

SAINT GEORGE ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

HIS EMINENCE, ARCHBISHOP ALEXANDER OF TOLEDO: RECTOR

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December 15, 2019

26th Sunday After Pentecost - Tone 1
Sunday of the Forefathers
Hieromartyr Eleutherius, Bishop of Illyria



From the Fathers...

“As soon as you realize that you have sinned against the Lord, add no more wounds to your bruises. But if as a human you fall again, don't get despondent, don't despair. For how will the loving Lord, Who told Peter to forgive seventy times seven in a day, not forgive us?”

- Elder Joseph the Hesychast



Welcome Visitors!

We are delighted to have visitors worship with us, and we pray that you will be blessed through your participation with us. In the Orthodox Church, the reception of Holy Communion is a mark of membership in the Church. Only those who have been united to the Orthodox Church through Baptism or Chrismation, and have prepared themselves through regular Confession, prayer and fasting are permitted to partake of Holy Communion. We encourage visitors to participate in our prayers and hymns and to join us in venerating the Cross and receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. Literature about the Orthodox faith and this parish can be found in the vestibule. Please feel free to ask questions before or after the service, as well as join us in the Parish Hall for refreshments and fellowship after the Liturgy.



O Master, Thou didst deliver the holy Youths from the fire, / and Daniel from the mouths of lions; / Thou didst bless Abraham, Isaac, Thy servant, and Jacob, his son; / Thou didst consent to become like us by being born of their seed, / to be crucified and buried, / in order to save our Forefathers, who fell of old. / Thus Thou didst crush the bonds of death, / raising with Thyself all the dead of ages past, // who worship Thee, O Christ, thou King of the ages.

Today, let us the faithful acclaim / all the Fathers before the Law: / Abraham, the friend of God, / Isaac, born of the promise, / Jacob and the twelve Patriarchs, / honoring with these the gentle David, / and Daniel, the Prophet of Desires, / and the three Youths who changed the furnace into dew. / Let us ask forgiveness of Christ our God, // Who is glorified in His saints! (*Stichera of Lord, I Call*)

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TODAY'S WORSHIP - HYMNS AND SCRIPTURE READINGS

Resurrection Troparion in Tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,/ while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body,/ Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, / granting life to the world./ The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life:/ "Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!/ Glory to Thy Kingdom!// Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind!"

Forefathers Troparion in Tone 2

Through faith Thou didst justify the Forefathers, / betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles. / These saints exult in glory, / for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit: / she who bore Thee without seed.// So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Forefathers Kontakion in Tone 6

Ye did not worship the graven image,/ O thrice-blessed ones,/ but armed with the immaterial Essence of God,/ ye were glorified in a trial by fire./ From the midst of unbearable flames ye called on God, crying:/ "Hasten, O compassionate One! / Speedily come to our aid,// for Thou art merciful and able to do as Thou dost will!"



Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.



Gospel: Luke 14:16-24

Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.'

But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So that servant came and reported these things to his master.

Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.'

For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.'"

THIS WEEK AND LIFE IN CHRIST

Sunday, December 15th

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

12:00 PM Advent Celebration

Sunday of the Forefathers

Hieromartyr Eleutherius, Bishop of Illyria

St. Stephen the Confessor, Archbishop of Surozh

Colossians 3:4-11, Luke 14:16-24

Monday, December 16th

Prophet Haggai

Martyr Marinus of Rome

1 Timothy 5:1-10, Mark 9:42-10:1

Tuesday, December 17th

9:00 AM Office Hours

6:30 PM Parish Council Meeting

Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths:

Ananias, Azarias, and Misael

1 Timothy 5:11-21, Mark 10:2-12

Wednesday, December 18th

9:00 AM Office Hours

Martyr Sebastian of Rome and his companions

St. Modestus, Archbishop of Jerusalem

1 Timothy 5:22-6:11, Mark 10:11-16

Thursday, December 19th

Martyr Boniface of Tarsus in Cilicia & Righteous Aglais

Martyrs Elias, Probus, and Ares, in Cilicia

1 Timothy 6:17-21, Mark 10:17-27

Friday, December 20th

Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ

Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-bearer, Bishop of Antioch

Repose of St. John of Kronstadt

2 Timothy 1:1-2, 8-18, Mark 10:23-32

Saturday, December 21st

5:00 PM Great Vespers

Forefeast of Nativity of Christ, Saturday before Nativity

Virgin-Martyr Juliana of Nicomedia

Galatians 3:8-12, Galatians 5:22-6:2

Luke 13:18-29, Luke 16:10-15

Sunday, December 22nd

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Forefeast of Nativity of Christ, Sunday before Nativity

Greatmartyr Anastasia

Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40

Matthew 1:1-25

Holy Youths and Faithful Children



The Prophet Daniel and his companions, the three Holy Youths Ananias, Azarias and Misael faced many temptations.

The four boys lived at the time of a great tragedy—the conquest of the Kingdom of Judah by the Babylonian Empire. The four were among the masses of Jews who were taken away into exile, in what we know as the "Babylonian Captivity." Attractive and intelligent, they were chosen to be trained for service in the court of King Nebuchadnezzar.

But in spite of intense indoctrination in the language and philosophy of their captives, these four refused to worship the gods of the Babylonians. They were given beautiful clothes, food from the royal table, and other special privileges. Nothing could make them abandon their faith in the God they knew.

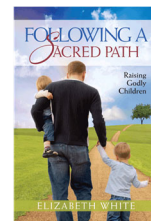
Our children and young people face their own challenges. In our culture, full of temptations to abandon that faith, are there ways in which parents and families can help children be strong in the Orthodox faith? A notable book answers "yes."

Elizabeth White's "Following a Sacred Path: Raising Godly Children" (Ancient Faith Publishing, Chesterton, Indiana 2013) presents methods and activities to nourish a strong faith in a child, so that he or she will stay on that "sacred path" for life. The author is a Montessori teacher, and is also trained in the use of the "Catechesis of the Good Shepherd" program. As she writes, the parable of the Good Shepherd is an especially appealing and important one for young children, who need to feel that they are loved and protected by someone they can completely trust.

Each chapter of the book begins with a quotation from an educator or from Scripture. This is followed by a list of three or four objectives—things the reader should realize after finishing the chapter. At the end of the chapter are suggested activities, based on the chapter's contents. One chapter discusses the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit enumerated in Isaiah 11: 1-2. The author offers ways to present them to a child. In another chapter, she advises parents and teachers to ask questions that will encourage children to think and work out answers, rather than cutting off thinking by giving answers.

The book reflects admirable compassion for all kinds of people. For example, the author writes that her church school class creates Christmas cards to be given to homeless people at the parish's Christmas dinner. She asks her young students not to include a cheery message in their cards because writing something like "Have a great Christmas" would "only serve as a reminder that Christmas is not so great" for the homeless. Instead, she writes a note that tells the recipient, "We are keeping you in our prayers."

Elizabeth White took a survey as she began her writing, asking Orthodox parents what they felt was their primary goal. Her personal favorite response is this one: "To help the child fall in love with God." Her book can help parents and teachers accomplish that beautiful goal.



HAVE A QUESTION OR NEED TO CHAT? CALL OR EMAIL FR. GREGORY.

2019 Holiday Cookie Sale

Thank you to all who helped with the annual Holiday Cookie Sale! We had over 9000 cookies for sale and had a wonderful day! Thank you to all who baked, assisted, advertised, and prayed!

Growing Young

The Growing Young Initiative starts today. More information during coffee hour.

Christmas Flowers

Christmas flowers can be sponsored in honor of the living or as a memorial for the deceased. Poinsettias will be available. Forms are available in the narthex. There are limited number of plants available. Donations will be taken on a first come first served basis. Return the form to Stan Pentsos, any parish council member, or place it in the collection basket on Sundays. The names of those honored or memorialized will be published at a later date.

Nativity Choir Rehearsal

Choir practice for Christmas Eve will be on **Tuesday, December 17th at 6:00pm.**

Upcoming Services for Nativity of Christ

Please join us for worship and fellowship as we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ:

Tuesday, December 24th	Great Vespers	5:00pm
Wednesday, December 25th	Divine Liturgy	9:00am

Confession Available

Fr. Gregory is available to hear confessions after Vespers and by appointment. The Nativity Fast is a great time to come to confession. Just a reminder, confession and communion are Diocesan Bylaw requirements to maintain full voting membership in the parish.

Nativity Fast

The Nativity Fast began on **Friday, November 15th**. During this time, Orthodox Christians traditionally abstain from meat and dairy products until the Feast of the Nativity of Christ. Fish is generally allowed on Saturdays and Sunday until **December 20th** when we enter the Forefeast of the Feast. Considerations are made for those are elderly, ill, or pregnant and nursing mothers. Please discuss any questions about fasting with Fr. Gregory.

Pan-Orthodox Vespers

There will be Pan-Orthodox Vespers on **Saturday, January 4th** at 6:00pm at St. George (Woodley).

Pan-Orthodox Game Night

There will be a Pan-Orthodox Game Night on **Sunday, January 19th** at St. George (Woodley).

We are praying for...

Health and Well-Being:

Anthony, Maria, Tanya, Melissa, Kelly, Lawrence, Mary, Brian, Karen, Sandy, Panka, George, Cheryl, Barb, and the kidnapped hierarchs Metropolitan Boulos and Archbishop Yohanna of Aleppo; and those being persecuted for their faith in the Middle East.

Catechumens:

Tyson, Jessica, Marilla, Harry, Tim, Laura, Ethan, Naomi, Olivia, Daniel, Phoebe, Ezekiel, and Jachin.



Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary Lamp is lit today for everyone who helped and contributed to the baking. Many years!

Trisagion

The Trisagion service today is in memory of Pavel Babich (Mat. Ksenia's father). May his memory be eternal!



Celebrations

Birthdays:

Aleksy Russin (12/21)

Name's Days:

Dan Ostas, Sr (12/17)
Dan Ostas, Jr (12/17)
Dan Chupinsky (12/17)
Dan Sak (12/17)
Dan Serdar (12/17)
Daniel Corey-Goodman (12/17)
Julie Olmstead (12/21)