great Zachariah rejoices with his wife, the far-famed Elizabeth, for she has fittingly conceived John the Forerunner, whom an Angel announced in gladness; and whom we rightly honor//



This Week at St. Herman's

Sunday, September 23rd - Conception of St. John the Baptist

- 9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy
- Children's and Teenager's class after Liturgy
- Coffee Hour in the parish hall

Monday, September 24th - New Martyrs of Alaska

- 7:00 PM - Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 25th - St. Sergius of Radonezh

- 7:00 PM - Great Vespers for St. John

Wednesday, September 26th - St. John the Theologian *Fish Wine & Oil*

- 6:45 AM - Coffee and Books

Saturday, September 29th - Ven Cyriacus

- 6:30 PM - Jesus Prayer
- 7:00 PM - Great Vespers