

**28th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday of the Forefathers,
Holy Prophet Daniel and the
Three Holy Youths**

December 17th, 2023

Assigned Readings:

Colossians 3:4-11

Luke 14:16-24

Saints of the Day:

On the second Sunday before the Feast of the Nativity, the Orthodox Church honors the Holy Forefathers of Our Lord Jesus Christ. When we look at these lineages, it is important to note that they are not purely patrilineal but include four women. Nor are they an exclusive racially pure bloodline as two or three of these same women married into the Tribe of Judah from among foreign peoples.

Among those that are listed in the lineage we also commemorate on this day several saints not listed in the lineages, but who awaited the fulfillment of the promise in faith. The Priest Aaron, Benjamin, the Prophetess Deborah, Miriam, Judith, the Prophet Nathan, and Susannah.

Additionally on this date, we commemorate The Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths who were persecuted in Babylon during the exile. We should all easily recall the stories of Daniel and the lion's den and the three youths who were cast into the fiery furnace. Some will even recall the tale of when Daniel interpreted the writing left by the Hand of God on the King's wall or his saving of Susannah from an unjust accusation. Often though we forget the descriptions of the lives of piety that they lived, their ascetism and dedication to prayer. Each of these persons lived a life dedicated to God, while under severe persecution in Babylon. The Prologue even records that at an old age, they were beheaded for their refusal to give up the true faith.

Announcements

December Charity is Sleep in Heavenly Peace; and organization that provides beds to underprivileged children. Donations are kept 100% in the local chapter and are used to build and deliver beds by volunteer staff.

Parish Council meeting is scheduled for January the 7th.

Upcoming Services:

December 23rd – Great Vespers – 5 pm.

December 24th – Divine Liturgy – 930 am.

- Nativity Vigil; Compline and Matins 12:30pm.

December 25th – Nativity of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ

– Divine Liturgy 930 am.

December 27th – Fr. Paul has invited local parishioners to All Saints for the

Feast of St. Stephen, the Third Day of Christmas

Contact Information:

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Troparion and Kontakion for the Day

Resurrectional Troparion – Tone 3

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 of the Forefathers – 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!

Kontakion of the Forefathers – Tone 6

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 Thou art merciful and able to do as Thou dost will!”

Prayers for the Sick:

Archpriest Vladimir

Priest John

Archpriest Michael

Matushka Gloria

Matushka Myra

Thom

Julie

Joan

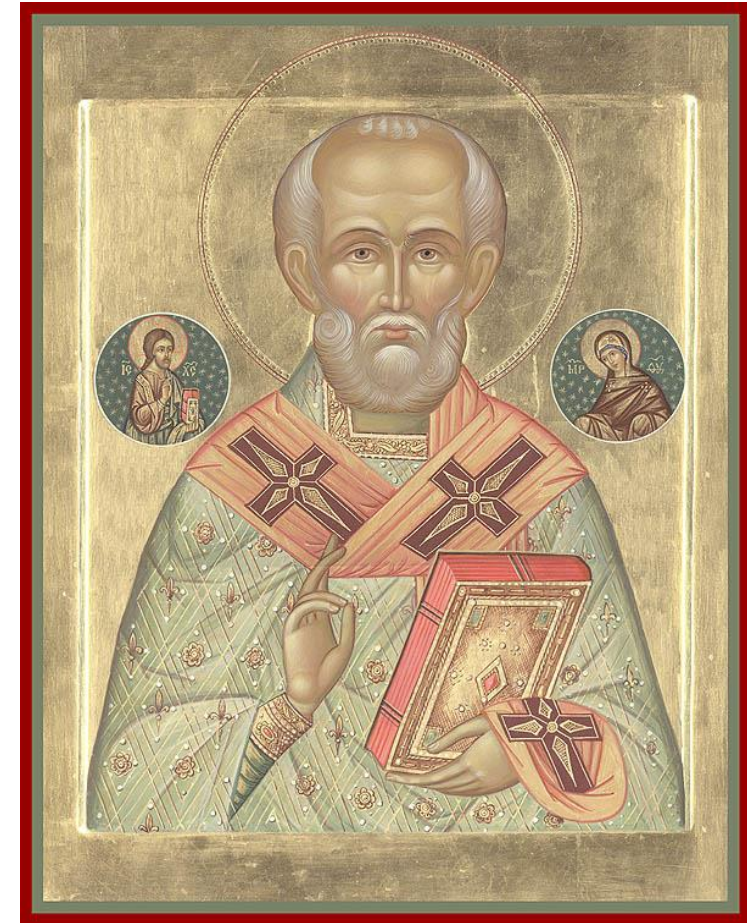
Vera

Marie

James

James

Dimitrios



St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

OCA Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Archbishop Mark – Hierarch

Fr. Nathan Clausson – Acting Rector

Fr. Vladimir Fetcho – Attached

Fr. John Nightingale – Attached

Mark Howanetz – Choir Director

Rick Cesari – Parish President