

**Russian Orthodox Church of the  
Resurrection of Christ**

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**Schedule for the Week of September 6 - 12, 2009**

Sunday Sep 6	Hierom. Eutychius 9:00 AM Service
Friday Sep 11	Beheading of St. John the Baptist 9:00 AM Service
Saturday Sep 12	5:30 PM Vigil
Sunday Sep 13	Hierom. Cyprian of Carthage 8:30 AM Confessions, Nocturns 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy / Литургия

**Притча о злых виноградарях**  
(беседа на Мф. 21,33-42)

Сегодняшнее евангельское чтение говорит нам, что создал Господь целый мир – прекрасный, дивный, оградил его Своей крепостью и Своим провидением, все приготовил в нем, чтобы он был местом Царства Божия, то есть Царства взаимной любви, Царства радости. И мы знаем, что мы, люди, сделали из этого мира место, где страшно жить, где льется кровь, где совершаются бесчеловечные, жестокие поступки. И не только в широком, мировом масштабе, но в масштабе семьи, в масштабе прихода, в масштабе круга близких друзей. И Господь из поколения в поколение посылал Своих вестников: патриархов, пророков, ангелов, посылал апостолов и проповедников, Предтечу, Сам пришел напомнить нам, что мир создан для любви. И так же, как в притче, виноградары взяли, вывели из виноградника и убил сына, так и человечество отнеслось к воплощенному Сыну Божию. И когда я говорю «человечество», я говорю не о других, а о нас самих, потому что нам жизнь вручена, чтобы из нее сделать торжество любви, братства, гармонии, веры, радости, и мы этого не делаем, потому что думаем только о себе самих... (Мит. Антоний Сурожский)

**Усекновение главы Св. Иоанна Предтечи**

Об этом событии повествует евангелист Матфей.

Царь Ирод Антипа заключил святого Иоанна Предтечу в темницу за то, что он обличал его в преступлении, строго осуждавшемся законом. Царь сожительствовал с Иродиадой, которая была супругой его родного брата Филиппа и даже имела от него дочь Соломию. Ироду казалось что пророк своими обличениями подрывает его авторитет в народе, и чтобы пресечь это, приказал заточить Предтечу, не ршаясь, впрочем, убить его, так как боялся народа, почитавшего Иоанна Крестителя как пророка. В день своего рождения царь устроил пир. Племянница Ирода, дочь его незаконной жены Иродиады, плясала перед приглашенными и так угодила им и самому Ироду, что он в порыве тщеславной щедрости пообещал, что отдаст танцовщице даже полцарства, если она только пожелает. Наученная своей матерью, девица вместо богатств и золота потребовала принести ей на блюде голову того, кого не был достоин весь мир. Ирод, ради клятвы, хоть и несправедной, не захотел отказать в незаконном требовании и послал в темницу стража, чтобы тот исполнил пожелание Соломии и ее матери.

С древнейших времен Церковь совершала в этот день строгий пост. В народном фольклоре отразилось глубокое переживание христианами этого события, которые из поколения в поколение передавали запрет петь в день Усекновения главы святого Иоанна Крестителя любые песни и плясать.

**The Beheading of the Prophet, ForeRunner  
of the Lord, John the Baptist:**  
(From the synaxarion)

The Evangelists Matthew (Mt 14:1-12) and Mark (Mk 6:14-29) provide accounts about the Martyr's end of John the Baptist in the year 32 after the Birth of Christ.

Following the Baptism of the Lord, Saint John the Baptist was locked up in prison by Herod Antipas, holding one-fourth the rule of the Holy Land as governor of Galilee. (After the death of king Herod the Great, the Romans divided the territory of Palestine into four parts, and into each part put a governor. Herod Antipas received from the emperor Augustus the rule of Galilee). The prophet of God John openly denounced Herod for having left his lawful wife -- the daughter of the Arabian king Aretas -- and then instead co-habiting with Herodias -- the wife of his brother Philip (Lk 3:19-20). On his birthday, Herod made a feast for dignitaries, the elders and a thousand chief citizens. The daughter of Herod, Salome, danced before the guests and charmed Herod. In gratitude to the girl he swore to give her anything, whatsoever she would ask, anything up to half his kingdom. The vile girl on the advice of her wicked mother Herodias asked, that she be given at once the head of John the Baptist on a plate. Herod became apprehensive, for he feared the wrath of God for the murder of a prophet, whom earlier he had heeded. He feared also the people, who loved the holy ForeRunner. But because of the guests and his careless oath, he gave orders to cut off the head of Saint John and to give it to Salome. By tradition, the mouth of the dead head of the preacher of repentance once more opened and proclaimed: "Herod, thou ought not to have the wife of Philip thy brother." Salome took the plate with the head of Saint John and gave it to her mother. The frenzied Herodias repeatedly stabbed the tongue of the prophet with a needle and buried his holy head in a unclean place. But the pious Joanna, wife of Herod's steward Chuza, buried the head of John the Baptist in an earthen vessel on the Mount of Olives, where Herod was possessor of a parcel of land. (The Uncovering of the Venerable Head is celebrated 24 February). The holy body of John the Baptist was taken that night by his disciples and buried at Sebasteia, there where the wicked deed had been done. After the murder of Saint John the Baptist, Herod continued to govern for a certain while. Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea, later sent to him the bound Jesus Christ, over Whom he made mockery (Lk 23:7-12).

The judgement of God came upon Herod, Herodias and Salome, even during their earthly life. Salome, crossing the River Sikoris in winter, fell

through the ice. The ice gave way for her such that her body was in the water, but her head trapped beneath the ice. It was similar to how she once had danced with her feet upon the ground, but now flailing helplessly in the icy water. Thus she was trapped until that time when the sharp ice cut through her neck. The corpse was not found, but they brought the head to Herod and Herodias, as once they had brought them the head of Saint John the Baptist. The Arab king Aretas in revenge for the disrespect shown his daughter made war against Herod. Having suffered defeat, Herod suffered the wrath of the Roman emperor Caius Caligua (37-41) and was exiled with Herodias first to Gaul, and then to Spain. And there they were from view.

In memory of the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist, the feastday established by the Church is also a strict day of fast -- as an expression of the grief of Christians at the violent death of the saint. On this day the Church makes remembrance of soldiers, killed on the field of battle, as established in 1769 at the time of a war of Russia with the Turks and the Poles.

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*St. John the Baptist had been martyred by King Herod. John was Jesus' cousin and friend, and his death must have touched Jesus deeply. He sought refuge from the crowds as we read in St. Matthew 14:13: "When Jesus heard of it, he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart."*

*Jesus wanted to be alone to grieve, but the crowd pressed Him with their needs and wouldn't let Him get away (v.14). Seeing the multitudes and their pain Jesus was moved with compassion for them. Despite His own heartache, he began to heal their sick. He didn't let His own grief keep Him from ministering to them.*

*Perhaps you're a caregiver – pastor, teacher, nurse, counselor, spouse or family member. You have struggles, disappointments, heartaches and discouragements – and it seems at time that no one cares about you.*

*But God knows your sorrow as no one else does, and He understands the depths of your misery. You can give your cares to Him and find in His presence His love, consolation, and the strength you need to move from your own grief to the grief of others. "Cast all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7). This will help make it possible for you to continue to care for others.*