



THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH OF ST. TIMOTHY

“Following Christ and His Apostles — Into His Church and Their Faith.”

December 11th — 17th, 2005

SUNDAY OF FOREFATHERS (ANCESTORS) OF CHRIST

Venerable Daniel the Stylite, Luke the New Stylite, Nomon and Leonitios;
Martyr Barsabbas of Persia

Tone 8

Eothinon 3

“Let us now lay aside all earthly cares . . .”

~ Please, no cell phones (leave them in the car, at home, or turn them off)

~ Please, no talking or visiting during the Divine Liturgy (especially during Holy Communion)

ORTHROS

As a reminder, the six Psalms read at the beginning of Orthros are to be treated the same as the Gospel reading during the Divine Liturgy; i.e., no moving around, talking, etc. We are to stand in repentance as we hear these Psalms of Repentance.

HYMNODY

Apolytikion (Troparion) of the Resurrection (Tone 8): Thou descended from on high, O compassionate One. Thou endured burial until the third day, to set us free from passions. O Lord, our life and our resurrection, Glory to Thee.

Apolytikion of the Forefathers (Tone 2): Through faith Thou has justified Thine ancestors, O Christ God. Through them Thou has betrothed to Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. From their seed has come a glorious fruit: she who gave birth to Thee without seed. Therefore these Saints rejoice in glory, through their prayers O Christ God save our souls.

Troparion of St Timothy: O holy Apostle Timothy, master of unction measured in all thy deeds, clothed with an upright conscience as befits a priest, thou has drawn ineffable truths from Paul the vessel of election; thou hast kept the faith and completed a course equal to his. Intercede with Christ God to save our souls!

Kontakion of Preparation of Christ’s Nativity: Today the Virgin comes to the cave, to ineffably give birth to the Eternal word. Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, all the ends of the earth. With the angels and shepherds glorify Him. He comes, a new child, the Eternal God.

READINGS

Those who need may sit during the Epistle

EPISTLE READING ~ Colossians 3:4-11: Brethren . . . 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. *5* Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. *6* On account of these the wrath of God is coming. *7* In these you once walked, when you lived in them. *8* But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. *9* Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices *10* and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. *11* Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

During the Gospel, all are to stand and there is to be no moving around
GOSPEL READING ~ St Luke 14:16-24: Let us attend! . . . 16 But he said to him, "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; *17* 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.' *18* But they all alike 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.' *19* And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' *20* And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.'

21 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.' 22 And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' 23 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. 24 For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.'"

SINCE WE UNDERSTAND COMMUNION TO MEAN THAT WE HAVE ALL THINGS IN COMMON, SHARING AN IDENTICAL FAITH, ONLY THOSE WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH AND WHO HAVE PREPARED THEMSELVES THROUGH PRAYER, FASTING AND RECENT CONFESSION MAY PARTICIPATE IN HOLY COMMUNION.

EVENTS OF THIS WEEK

Tuesday, December 13th:

- * South Parish Study; 7:00 PM (*Tollefson*)

Wednesday, December 14th:

- * Christina Sayegh [B]
- * Nadeen Yaser [B]
- * Paraklesis; 6:00 PM
- * Parish Council; 7:00 PM

Thursday, December 15th:

- * Academy; 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Saturday, December 17th:

- * Brianna Melton [N] (*Prophet Daniel*)
- * Great Vespers; 6:00 PM
- * *Confessions heard following Vespers*

SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE, INSTRUCTION FROM THE SAINTS, WORDS FROM OUR FATHER, BISHOP JOSEPH

“The Lord overlooks nothing. Even secrets are open to Him. Let us then do everything as if He were dwelling in us. Thus we shall be His temples, and He will be within us as our God — as He actually is. This will be clear to us just to the extent that we love Him rightly.”

~ *St Ignatius of Antioch*

“Grace at first conceals its presence in those who have been baptized, waiting to see which way the soul inclines. When the whole man has turned towards the Lord, it then reveals to the heart its presence there, with a felling that words cannot express; once again waiting to see which way the soul inclines.”

~ *St Diadochus*

“Those who have truly decided to serve the Lord God should practice the remembrance of God and uninterrupted prayer to Jesus Christ, mentally saying: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”

~ *St Seraphim of Sarov*

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When we fast we have to reconcile not only with one another, but with all creatures - with the animals and even with nature. Nature is acting against human beings. Why? Because we started it first by acting against nature in the Garden of Eden. So we need the peace from above.

The beauty of holiness is not made manifest just in the moment of my Chrismation, in the moment I receive Communion, or in the moment I put on beautiful vestments. The beauty of holiness is made manifest in the way I live every moment of my life.

Your Father in Christ,

+ *Bishop JOSEPH*