

# Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

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December 17, 2017

**TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 3. Sunday of the Forefathers.** Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths: Ananias, Azarias and Misael (600 B.C.). Ven. Daniel the Confessor, in schema Stephen, of Spain and Egypt (10th c.).

**EPISTLES: Colossians 3:4–1:** Christ is all in all.

**GOSPELS: Luke 14:16–24:** The feast of the Kingdom.

**NATIVITY SERVICES:** The Feast of Our Lord's Nativity is almost upon us! For those who are able to stick around, we'll begin decorating the church after Liturgy this morning. Services for the Nativity will begin with the Royal Hours on Friday morning. Then on Sunday evening we'll have our Christmas Eve Supper at 6 PM, followed by Vigil at 7 PM. On Christmas morning, we'll have Liturgy at 9 AM.

**THANKS** to all who attended our Nativity Fast education series on the Liturgical life of the Church! Thanks especially to Dcn Ivan, who took on the work of recording the classes. Look for more education opportunities coming in the near future!

**COFFEE HOUR: This week:** Olympia & Family

**Next week:**

**NATIVITY FAST ALMSGIVING:** In addition to prayer, fasting, and confession, the Nativity Fast is also a time for increased giving to those in need. We'll be collecting items to assemble emergency relief kits for IOCC, which enable them to respond to disasters around the world. (They distributed many of these kits in the wake of the recent hurricanes, and need to replenish their supplies so that they can be ready for the next disaster.) A list is available in the back to sign up with what you'll be bringing.

## PRAYER SCROLL

<u>LIVING:</u>					
Apr Timothy H	Nathan	Natasha, Lena, Vera,	Micah, Danielle, &	Priest Matthew	Ron
Apr Herman S	Leah	Sergei	Family	Priest John	John
Apr Sergius K	Helen	Caleb	Gregory & Ashley	Apr Alexander	Eleanor
Apr Thomas E	Lindsey	Danielle	Petruta	Priest William	Harold
Apr John R	Elizabeth	Larry, Mark, Katie	Ivan	Pdn Gregory	Alfred
Apr Patrick C	Mary	Ann	Elizabeth	Dn Mark	Edward
Pr James & Family	Joe A	Dorothy	Anastasia	Rdr Gregory	Michael
Pr Seraphim	Daniel	Ronald	Galina	Daniel	Mat Julianna
Pr Adam S & Angie	Andrew & family	Sheryl & Lacey	Michael	Ada	Mario
Mother Raphaela	Carol	Alexander, Angela,	Nikolas	Lillian	Robert
Mother Christophora	Elizabeth	Anton	Jenny	Joseph	James
Mat Joanna B	David	Peter	Gina	Marie	Wilhelmina
Mat Katya	Shirley	Gregory & Ann	Paula	Joseph	Barbara
Mat Mary G	Christina	Raymond	St Barbara's Monastery	Laura	Sr Theophano
Mat Rebekah	Jim & Kim	Vincent	& those threatened by	Martha	Walter
Pani Amy	Rachel	Photini	wildfires	Stanley	Martha
Joshua	Constantine & Maria	Robert	Children: Anthony, Mia,	Taissia	Olga
Brittany	Gaetan	Dianna	Isabel, Bear, Victoria,	Steluța	Hilarion
Gretchen	Christine	Elizabeth	Iva Bell, Panagiotis,	Theophan	Priscilla
Marianne	Samuel	John	Ada, Grace, Elias, Jack,	Lynda	<b>Newly Reposed:</b>
Terrence	Lisa	Felicia	Everett, Thomas	Florence	Apr Stephen M
Helen	Lyudmila	Tom	Seminarians: Dcn Ivan,	James	Pdn Keith
Judy	Nickolay	Vladimir	Rdr Robert	James R	Apr Michael
Mary & Susan	Anetta	Lou	<b>REPOSED:</b>	Vasily	Khouria Lynne
John & Carmine	Zachary	Seraphim & Anna	Apr John U	Mordecai	Ann
	Helena			Alexandr	

**BY THE NUMBERS:** Last Collection: \$2309. MTD: \$4401.

## PRAYER FOR CHURCH GROWTH

Again, we pray to Thee, O Lord our God, that Thou wouldst renew us and this parish by the Power of the Holy Spirit. Fill us with love and longing for Thee. Grant that we would seek not our own will, but to do Thy will in all things and to be willing to lay down our lives out of love for Thee and for our neighbor. Draw thirsty souls to this place and remove their spiritual blindness, granting them through Thy grace to see the beauty of Thy Holy Glory in this place. Fill this community with new life, spiritual vigor, and an insatiable desire to live godly and holy lives. Forgive us all of our sins as we fall down before Thee. Bring us all to a greater repentance and to an amendment of our lives as we look to Thee, the only merciful and loving Lord, Who calls all to salvation. We beg Thee, our merciful Lord, hear us, grant all of these petitions and all of our requests unto salvation: we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

## SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

### *With Daily Readings*

**Sunday, December 17:** 9:10 Hours, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour • Col 3:4–11; Luke 14:16–24

**Monday, December 18:** No services • Heb 3:5–11, 17–19; Mark 9:4–10:1

**Tuesday, December 19:** 8:30 AM Morning Prayer • Heb 4:1–13; Mark 10:2–12

**Wednesday, December 20:** 9 AM Divine Liturgy (St Ignatius of Antioch & St John of Kronstadt) • Heb 5:11–6:8; Mark 10:11–16

**Thursday, December 21:** 8:30 AM Morning Prayer • Heb 7:1–6; Mark 10:17–27

**Friday, December 22:** 9 AM Royal Hours • Heb 7:18–25; Mark 10:23–32

**Saturday, December 23:** 6 PM Great Vespers • Eph 2:11–13; Luke 16:10–15

**Sunday, December 24:** 9:10 AM Hours, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour

6 PM Nativity Eve Supper; 7 PM Vigil • Heb 11:9–10, 17–23, 32–40; Matt 1:1–25

*Confessions are heard before and after Vespers, after Morning Prayers Tuesday–Thursday, or by appointment.*

## WEEKLY HYMNS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

### **Troparion, Tone 3** (*Resurrection*)

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to the world//

great mercy.

### **Troparion, Tone 2** (*Forefathers*)

Through faith You justified 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 You without seed.//

So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

### **Kontakion, Tone 6** (*Forefathers*)

You did not worship the graven image,

O thrice-blessed ones,

but armed with the immaterial Essence of God,

you were glorified in a trial by fire.

From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God,  
crying:

“Hasten, O compassionate One!

Speedily come to our aid,//

for You are merciful and able to do as You will!”

### **Prokeimenon, Tone 4** (*Song of the Fathers*)

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and  
glorified is Your Name forever!

v: For You are just in all that You have done for us!

### **Alleluia, Tone 4**

v: Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also  
was among those who called on His Name.

v: They called to the Lord and He answered them.

### **Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*Two Sundays before the Feast of the Nativity, we celebrate the memory of the Holy Forefathers, all the righteous of the Old Testament who were faithful to God and lived in expectation of God’s revelation which finally came about at Christ’s birth. We honor their faith and, after their example, await the coming of Christ which is accomplished in history but always occurs anew in our spiritual lives, and we await His awesome Second Coming just as the Forefathers awaited the first. Like them we live lives of preparation for the fulfillment of God’s salvation.*

## SAINTS THIS WEEK

*This Wednesday, two Saints from very different times and places are commemorated: Saint Ignatius of Antioch and Saint John of Kronstadt. Separated in terms of history, geography, and circumstance, they are united in their witness to the love of Christ and their faithfulness to Him.*

**St Ignatius** was a bishop and martyr of the generation immediately following the Apostles: according to Tradition, he was the boy whom Christ took in his arms when He said “Unless you turn and become as little children, you shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven” (Mt. 18:3). Ignatius became a disciple of the Apostle John the Theologian, and was made Bishop of Antioch. During a persecution of Christians, he was arrested by the Emperor Trajan and taken to Rome, where he was thrown to the wild beasts in the arena. His epistles to the local Churches of his time remain as testaments to the life of the early Church.

**St John of Kronstadt** was born in 1829 to a poor family; he had difficulty with his studies as a child, but following a miraculous spiritual experience he was able to excel in his later studies and attend seminary. He was ordained a priest and served at the cathedral in the City of Kronstadt. There, he worked to revitalize the spiritual lives of people who had become apathetic, making him one of the shining lights in the spiritual gloom that affected many at that time: he especially emphasized the importance of preparation for and participation in the Sacraments. His book *My Life in Christ* is a classic of the spiritual life. He also worked for the improvement of Christian education and for the care of those who were suffering from material hardships. He reposed on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 1908.