



St. Anna Orthodox Shrine Youth Weekly Bulletin

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Apolytikion of the 3rd Sunday of Matthew

When You descended unto death, O Lord who yourself are immortal Life, then did You mortify Hades by the lightning flash of Your Divinity. Also when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the Powers of the heavens were crying out: O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory be to You.

Akylina the Martyr of Syria, Eulogios, Patriarch of Antioch, and our venerable mother Anna and her son John. The Epistle reading is taken from Romans 6:18-23, the Gosple is Matthew 8:5-13.

St. Akylina Martyr of Syria

This Martyr contested in Byblos of Syria during the reign of Diocletian, in 289. Her parents raised her with Christian piety. When the girl was only twelve years old, she persuaded a pagan friend to convert to Christ. One of the servants of the imperial governor accused her of teaching others not to follow the religion of their fathers. The girl firmly confessed her faith in Christ before the governor and said that she would not renounce Him. The Governor tried to influence the young confessor through persuasion and by flattery, but seeing her confidence, he ordered her to be tortured.

They struck her upon the face, and then they stripped her and beat her with whips. The torturer asked, "Where then is your God? Let Him come and take you out of my hands".

The saint answered, "The Lord is here with me invisibly, and the more I suffer, the more strength and endurance will He give me." Her ears were pierced with heated spits until blood ran from her nostrils; finally she was beheaded.

Christians buried the martyr's body. Later, her relics were taken to Constantinople and placed in a church named for her.



The Holy Apostles Fast

On Monday, May 31 the Church entered the third of four major fasting periods; this fast is called the Apostles Fast.

Having rejoiced for fifty days following Pascha the Apostles began to prepare for their departure from Jerusalem to spread Christ's message throughout the world. As part of their preparation, they began a fast with prayer to ask God to strengthen their resolve and to be with them during their missionary efforts as they spread the Gospel.

The tradition of the Apostles' Fast has existed at least since Pope Leo I (461 AD), as is evidenced by his homilies. The Fast is thought to have been instituted out of thanksgiving to God for the witness of the Apostles of Our Lord. During this fast the people express their thanks for the Apostles' endurance of persecution during their mission.

The length of the fast varies and is determined by the date of Pascha. The fasting period always begins the Monday after All Saints Sunday and ends on June 29 with the feast of Saints Peter and Paul. This year the fasting period is 29 days, however next year because Pascha falls late there is only a nine day Apostles Fast period.

Teachings on Fasting

Fasting is wonderful, because it tramples our sins like a dirty weed, while it cultivates and raises truth like a flower. - St John Chrysostom

There is both a physical and a spiritual fast. In the physical fast the body abstains from food and drink. In the spiritual fast, the faster abstains from evil intentions, words and deeds. One who truly fasts abstains from anger, rage, malice, and vengeance. One who truly fasts abstains from idle and foul talk, empty rhetoric, slander, condemnation, flattery, lying and all manner of spiteful talk. In a word, a real faster is one who withdraws from all evil. As much as you subtract from the body, so much will you add to the strength of the soul.

Father's Day Coffee Hour

Next Sunday, June 20, the GOYA will offer coffee hour to honor the fathers, grandfathers, godfather, and of course spiritual fathers! The children will be offering something a little different that day, a nacho/taco salad bar. Please join the kids in a fun coffee hour!

Follow the kids...

Over the summer the youth will update the parish on their travels and activities via the youth blog found at www.saintanna.org/youth. They will share stories, funny moments, and of course pictures! The youth are looking forward to a fun summer in the sun!

JOY/GOYA Six Flag Discovery Kingdom Trip

This year we will be taking our JOY and GOYAnS who would like to attend to Marine World on Tuesday, June 22. We will be departing the Church at 9:00 am for a full day of fun and excitement. Tickets for the park are \$26 per participant. Transportation costs are not included in ticket price. Chaperons are needed! To reserve your families place please pay for tickets to Michelle Hawe today!

Weekly Schedule

Mon., June 14-Wed, June 16	GOYA	6:30 pm
Saturday, June 19	Young Adults Miniature Golf	5:00 pm
Sunday, June 20	Father's Day Luncheon	11:30 am

Save the Date

June 14-16 GOYA Disneyland Trip
June 22 Discovery Kingdom Trip (JOY)
June 27 Staff Religious Education Meeting
July 11-17 Parish to Summer Camp

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Religious Education: Religious Education is over for the year. Religious Education staff will have a meeting on June 27 after Divine Services.

GOYA News: Monday the GOYA will be departing for Southern California. During their trip they will visit the beach, Disneyland, and a sister parish. The GOYAN's will return on Wednesday evening.

JOY/HOPE News: JOY and HOPE has concluded for the Summer. We will be having small day trips throughout the summer to keep the group together. If you are interested in organizing an activity please let Michelle Hawe know.

Summer Camp: During the summer our parish will attend St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center for the first session of Summer Camp, July 11-17. Throughout the week our youth will participate in the worship cycle, faith based discussions, swimming, arts and crafts, sports, a trip to the Sequoia's, and the annual Olympics. All the youth that have experienced camp love it and look forward to going back the next year because of their experiences and friendships that are made.

There is still room, if you would like to go to camp please download the forms from www.saintanna.org/youth. When submitting your family paperwork to the camp please keep a copy of the first page of the application and submit it to Michelle Hawe.

End of the Year Activities

