



**Sunday December 10, 2017 27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 2.** Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, and Eucraphus, of Alexandria (ca. 313). St. Joasaph, Bishop of Belgorod (1754). Martyr Gemellus of Paphlagonia (ca. 361). Ven. Thomas of Bithynia (10th c.). Bl. Jovan (John), King of Serbia (1503) and his parents, Stephen (1446) and Angelina Brancovich.

**This Week's Schedule**

**Wednesday 12/13** Small Paraklesis 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday 12/16** Great Vespers 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday 12/17** Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.  
followed by Coffee Hour

**Reader Schedule**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>3<sup>RD</sup> HOUR</b>	<b>6<sup>TH</sup> HOUR</b>	<b>EPISTLE</b>
Dec 10	SULPIZI	SOUDER	CAREY
Dec 17	WALES	WALES	WALES
Dec 24	RILEY	RILEY	RILEY
Dec 25	NATIVITY OF CHRIST		
Dec 31	SOUDER	SULPIZI	BRASOWSKI

## Hymns and Prayers

### **Tone 2 Troparion**      *(Resurrection)*

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,  
You destroyed hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.  
And when from the depths You raised the dead,  
all the powers of heaven cried out://  
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!”

### **Tone 8 Troparion**      *(Martyrs)*

Having slain the fiery ragings and fierce movements of the passions  
through their ascetic labors,  
the Martyrs of Christ, Menas, Hermogenes, and Eugraphus,  
received grace to dispel the afflictions of the infirm and to work wonders  
both while alive and after death.  
It is a truly great wonder that naked bones pour forth healing.//  
Glory to our only God and Creator!

### **Tone 2 Kontakion**      *(Resurrection)*

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior,  
seeing the miracle of Your Resurrection from the tomb!  
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with  
You,//  
and the world, my Savior, praises You forever.

### **Tone 4 Kontakion**      *(Martyrs)*

The Lord snatched you from the temporal army,  
making you a fellow inheritor of the eternal, O Menas;  
together with Hermogenes and Eugraphus  
with whom you suffered,  
you are granted an incorruptible crown.

### **Tone 2 Prokeimenon**

The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation.  
(Ps 117/118:4)

*v: The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me  
over to death. (Ps 117/118:18)*

### **Epistle Ephesians 6:10-17**

*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.*

*Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

*Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

*Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.*

*And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;*

### **Tone 2**

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*v: May the Lord hear you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you! (Ps 19/20:1)*

*v: Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call! (Ps 19/20:9)*

### **Gospel Luke 17:12-19**

*Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off.*

*And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"*

*So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.*

*And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.*

*So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?"*

*Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?"*

*And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."*

## **Communion Hymns**

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

### **This Week's Announcement**

***Church Cleanup*** We will have a general church cleanup, in preparation for the Nativity, on Saturday morning Dec 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. All help would be appreciated.

***2019 Church Directory*** We are currently updating the church directory in preparation for 2019. We are asking parishioners to review the 2018 directory in the Vestibule and to make any necessary changes. For new members, or members not currently listed and would like to be included, please add your information--name(s), address, telephone number(s), email address and also birth date(s) for the Birthday List.

***Winter Coat Collection*** Please consider offering any new or used, coats, gloves, hats, or hand warmers to those in need this winter. Please see Rashid Elia if you would like to donate.

***Paraklesis this Week*** Small Paraklesis will continue this Wednesday at 6: 30 p.m. Please consider making a commitment to be a reader or to learn and help offer the responses. Come be a part of the mid-week service of supplication.

***Study Group this Week*** Our study group continued this past Thursday with the book "Courage to Pray," by Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh. The study group meets Thursday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. All are welcome to join us!

***The Nativity Fast*** This is just a reminder that we are in the midst of the Nativity Fast which continues until the Nativity of our Lord (Dec. 25th). The celebration of the feast of the Nativity of Christ in the Orthodox Church is patterned after the celebration of the feast of the Lord's Resurrection. A fast of forty days precedes the feast, with special preparatory days announcing the approaching birth of the Savior. Thus,

on Saint Andrew's Day (November 30) and Saint Nicholas Day (December 6) songs are sung to announce the coming birthday of the Lord: 'Adorn yourself, O Cavern. Make ready, O Manger. O Shepherds and wise men, bring your gifts and bear witness. For the Virgin is coming bearing Christ in her womb' (Vesperal Hymn of Saint Nicholas Day)

***Stewardship Calling Presentation Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>*** In case you missed part one of the diocesan presentation "Stewardship Calling" last week, we will be offering it once again following Vespers on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>. The presentation will speak to our current and future Church needs. We hope it will assist and enhance our parish vision and stewardship by addressing our continued and future parish work and ministries. The presentation can also be viewed online at <http://stewardshipcalling.com/effective-church-model/>. Please feel free to view it on your own.

***St. Michael's and Amazon*** At this time of year, we begin buying gifts for our friends and family. This is just a reminder that if you purchase items from Amazon.Com, St. Michael's could benefit from your purchases. Amazon Smile will give St. Michael's a small rebate for every purchase you make if you use the address below. This address is specific to St. Michael's so it is easy to use. So far this year, we have received over \$130. Just type the address into your web browser. <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/05-0545881>

***Bookstore Nativity Gifts*** Our Parish Bookstore will be having a sale over the next few weeks. Stop by to purchase gifts for those on your Christmas list.

***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. Our Parish Holy Supper will be Sunday evening Dec. 24th (Eve of Nativity) at 5:00 p.m. on. All are welcome to join us.

***81st Novogodny Ball*** The Novogodny (New Year's) Ball will take place on Sunday 1/14/18. The Ball is a benefit for Orthodox Christian & other deserving charities. For info & reservations email [novogodnyball@gmail.com](mailto:novogodnyball@gmail.com) or call Andre Cox at 215-290-4542.

***Coffee Hour Ministry Reminder*** 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, nonperishable 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 want to avoid food waste and we also, ask parents to please supervise your children in the food line so that they take appropriate amounts. We continue to also have a need for volunteers to set up and cleanup for our monthly pot luck. It is our hope that with a little engagement, awareness, understanding, and effort, the coffee hour should continue to be a strength within our community.

### **Resisting Royal Temptations**

*In Luke 14: 1-11, Jesus has gone on the sabbath to dine at the home of one of the rulers of the Pharisees. As usual, they are "watchng Him" to see what He will do and whether He might make a mistake. But Jesus is also watching them, and He notices how they choose the places of honor at the table. As a result of His observation, He tells them a parable. The parable cautions against taking a place of honor at a wedding feast, and then having to give it up when a more eminent guest arrives. Rather, you should humbly take the lowest place, and the host will honor you by moving you to a higher one. Jesus' final words in the parable are, "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."*

*We also find wisdom in the Epistle reading from Galatians 5:22-6:2. where Saint Paul lists the fruits of the Spirit, and then writes words that form the basis of fasting: "And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."*

*This brings us to the Church's commemoration of the prophet Daniel, who as an exile in Babylon and had to deal with proud foreign kings. Daniel resisted the temptations these strong-willed royals put in his path, by living up to both the verses we read on this day. He humbled himself, and put away the "passions and desires" of the flesh.*

*In Daniel 2, King Nebuchadnezzar has had a troubling dream, and promises great rewards to whoever can interpret it. But none of his wise men can tell him what he dreamed, or what it meant. Furious, he threatens that they must find the answer, or be "torn limb from limb." The threat includes Daniel.*

*God reveals the dream and its meaning to Daniel, who then comes before the king with the tempting chance to gain untold riches as the great interpreter. Instead, he tells Nebuchadnezzar that no wise men can find the answers, but that "there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries." Daniel goes on: "...not because of any wisdom that I have more than all the living has this mystery been revealed to me, but in order that the interpretation may be known to the king" (2:30). Daniel directs Nebuchadnezzar's attention to God, and humbly refuses to claim special insight.*

*In Daniel 1: 1-15, Nebuchadnezzar favors Daniel with the offer of the same rich food that his courtiers consume. Daniel resists this temptation, and persuades the steward to let him observe the Jewish dietary laws. After ten days, seeing how much "better in appearance" Daniel is than the youths who eat richly, the steward begins giving them all vegetables and water. Daniel's fasting thus benefits the whole court.*

*Our temptations may not come from royal sources, but we can still use them, as Daniel used his, to glorify the God we all worship. "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."*

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**

*Cheerfulness consists in not regarding things as our own, but as entrusted to us by God for the benefit of our fellow servants. It consists in scattering them abroad generously with joy and magnanimity, not reluctantly or under compulsion.*

*+Saint Symeon the New Theologian*

*If you cultivate prayer, be ready for the attacks of demons and endure them resolutely; for they will come at you like wild beasts and maltreat your whole body*

*+Saint Evagrius the Solitary*

**Prayers for the Departed:** Archpriest Stephen Mack, Archpriest Wsevolod Drobot, Protodeacon Keith Russin, Matushka Martha Ermikov, Matushka Marie (Gambal) Kreta

**Prayers for the Sick and Those in Need:** Fr. Joseph Chupeck, Fr. Josef Petranin, Fr. John Nightingale, Fr. Deacon James Carpenter, Mat Julia Petranin, Mat. Ellen Chupeck, Mat. Jennifer Franchak, Mat. Lisa Weremedic, Matushka Myra Kovalak, Lemlem Resat, Peter Melnik, Olga Riley, Marie Holowatch, Marie Karawulan, Barbara Hicks, JamesHicks, Anna Herko, Zack Bajuyo, Luke & Anna Wales, Nona Carey, Mona Elia, Lydia Kendall, Maria and Doug Dozier, Mary Anne Farrell, Catalina(Mary) & Jeremy (John) Finck, John Griffith, Cynthia Griffith, Benjamin, Charles, Patrica, Lubov, Marilyn Coyle, Alfred Mokhiber,

**Prayers for Women and the Child to be born:** Mary (Misty) Robinson, Elizabeth Brasowski, Laura Cristina Najemy, Maria Peck, Rachel Facaros, Leah Reed

**Prayers for Catechumens:** Stephanie Smiertka Riley

<b>Date</b>	<b><u>Coffee Hour</u></b>	<b><u>Service Duty</u></b>	<b><u>Church Cleaner</u></b>	<b><u>Library</u></b>
<b>10-Dec</b>	Peck / Wales	Sheeler/Baldyche	General Cleaning	Gundersen
<b>17-Dec</b>	Gerassimakis /Bunitsky	Bunitsky/Lewis	Baldychev/Shatley/	Farrell
<b>24-Dec</b>	Eve of Nativity	Elia/Morjana	Suplizi	Skomorucha
<b>31-Dec</b>	Whalen /Clause//Bisrat	Riley	Riley	Maloney

***Church School Reminder***

Dec. 10 Class  
 Dec 17 Class/Church Decorating  
 Dec 24 No Class Nativity Eve  
 Dec 31 No Class Nativity/  
 Theophany Break  
 Jan. 7 No Class Nativity/  
 Theophany Break

***ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE***

Dec-10 Roel  
 Dec-17 Andrew  
 Dec-24 Rafael  
 Dec-25 NATIVITY All servers  
 Dec-31 Roel