had done.

ly the king sent a soldier of the guard and gave orders to bring his head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, exceedingly sorry; but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her. And immediate-

king, and asked, saying, Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom. He said, I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter. And the king was 

And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and kept him safe. When he heard him, he was much perplexed; and yet he heard him gladly. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and the leading men of Galilee. For when Herodias’ daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, “Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will grant it.” And he vowed to her, “Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.” And she went out, and said to her mother, “What shall I ask?” And she said, “And she came in immediately with haste to the king, and asked, saying, ‘I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.’ And the king was exceedingly sorry; but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her. And immediate-

ly the king sent a soldier of the guard and gave orders to bring his head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, and brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb. The apostles returned to Jesus and told Him all that they had done and taught.

GOSPEL

Mark 6:14-30

At that time, Herod the King heard about the fame of Jesus, for His name had become known. He said, “John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; that is why these powers are at work in Him.” But others said, “It is Elijah.” And others said, “It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.” But when Herod heard of it he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.” For Herod had sent and seized John and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip’s; because he had married her. For John said to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s. And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and kept him safe. When he heard him, he was much perplexed; and yet he heard him gladly. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and the leading men of Galilee. For when Herodias’ daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, “Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will grant it.” And he vowed to her, “Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.” And she went out, and said to her mother, “What shall I ask?” And she said, “And she came in immediately with haste to the king, and asked, saying, ‘I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.’ And the king was exceedingly sorry; but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her. And immediate-

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Eternal Rest, O Lord!

Helen Panarities (40 days)
Demetra Economos Anas (1 year)
Giannoula Mitrothanasis (1 year)
Vasiliki Crisafis (9 years)
Irene Dionisopoulos (41 years)

May they rest in peace and rise in glory and may their memory be eternal!

Save and Protect, O Lord,

His Eminence Metropolitan Panteleimon of Antinoos, His Eminence Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia, Abbes Christophora, Constantina Speris, Anatoly Seraphim, Megan, Patrick, Paul, Doris, Shelika, Nicole, Dean, Ourania Mantzouranis,

40-Day Blessing

Rhodes Penelope Case, daughter of Nicole and Brian Case

May God grant her many and blessed years!
Apolytikion to St. George

O Trophy-bearer, Great Martyr George, who freed captives, supported the poor, healed the sick, was a champion of kings, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved!

Ἀπολυτίκιον
Ὡς τῶν αἰχμαλώτων ἐλευθερωτής, καὶ τῶν πτωχῶν ὑπερασπιστής, ἀσθενούντων ἰατρός, βασιλέων ὑπέρμαχος,Τροπαιοφόρε
Μεγαλομάρτυς Γεώργιε, πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ,σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

THE BEHEADERING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST AND FORERUNNER
August 29, 2021

THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE

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Orthodox Thinking on Martyrdom

The early church’s theology of martyrdom was born not in synods or councils, but in sunlit, blood-drenched coliseums and catacombs, dark and still as death. The Greek word ‘martyr’ means ‘witness’ and is used as such throughout the New Testament. However, as the Roman Empire became increasingly hostile toward Christianity, the distinctions between witnessing and suffering became blurred and finally nonexistent. In the second century, martyr was the technical term for a person who had died for Christ, while confessor was defined as one who proclaimed Christ’s lordship at trial but did not suffer the death penalty. A 177 A.D. passage by Eusebius describes the survivors of the persecution in Lyons (modern France): “They were also so zealous in their imitation of Christ … that, though they had attained honor, and had borne witness, not once or twice, but many times – having been brought back to prison from the wild beasts, covered with burns and scars and wounds – yet they did not proclaim themselves martyrs, nor did they suffer us to address them by this name. If any one of us, in letter or conversation, spoke of them as martyrs, they rebuked him sharply…. And they reminded us of the martyrs who had already departed, and said, “They are already martyrs whom Christ has deemed worthy to be taken up in their confession, having sealed their testimony by their departure; but we are lowly and humble confessors.” The total surrender of the martyrs is a lesson for us. Though martyrdom is often viewed as strange or unreal today, it is in its genuine sense the path to glory for Orthodox Christians, a selfless way to intimacy with God, and a sign of our total love for and adoration of the Great Martyr of all: the Lord Jesus Christ. St. John the Baptist’s true martyrdom was his greatest witness to the very words he preached: “He must become greater; I must become less.” (John 3:30) May each of us take seriously this call to selfless giving everyday of our lives and let us keep in our prayers our brother and sister Christians throughout the world who suffer martyrdom today. St. John, Holy Forerunner, pray to God for us that we may have the strength of faith witnessed by the early martyrs of the Church. May He become greater, and we become less!

Resurrectional Apolytikion  Mode 1

Although the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers guarded Your most pure body, You arose on the third day, O Savior, giving life to the world. For this reason, the heavenly powers cried out to you, O Giver of Life: Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ!

Ἀπολυτίκιον Ἡμών ἐν Θεῷ ἡμῶν ἐλθοντῃ τῷ Νεκρῷ, γίνεται Κωμοί ἐσσομένοι συναλλαγήν, Θεοδότῃ καὶ Μεγαλομάρτῃ Θεῷ, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

THE BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN

O Trophy-Bearer, Great Martyr George, who freed captives, supported the poor, healed the sick, was a champion of kings, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved!

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