



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Sunday, December 15, 2024

Sunday of the Holy Forefathers
 St. Eleftherios of Illyria

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Third (Mark 16:9-20)

Mode of the Week: Plagal of the Fourth/Πλ. του Τετάρτου

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros, part 1



Orthros, part 2



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

<i>Today, December 15</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion 1-Year Memorial for Eve McElrath Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 12:45pm Bible Study/Youth Greek School 2:00pm Philoptochos Christmas Social
<i>Wednesday, December 18</i>	5:30pm Small Paraklesis 6:30pm Choir Practice
<i>Thursday, December 19</i>	3:00pm Christmas Caroling Caravan, lead by the Choir and the Youth
<i>Saturday, December 21</i>	3:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
<i>Sunday, December 22</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday before the Nativity of Christ Pageant Preparation for the Youth after Holy Communion Artoklasia honoring the Feast Day of St. Anastasia the Great Martyr Youth Christmas Pageant after the Divine Liturgy Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Pageant 12:45pm Adult Greek School
<i>Monday, December 23</i>	5:30pm Vespers for the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ
<i>Tuesday, December 24</i>	9:00am Royal Hours and Great Vespers for the Nativity of Christ 5:30pm Orthros 6:30pm Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of Christ (Christmas)
<i>Wednesday, December 25</i>	Christmas Day—Office Closed
<i>Sunday, December 29</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 12:45pm Bible Study/Youth Greek School
<i>Wednesday, January 1</i>	New Years Day—Office Closed 6:00pm Orthros 7:00pm Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of St. Basil the Great
<i>Friday, January 3</i>	9:30am Royal Hours of Theophany
<i>Saturday, January 4</i>	5:00pm Great Vespers

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (12/22) Pete Tsamolias, James Scarborough; (12/29) Helen Troupos, Carter Zoumberis
Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (12/22) John Apostolou; (12/24) Maria Spicer, Gray Yates; (12/29) Maria Spicer
Upcoming Ushers: (12/18) Tassie C.; (12/21) Sarah D.; (12/22) Cleo B., Charles G.; (12/23) James S.; (12/24am) Sarah D.
Upcoming Video Operators: (12/22) Joanna P.; (12/24pm) David Z.; (12/29) Gray Y./David N.; (1/5) Natalia S.
Fellowship Hosts: (12/22) Christine+Ron Sprouse; (12/29) Nichole Lawrence; (1/5) Vasilopita; (1/12) Georgia S.

Our Parish Hymn of the Holy Cross of Christ:

Save, O Lord, save your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your Holy Cross.

Σώσον Κύριε τὸν λαόν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου, νίκας τοῖς Βασιλεῦσι κατὰ βαρβάρων δωρούμενος καὶ τὸ σὸν φυλάττων διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ σου πολίτευμα.

To our Visitors and Guests: We extend a **warm welcome** to all worshipping with us today! While Holy Communion, following ancient practice, is offered only to Orthodox Christians, non-Orthodox may receive the blessed bread (antidoron) offered at the conclusion of the service.
Please join us in the Parish House after the Divine Liturgy for Coffee Fellowship!

Epistle Reading

Τίμιος ἐναντίον Κυρίου ὁ θάνατος τοῦ ὁσίου αὐτοῦ.

Στίχ. Τί ἀνταποδώσω τῷ Κυρίῳ περὶ πάντων, ὧν ἀνταπέδωκέ μοι;

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Πρὸς Τιμόθεον Β΄ Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

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Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, μὴ ἐπαισχυνθῆς τὸ μαρτύριον τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν μηδὲ ἐμὲ τὸν δέσμιον αὐτοῦ, ἀλλὰ συγκακοπάθησον τῷ εὐαγγελίῳ κατὰ δύναμιν Θεοῦ, τοῦ σώσαντος ἡμᾶς καὶ καλέσαντος κλήσει ἁγία, οὐ κατὰ τὰ ἔργα ἡμῶν, ἀλλὰ κατ' ἰδίαν πρόθεσιν καὶ χάριν, τὴν δοθεῖσαν ἡμῖν ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ πρὸ χρόνων αἰωνίων, φανερωθεῖσαν δὲ νῦν διὰ τῆς ἐπιφανείας τοῦ σωτήρος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, καταργήσαντος μὲν τὸν θάνατον, φωτίσαντος δὲ ζωὴν καὶ ἀφθαρσίαν διὰ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου, εἰς ὃ ἐτέθην ἐγὼ κήρυξ καὶ ἀπόστολος καὶ διδάσκαλος ἐθνῶν. δι' ἣν αἰτίαν καὶ ταῦτα πάσχω, ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐπαισχύνομαι· οἶδα γὰρ ὅτι πεπίστευκα, καὶ πέπεισμαι ὅτι δυνατός ἐστι τὴν παραθήκην μου φυλάξαι εἰς ἐκείνην τὴν ἡμέραν. ὑποτύπωσιν ἔχε ὑγιαίνοντων λόγων ὧν παρ' ἐμοῦ ἤκουσας, ἐν πίστει καὶ ἀγάπῃ τῇ ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ· τὴν καλὴν παραθήκην φύλαξον διὰ Πνεύματος Ἁγίου τοῦ ἐνοικοῦντος ἐν ἡμῖν. Οἶδας τοῦτο, ὅτι ἀπεστράφησάν με πάντες οἱ ἐν τῇ Ἀσίᾳ, ὧν ἐστὶ Φύγελλος καὶ Ἑρμογένης, δῶφ ἔλεος ὁ Κύριος τῷ Ὀνησιφόρου οἴκῳ, ὅτι πολλάκις με ἀνέψυξε καὶ τὴν ἄλυσίν μου οὐκ ἐπαισχύνθη, ἀλλὰ γενόμενος ἐν Ῥώμῃ σπουδαιότερον ἐζήτησέ με καὶ εὔρε· δῶφ αὐτῷ ὁ Κύριος εὑρεῖν ἔλεος παρὰ Κυρίου ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ· καὶ ὅσα ἐν Ἐφέσῳ διηκόνησε, βέλτιον σὺ γινώσκεις.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His holy one.

Verse: What shall I give back to the Lord for all He rendered to me? (Psalm 115)

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The reading is from Paul's Second Letter to Timothy. (1:8-18)

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Timothy, my son, do not be ashamed of testifying to our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel in the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not in virtue of our works but in virtue of his own purpose and the grace which he gave us in Christ Jesus ages ago, and now has manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, and therefore I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. Follow the pattern of the sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus; guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, and among them Phygelus and Hermogenes. May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me; he was not ashamed of my chains, but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me eagerly and found me — may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that Day — and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Luke (14:16-24)

Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τὴν παραβολὴν ταύτην· Ἄνθρωπός τις ἐποίησε δεῖπνον μέγα καὶ ἐκάλεσε πολλούς· καὶ ἀπέστειλε τὸν δούλον αὐτοῦ τῇ ὥρᾳ τοῦ δείπνου εἰπεῖν τοῖς κεκλημένοις· ἔρχεσθε, ὅτι ἤδη ἔτοιμά ἐστι πάντα. καὶ ἤρξαντο ἀπὸ μιᾶς παραιτεῖσθαι πάντες. ὁ πρῶτος εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ἀγρὸν ἠγόρασα, καὶ ἔχω ἀνάγκην ἐξελθεῖν καὶ ἰδεῖν αὐτόν· ἐρωτῶ σε, ἔχε με παρητημένον. καὶ ἕτερος εἶπε· ζεύγη βοῶν ἠγόρασα πέντε, καὶ πορεύομαι δοκιμάσαι αὐτά· ἐρωτῶ σε, ἔχε με παρητημένον. καὶ ἕτερος εἶπε· γυναῖκα ἔγημα, καὶ διὰ τοῦτο οὐ δύναμαι ἐλθεῖν. καὶ παραγενόμενος ὁ δούλος ἐκεῖνος ἀπήγγειλε τῷ κυρίῳ αὐτοῦ ταῦτα. τότε ὀργισθεὶς ὁ οἰκοδεσπότης εἶπε τῷ δούλῳ αὐτοῦ· ἔξελθε ταχέως εἰς τὰς πλατείας καὶ ῥύμας τῆς πόλεως, καὶ τοὺς πτωχοὺς καὶ ἀναπήρους καὶ χωλοὺς καὶ τυφλοὺς εἰσάγαγε ὧδε. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ δούλος· κύριε, γέγονεν ὡς ἐπέταξας, καὶ ἔτι τόπος ἐστί. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ κύριος πρὸς τὸν δούλον· ἔξελθε εἰς τὰς ὁδοὺς καὶ φραγμοὺς καὶ ἀνάγκασον εἰσελθεῖν, ἵνα γεμισθῇ ὁ οἶκος μου. λέγω γὰρ ὑμῖν ὅτι οὐδεὶς τῶν ἀνδρῶν ἐκείνων τῶν κεκλημένων γεύσεται μου τοῦ δείπνου. Πολλοὶ γὰρ εἰσι κλητοί, ὀλίγοι δὲ ἐκλεκτοί.

The Lord said this parable: “A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for all is now ready.’ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.’ And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.’ And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Theodore Ehmer

Προϊστάμενος/Presiding Priest

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Office Days: Tuesday through Friday; call or email Fr. for appointment

Holy Confession: call or email Fr. to schedule

Bulletin for the week of December 15, 2024

Ushers on Duty: Cheryl and Erick Schwartzkopf

Video: Natalia S.

Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: Aleca Hortman (Greek); Mike Cantrell (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Jay McElrath

PC Member On-Duty: Jim Lekas



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

+ Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

On the Sunday that occurs on or immediately after the eleventh of this month, we commemorate Christ's forefathers according to the flesh, both those that came before the Law, and those that lived after the giving of the Law.

Special commemoration is made of the Patriarch Abraham, to whom the promise was first given, when God said to him, "In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 22:18). This promise was given some two thousand years before Christ, when Abraham was seventy-five years of age. God called him and commanded him to forsake his country, parents, and kinsmen, and to depart to the land of the Canaanites. When he arrived there, God told him, "I will give this land to thy seed" (Gen. 12:7); for this cause, that land was called the "Promised Land," which later became the country of the Hebrew people, and which is also called Palestine by the historians. There, after the passage of twenty-four years, Abraham received God's law concerning circumcision. In the one hundredth year of his life, when Sarah was in her ninetieth year, they became the parents of Isaac. Having lived 175 years altogether, he reposed in peace, a venerable elder full of days.

+ The Holy Hieromartyr Eleftherios (Ελευθέριος), Bishop of Illyria and his mother Anthia (Ανθία) (+126)

+ The Holy Martyr Coremmon (Κορέμμων) the Eparch and the two Executioners who believed in Christ (+126)

+ The Devout Martyr Susanna (Σωσάννα) the Deaconess (+4th Century)

+ The Holy Martyr Eleftherios (Ελευθέριος) the Chamberlain (+4th Century)

+ The Holy Martyr Bacchus (Βάκχος) the New (+8th c.)

+ Our Devout Father Paul (Παύλος) the New, ascetic of Mt. Latrus (+896)

Through the intercessions of Your Saints, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

Variable Hymns of the Day in the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (pg. 8 in the Small Book/pg. 37 in the Hymnal):

- Weekly Resurrectional Hymn (Εξ ύψους, Plagal of the Fourth Mode):

You descended from on high, O compassionate One, and consented to a three-day burial, to free us from the passions. O Lord, our life and resurrection, glory to You! (Sung before and after the Small Entrance, Greek Text found in hymnal on pg. 126)

- Hymn of the Holy Cross (Σώσον Κύριε, First Mode):

Save, O Lord, save your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your Holy Cross.

- Hymn of the Forefathers (Εν πίστει τους Προπάτορας, Second Mode):

By faith You justified the Forefathers, having through them betrothed to yourself the Church that came out of the nations. The saints are boasting in glory; for the glorious fruit, the Virgin who without seed gave birth to You, is from their progeny. At their entreaties, O Christ our God, save our souls.

- Hymn of St. Eleftherios (Ιερών ποδιῆρι, Plagal of the First Mode):

You were fully adorned with the sacred priestly robes. You were dripping with streams of your own martyric blood. In this state, you ran to Christ your Master, O blessed Saint Eleftherios, destroyer of Satan; you are wise. Therefore cease not interceding for us who loyally honor your blessed contest of martyrdom.

- Kontakion of the Memorial Service (Μνήσθητι, Κύριε, Plagal 4th Mode):

Remember, O Lord, as You are good, Your servant, and forgive every sin she have committed in this life. For no one is sinless except You, Who has power to grant rest to those who have fallen asleep.

- The Kontakion of the Preparation for the Nativity of Christ, Η Παρθένος σημερον, Third Mode):

On this day the Virgin Maid goes to the grotto to give birth to the pre-eternal Word in an ineffable manner. Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on hearing. Glorify along with Angels and with the shepherds Him who willed that He appear as a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God. (Greek Text found in hymnal on pg. 240)

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week's Daily

Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Sunday, December 15—Wine+Oil: Mark 16:9-20;

II Timothy 1:8-18; Luke 14:16-24

Monday, December 16—Strict Fast: I Timothy 1:1-7; Mark 9:42-50, 10:1

Tuesday, December 17—Wine+Oil: Hebrews 11:33-40, 12:1-2; Mark 10:2-12

Wednesday, December 18—Strict Fast: I Timothy 1:18-20, 2:8-15; Mark 10:11-16

Thursday, December 19—Strict Fast: I Timothy 3:1-13; Mark 10:17-27

Friday, December 20—Wine+Oil: Hebrews 10:32-28; Mark 9:33-41

Saturday, December 21—Wine+Oil: Galatians 3:8-12; Luke 13:19-29

Prayer Requests:

Metropolitan Alexios, Fr. Symeon (mission priest supported by our parish), Fr. Mike, Panteleimon, Michael, Kassiani, Dimitrios, Georgia, Pavlos, Maria, Betty, Irene, Valerie, Dianna, Jeannie, Dawn, Kenneth, Mary, Kay, Helen, Nikki, Austin, Kiley, Garrett, Carolina, Maria, Laurie, Lindsey, Randy, Marina, Effie, Christina, Ashley, Brian, Bessie, Katerina, Link, Virginia, Karl, Colin, Mitch, Rinne, Michael, Christian, Paul, Lucas, Leo, Barry, Nicholas, Jude, Kevin, Andy, Karen, Vera, Adam

Prayers for those recently reposed:

Nicholas (+November 3), Jonathan (+November 3), Robert (+November 7), Cheryl (+November 17), Presvytera Kalliopi (+November 24), Claudie (+December 2)

Prayers for expecting mothers:

Katina B., Julia E., Schyler J.

Prayers for Military Personnel and Their Families:

Aubriana Butchko, Kyle Glotzbach, Robert Ice, Aaron Vrahiotes, Aleksander Zajac

Prayers for our Catechumens and Inquirers into the Orthodox Church:

Alexander, Bobbie, Dakota, Hannah, Jessica, Mary Elizabeth, Mary Emma, Nate, Sophia, Sebastian, Susan, Tammy and pray for those who are seeking Christ and His Church!

Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:

St. Dorotheos of Gaza (+565) instructing us to "put the fire out": "A person lighting a fire first has a small piece of tinder. This represents the word of the brother who has upset him. This little fire is very feeble. What significance has the word of your brother? If you put up with it you blow out the small fire, but if you begin to think to yourself. "Why did he say that to me? I myself can answer him. If he did not want to hurt me, he wouldn't have said that and believe me, I can upset him too". In this case, you add small pieces of wood to the fire or some other fuel like the person that lights a fire and you produce smoke which is agitation. Agitation is the movement and coming together of thoughts which stimulate the heart and make it audacious. Audacity is the taking of retribution against a person that has upset you, and this becomes insolence as Abba Mark said, "Evil accepted in thought makes the heart audacious, but when this is revoked through prayer and hope, it makes it contrite."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

Sun. of the Forefathers: Holly Economopoulos, David Needham

December 16: Danai Esquivel

December 18: Metropolitan Sevastianos

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

December 17: Kathy Patras

December 18: Guy Holland, Lilly Anne Syribeys

December 21: Tony Economopoulos

Anniversaries—Congratulations!

None in the Records

(If you have a celebration that did not make it into the bulletin, please e-mail Fr. Theodore!)

Announcements:

* **Youth Greek School** in the upstairs classroom at 12:45pm this afternoon. **Bible Study** will also be taking place at approximately 12:45pm in the small Coffee Hour room continuing through the later part of St. Paul's Letter to the Romans.

* The next **Introduction to the Orthodox Church** class will be this coming Saturday at 3:30pm in the Library/on Zoom. Topic is the Divine Liturgy and the Holy Mysteries.

* The **Parish Council Election** took place this past Sunday. All three candidates: John Apostolou, Chad Ridley, and Natalia Saratsiotis were elected. The Election will be ratified by the Metropolitan and the 2025 Parish Council have their blessing/be sworn-in early in January.

* **Philoptochos (Ladies Philanthropic Group):** Christmas Social Gathering at the house of Cleo Bennette this afternoon at 2:00pm. Please see Presvytera Stacey for any last minute details.

* **Youth:** Nativity Pageant practice and costume try-on today! Pageant next Sunday immediately after Divine Liturgy. Please join our Christmas caroling this coming Thursday, December 19 after school... we need everyone! Detailed email with the caravan schedule to be sent by Presvytera Stacey at the beginning of the week!

* **Poinsettias:** If you would like to purchase a poinsettia "In Memory of" or "In Honor of", please fill out the form (scan QR Code - if you need help, please contact Natalia Saratsiotis or Cristina Lekas) and turn in your payment to John Apostolou, Maria Spicer or an usher (please have it marked with your name). Deadline is today, December 15th.

* **Choir Practice** will be taking place this Wednesday, December 18 at 6:30pm as we prepare for Christmas.

* **Iconography Project:** We are kindly asking each parishioner to submit a minimum of five names of friends and family along with addresses to help build our database of those who may want to support our project. To submit names, please scan this QR code or speak with Emily Dermatas. Please be sure to pick up a trifold in the bookstore as well!

