

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

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December 24, 2017

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 4. Eve of the Nativity of Christ. Sunday before the Nativity. Nun-martyr Eugenia of Rome, and with her Martyrs Philip, her father, Protus, Hyacinth, Basilla, and Claudia (ca. 262). Ven. Nicholas the Monk, of Bulgaria (9th c.).

EPISTLES: Heb 11:9–10, 17–23, 32–40: The Promise fulfilled.

GOSPELS: Matt 1:1–25: The genealogy of Christ.

COFFEE HOUR: This week: Natalie & Eileen

Next week:

NATIVITY SERVICES: This 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.

FESTAL SEASON: The afterfeast of the Nativity continues until next Sunday, but the period of celebration extends all the way until the Eve of the Theophany on January 5. These "twelve days of Christmas" are the longest single fast-free period of the year. There are also several feasts during this time: on Wednesday, December 27, we'll have Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St Stephen, the first Christian Martyr. Also, while the Church's

calendar year begins on September 1, January 1 is the Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord and the commemoration of St Basil the Great. Divine Liturgy on this day is a great way to "kick off" the civil new year!

NATIVITY FAST ALMSGIVING: Thanks to everyone who donated to the Food Pantry for their Christmas collection. They and the people they serve were glad to receive your donations. Thanks also to all who've donated to our IOCC emergency kit project. Our mothers' group and children will be assembling the kits soon; see Christina or Matushka Meg for more details.

PRAYER SCROLL

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

BY THE NUMBERS: Last Collection: \$5923. MTD: \$10324.

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 24: 9:10 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, 17–19; Matt 1:1–25

Monday, December 25: 9 AM Divine Liturgy • Gal 4:4–7; Luke 2:1–12

Tuesday, December 26: 8:30 AM Morning Prayer • Heb 2:11–18; Matt 2:13–23

Wednesday, December 27: 9 AM Divine Liturgy (St Stephen) • Acts 6:8–15; 7:1–5, 47–60; Matt 21:33–42

Thursday, December 28: 8:30 AM Morning Prayer • Heb 10:35–11:7; Mark 11:27–33

Friday, December 29: 8:30 AM Morning Prayer • Heb 11:8, 11–16; Mark 12:1–12

Saturday, December 30: 6 PM Great Vespers • Eph 5:1–8; Luke 17:3–10

Sunday, December 31: 9:10 AM Hours, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour • Gal 1:11–19; Matt 2:13–23

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

WEEKLY HYMNS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Troparion, Tone 4 (Resurrection)

When the women Disciples of the Lord
learned from the Angel the joyous message of the
Resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the Apostles:
“Death is overthrown!
Christ God is risen,//
granting the world great mercy!”

Troparion, Tone 2 (Fathers)

Great are the accomplishments of faith,
for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames
as though in the waters of rest;
and the Prophet Daniel appeared
a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep.//
So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

Troparion, Tone 4 (Forefeast)

Mary was of David’s seed, so she went with Joseph to
register in Bethlehem.
She bore in her womb the Fruit not sown by man.
The time for the birth was at hand.
Since there was no room at the inn,
the cave became a beautiful palace for the Queen.//
Christ is born, raising up the image that fell of old.

Kontakion, Tone 1 (Fathers)

Rejoice, O Bethlehem! Prepare yourself, O Ephratha!
The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Chief Shepherd
she carries in her womb.
The God-bearing Forefathers will rejoice, beholding Him,//
and with the shepherds, they will glorify the Virgin nursing
Him.

Kontakion, Tone 3 (Forefeast)

Today the Virgin comes to the cave
to give birth to the Eternal Word.
Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe!
Glorify with the Angels and the shepherds//
the Eternal God, Who is willing to appear as a little child!

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 to us.

Alleluia, Tone 4

v: We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have
told us.
v: For You have saved us from them that oppose us, and
have put to shame them that hate us.

Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

SAINTS THIS WEEK

On the Sunday before Nativity, we commemorate the **Sunday of the Fathers**, all the righteous who were well-pleasing to God from the creation of mankind up until the Incarnation of Christ. This Sunday’s commemoration, very similar to the previous Sunday’s, focuses more on Christ’s earthly ancestors (and those of his foster-father Joseph, about whom we hear in the Gospel today) and the prophets who foretold His coming, especially the Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths. Through all of these faithful men and women, God prepared the world for the saving work that He reveals to us in the Incarnate Christ.

The **Nun-Martyr Eugenia** was born to a wealthy official in Alexandria. By God’s providence, she discovered the Epistles of the Apostle Paul and desired to become a Christian. She was baptized in secret, along with her servants Protus and Hyacinthus, and lived an ascetical life disguised as a monk. She

was eventually discovered, and inspired her parents to become Christians as well. Her father, Philip, was dismissed from his official post for embracing Christianity, but was eventually made bishop of Alexandria. He was murdered not long after, and Eugenia fled with her mother, siblings, and servants, now companions in Christ, to Rome, where they preached the Gospel openly. When a more intense persecution of Christians arose under the Emperor Galienus, Protus and Hyacinthus were arrested and martyred; Eugenia herself was also arrested and, after being miraculously preserved through many attempts to kill her, was beheaded on Christmas Day in the year 262. So that it would not be wholly overshadowed by the Feast of Our Lord’s Nativity, the memory of this blessed martyr is celebrated on Christmas Eve, along with that of her companions.