

Sunday of the Holy Forefathers of Christ December 17, 2023

Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths Ananias, Azarias and Mishael; Dionysios of Zakynthos, the wonderworker; New Martyrs Paisios the hieromonk and his disciple Habakkuk the deacon of Belgrade

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 3)

Byzantine Tone 3

Basil Kazan
(1915 - 2001)

Let the heav - ens re - joice and the earth be glad,
for the Lord hath done a might - y act with his own arm.
He hath tram - pled down death by death and be - come the First -
born from the dead. He hath de - liv - ered us from the
depths of ha - des, grant - ing the world the great mer - cy.

Troparion of the Forefathers (Tone 2)

Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and she it was who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

Troparion for St. Raphael of Brooklyn (Tone 3)

Rejoice, O Father Raphael, Adornment of the holy Church! Thou art Champion of the True Faith, Seeker of the lost, Consolation of the oppressed, Father to orphans and Friend of the poor, Peacemaker and good Shepherd, Joy of all the Orthodox, Son of Antioch, Boast of America. Intercede with Christ God for us and for all who honor thee.

Kontakion for the Preparation of the Nativity of Christ (Tone 3)

The Virgin cometh today to the cave to give birth, ineffably to bring forth the Word eternal. Therefore, rejoice, O earth at the message; with the angels and shepherds give glory to Him who shall appear by his own will as a young child, He who is from eternity God.

The Prokeimenon

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.

For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.

The Epistle

Colossians 3:4-11

Brethren, when Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 14:16-24

The Lord spoke this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I 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 still there is 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."

Holy Bread: Kh Meleah Palke

Commemorations(Living): Fr Michael, Pr Vicki, John, Corgie, Karen, Maher, Fabiola, Christopher, Steven, Jonathan, Jaime, Justin, George, Joan, Fr Tom, Kh Meleah, Stephen, Carol, Jim, Laura, Michael, Joel, Lisa, Danny, Asa, Cody, Max, Levi, Courtney, Nina, Kenneth, Alex, Christina, Beth, Janni, Dominick, Yina, Lauren, Rashid, Hala, Irina, Alex, Lauren, Aaron, Adam, Atticus, Fr Vladimir Paul, all Orthodox missionaries, the suffering believers everywhere.

Departed:

December 24—Nativity Orthros and Liturgy (7:00 PM). Confession: by appointment.

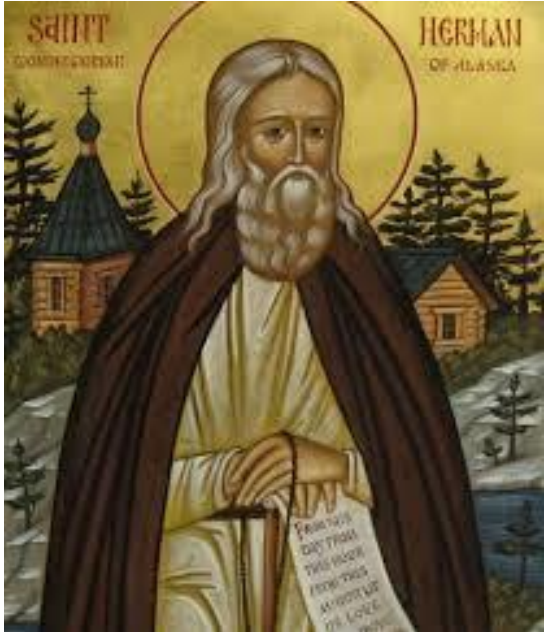
Know your faith. (From last Sunday) What is the ninth commandment? Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor. How many Sundays before Christmas during the Advent fast? 6. Name the high priest, who was the brother of Moses. Aaron. Name the prophet who wrote “behold a virgin shall conceive.” Isaiah. Who ordered the deaths of all boys under the age of two? Herod. What is the tenth commandment? Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s wife, house, field, servant, maid, ox, ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor’s. Who was the father of King David? Jesse. Who was with Paul in the Philippian jail? Silas. What is the name given to the psalm verse that precedes the Epistle? The Prokeimenon. From whom does the Holy Spirit proceed? The Father. To whom did the angels appear at the birth of Jesus? Shepherds in the field. How many wise men came to visit Jesus? Probably 3 (the Bible does not say. Tradition says that their names were Caspar, Balthazar, and Melchior). What did they bring him? Gold, frankincense, and myrrh. We worship God and we honor (venerate) the saints. “Put on the whole armor of God.” (Epistle) Where did Jesus heal the woman who was bent over (Gospel). A synagogue.

Today is the fifth Sunday in the Advent fast. There are six Sundays during the fast. Advent is a time to reflect, pray, fast, and read the Bible, in order to prepare our hearts for a meaningful Nativity celebration.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear. Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan’s tyranny; from depths of hell thy people save, and give them victory o’er the grave. R.

Today we honor St. Herman of Alaska, who brought the Orthodox faith to North America and was instrumental in the conversion of the Aleuts. St. Herman Orthodox Seminary, located on Spruce Island, is named in honor of St. Herman. A portion of his relics are enshrined in St. Ignatius Chapel at Antiochian Village, where he is regarded as one of its patron saints. He reposed in the Lord on December 25, 1837. His feast day is celebrated on December 13 in the Greek Orthodox Church.



St. Raphael of Brooklyn Orthodox Church
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese

Metropolitan Saba, Primate
Bishop Thomas, Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic

Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM

Meeting at Compton Village
14401 Compton Village Dr.
Centreville, Virginia 20121
Fr. Thomas L. Palke, Pastor
3041 Donnington Court
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