



Sunday December 11, 2016 25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 8. Sunday of the Forefathers. Ven. Daniel the Stylite of Constantinople (489-490). Ven. Nikon the Dry of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—12th c.). Martyrs Mirax, Acepsius and Aithalas, of Egypt (7th c.). Ven. Luke the New Stylite of Chalcedon (ca. 970-980).

This Week's Schedule

Saturday 12/17 Great Vespers 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 12/18 Hours 8:40 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

followed by coffee hour_ & church school

Reader Schedule

DATE	3RD HOUR	6TH HOUR	EPISTLE
Dec 11	L SULPIZI	SOUDER	CAREY
Dec 18	L WALES	A WALES	L WALES
Dec 25	<i>NATIVITY OF CHRIST</i>		
	A RILEY	J RILEY	J RILEY

Hymns and Prayers

Tone 8 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

You descended from on high, O Merciful One!
You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

Tone 2 Troparion *(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!

Tone 6* **Kontakion** *(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!”

Tone 4 Prokeimenon *(Song of the Fathers)*

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Your Name forever! *(Song of the three Holy Children,*
v. 3)

v: For You are just in all that You have done for us! (v. 4)

Epistle Colossians 3:4-11 *(Forefathers)*

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Tone 4

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on His Name. (Ps 99/100:6)

v: They called to the Lord and He answered them. (Ps 99/100:6)

Gospel Luke 14:16-24 (Forefathers)

Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.'

But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.'

And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.'

Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.'

So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.'

And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.'

Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.'

'For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.' “

Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (*Ps 148:1*)

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just! (*Ps 32/33:1*)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

This Week's Announcement

Poinsettias for Nativity It's time to order Poinsettias to beautify the church for our Lord's Nativity! Order forms are available in the narthex.

Cookie Exchange The Christmas cookie exchange will be on Friday evening December 16th. See the signup sheet in the narthex or Mat. Daria for details.

Bookstore Nativity Gifts The Bookstore will have an icon sale over the next three weekends. Stop by for discounted prices.

Nativity Parish Holy Supper Holy Supper is a pious tradition from the Christian faithful of various Eastern European regions. The supper is observed on the eves of our Lord's Nativity in the flesh and His baptism by Saint John in the Jordan River. The meal is a fasting meal with 12 courses representing Christ's twelve apostles. We hope to once again have a Parish Holy Supper on the Eve of Nativity. Anyone interested in helping to organize this time of fellowship please see Fr. Barnabas or Catalina Finck.

Service Schedule for Nativity The schedule for the feast of the Nativity of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ will be as follows: *Friday December 23rd Royal Hours 9:00 a.m. Saturday December 24th the Vigil for the Nativity of our Lord at 5:00 pm.* Then on Christmas morning *Sunday December 25th at 9:00 am Divine Liturgy for the Nativity followed by coffee for those who wish to stay.* Please be sure to make plans now to be with us for this blessed feast of our Lord.

Nativity Fast Please be sure to be attentive to the Nativity Fast (Nov. 15-Dec. 25). Please remember the benefits of fasting in order to learn self control (even in a small way). Through the fast (abstaining from meat and dairy products) we have an opportunity to grow spiritually in anticipation of the new life and hope that springs from Nativity of our Lord.

Study Group This past Thursday four of us continued reading and discussing *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. We began reading and discussing the fourteenth step on “*On that Clamorous Mistress the Stomach*”. We will continue with this step on Thursday at 10 a.m. All are welcome to join us.

Basics of Orthodoxy Class Our class will break for December and we will return again on a *NEW* night, Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. starting January 12th, 2017. All are welcome to join us

Coffee Hour We would like to thank all who continue to offer themselves in the ministry of the coffee hour. We want to remind everyone that the church will purchase all juice, coffee, non perishable items such as creamers, butter, cream cheese, jelly, nut butter, plates, etc. Also remember that bagels and breads are available from Acme and Panera for a discount or for free. Please remember the purpose and spirit of coffee hour. It is an exercise in community building and fellowship. Coffee hour is an offering of hospitality and so with these things in mind please only bring what you can. No one is (or should be) judging the offerings at coffee hour. We also want to remind all that part of the coffee hour responsibility is cleaning. Please be courteous to those cleaning by clearing up your own table before leaving. This will ease the

burden of those cleaning up. We also ask that everyone take suitable amounts of food. We have experienced a lot of food waste with too much being left on plates. Parents please supervise your children in the food line so that they take appropriate amounts. It is truly sinful for us to be wasting so much food. With a little awareness, understanding, and effort coffee hour should continue to be a strength within our community.

Are Your Hearts Hardened?

We read in Mark 8: 11-21, in which the Pharisees come to Jesus and ask Him for a sign from heaven. Their aim, as it is so often, is to test Him..

Considering all that Jesus has already done—healings, miracles, loving acts toward all kinds of people—it's a curious request that the Pharisees are making. They certainly are aware of these things He has done, and also of the miraculous feeding of several thousand people, described in the verses just before these.

Mark uses some striking words to describe Jesus' reaction to their questioning. He says that the Lord "sighed deeply in His spirit." It profoundly grieved Him to encounter the obstinate refusal of some people to acknowledge Him, because it was a rejection of His love and of His desire to give them salvation.

In the Old Testament we have, long before the Incarnation of Christ, an example of God's interest in those who grieve over the sins of others. God asks His servant to "go through the city, through Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed there" (Ezekiel 9:4). Centuries later, in the letter Saint Paul writes to the Romans, he expresses a similar grief. He writes that because of the unbelief of the people of Israel, "I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart" (Romans 9:2).

The Pharisees were not the only ones who grieved the heart of Jesus. In the passage from Mark, the disciples are in a boat with Him, and discover that they have forgotten to bring bread, and now they have only one loaf. They go on talking about this, even as He tries to warn them about other, serious things. He urges them

to remember how He provided bread for the crowds, and then asks, "Why do you discuss the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember?"

Jesus Himself is the Living Bread that the disciples need, but they are too preoccupied with fretting about their "bread problem" to understand. The Pharisees have seen many signs, but they want more, or a different kind. They are too preoccupied with their expectations to understand.

This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America. This and many other Christian Education resources are available at <http://dce.oca.org>.

Wisdom from the Holy Fathers

'He who does nothing to dispel love is precious in the sight of God and among men.'

St. Thalassios the Libyan

'Spiritual reading, vigils, prayer and psalmody prevent the intellect from being deluded by the passions.'

St. Thalassios the Libyan

'It is impossible for us who have fallen into the pit of iniquities ever to be drawn out of it, unless we sink into the abyss of the humility of the repentant.'

St. John Climacus

Prayers for the Departed: Nabil Gouda, Dolores Kozak, Jesse Jones, Ardythe Hope

Prayers for the Sick and Those in Need:, Fr. Joseph Chupeck, Fr. Josef Petranin, Mat Julia Petranin, Mat. Ellen Chupeck, Mat. Jennifer Franchak, Mat. Lisa Weremedic, Lemlem Resat, Alfred Mokhiber, Peter Melnik, Agnes Timchak, Olga Riley, Anna Hotrovich, Marie Holowatch, Marie Karawulan, Barbara Hicks, James Hicks, Maria Current, Anna Herko, Zack Bajuyo, Luke & Anna Wales, Nona Carey, Joseph Wojciechowski, Mona Elia, Lydia Kendall, Maria and Doug Dozier, Mary Anne Farrell, Michael Vannello, Catalina(Mary) & Jeremy (John) Finck, John Griffith, Cynthia Griffith, Carson, Stephen, Maria, Aiden, Peck Family, Walter Danchenka, Abigail Brightwell

Service Ministries

Date	<u>Coffee Hour</u>	<u>Service Duty</u>	<u>Church Cleaner</u>	<u>Library</u>
11-Dec	Peck/Wales	Elia/ Morjana	Nativity Cleanup	Gundersen
18-Dec	Hojnicki/Flynn/ Roberts	Riley	Farrell	Farrell
25-Dec	Nativity	Sulpizi/ Finck	Kendall	No Library

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

DATE	VESPERS and LITURGY
Dec-11	Team Conover
Dec-18	Team Gabriel
Dec-25	All Servers

Last Week's Attendance

Vespers: 33

Divine Liturgy 110