



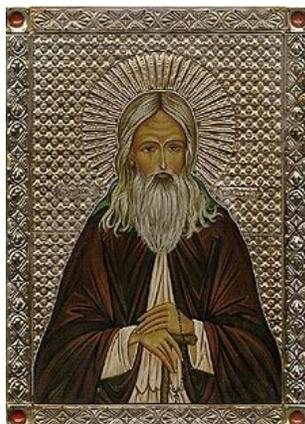
NEWSLETTER & DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

29th Week after Pentecost

Monday, December 21 — Sunday, December 27, 2020



***The Conception by Righteous
Anna of the Most Holy
Mother of God***



***Venerable Herman of Alaska,
Wonderworker of All
America***



Sunday of the Forefathers

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~ A NOTE FROM FATHER JOHN ~

Our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, love the creation. God, who sustains us in life, and in the entire world is Omnipotent. He is everywhere present and fills all things. In the Gospel of St. Matthew, 6:28-30, He says, “...Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not neither do they spin: Yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.” We have so much to be thankful for and to give Glory to God for all things. May our souls abide in His love and bounty forever.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

~ “TWITTER SUMMARY” ~

The main points from Sunday’s sermon, in 280 characters or less!

God will; He allows. The allowing might scare some people, because He rains upon the just and the unjust. Our prosperity in this world does not belong to us. What matters is what we do with what we are given; if we love God and love our neighbor.

~ THOUGHTS FOR EVERY DAY ~

Scripture and liturgical readings to enrich your prayer life every day of the week

<p align="center">~ MONDAY~ (12/21)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Hebrews 3:5-11, 17:19 Luke 20:27-44</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: St. Patapius of Thebes, Tone VIII — In thee, O father, that which was created according to the image of God was manifestly saved./ For accepting thy cross thou didst follow after Christ,/ and praying thou didst learn to disdain the flesh,/ for thou didst transcend it to take care of thine immortal soul.// Wherefore, with the angels doth thy soul rejoice, O venerable Patapius.</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Venerable Patapius of Thebes (7th c.)</p>	<p align="center">~ TUESDAY~ (12/22)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Galatians 4:22-31 St. Anna Luke 8:16-21 St. Anna</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: Conception of the All-Holy Theotokos by St. Anna; Troparion, Tone IV — Today, the bonds of barrenness are loosed,/ for God, hearkening unto Joachim and Anna,/ doth manifestly promise them/ that they will beyond all expectation,/ give birth to the divine Maiden,/ from whom the Infinite One Himself, becoming man, shall be born./ And He commandeth the angels to cry unto her:/ Rejoice, thou who art full of grace,// the Lord is with thee!</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: The Conception by St. Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos</p>
<p align="center">~ WEDNESDAY~ (12/23)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-17 Martyrs Luke 21:12-19 Martyrs</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: Holy Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes & Eugraphus of Alexandria, Troparion, Tone VIII — Having mortified the fiery forms and movements of the passions by abstinence, O martyrs of Christ,/ ye received the grace to dispel the ailments of the infirm,/ and, living even after your death, to work miracles!/ O truly most glorious wonder! Bare bones pour forth healing!// Glory to the only God and Creator!</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day:</p>	<p align="center">~ THURSDAY~ (12/24)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Hebrews 7:1-6 Luke 21:28-33</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: St. Daniel the Stylite of Constantinople, Tone I — Thou wast a pillar of patience, O venerable one,/ emulating the forefathers:/ Job, in afflictions; Joseph in temptations,/ and the life of the incorporeal ones while in the body./ Entreat Christ God. O Daniel, our father,// that our souls be saved.</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Venerable Daniel the Stylite of Constantinople (490)</p>

<p>Martyrs Menas the Melodius, Hermogenes, and Euphrasius of Alexandria (310)</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">~ FRIDAY ~ (12/25)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Hebrews 7:18-25 Luke 21:37-22:8</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: St. Herman, Wonderworker of Alaska, Troparion, Tone IV — <i>O venerable Herman, ascetic of the northern wilderness/ and gracious advocate for all the world,/ teacher of the Orthodox Faith and good, instructor of piety,/ adornment of Alaska and joy of all America;// Entreat Christ God, that He save our souls.</i></p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: St. Herman, Wonderworker of Alaska</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">~ SATURDAY ~ (12/26)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Ephesians 2:11-13 Luke 13:18-29</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: Holy Martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius & Orestes; Holy Martyr Lucia, Tone IV — <i>In their sufferings, O Lord,/ Thy martyrs received imperishable crowns from Thee our God;/ for, possessed of Thy might,/ they set at nought the tormentors and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons.// By their supplications save Thou our souls.</i></p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius, and Orestes at Sebaste (284)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">~ SUNDAY ~ (12/27)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: John 20:1-10 Colossians 3:4-11</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion : Sunday of the Holy Forefathers, Troparion, Tone II — <i>Through faith Thou hast 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 Thee without seed.// So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy upon us.</i></p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Week of Holy Forefathers</p>	<p><i>“Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, their words unto the ends of the world.”</i></p> <p>[Prokeimenon of Pentecost, Tone 8, Liturgy]</p> <p>To read more: https://www.holytrinityorthodox.com/calendar/</p>

~ PONDER THIS ~

A few thoughts to ponder in light of this week's lessons and sermons.

<http://orthodoxinfo.com/praxis/nativityprayer.aspx>

Prayer: Our Nativity Centerpiece

The Evil One tempts us to view our prayer rule as a duty, as just one more thing we need to do each day in the midst of many other responsibilities. God wants us to view our time in prayer as an encounter with Him, as an opportunity to connect and deepen our relationship with Him. We don't always realize that our commitment to daily morning and evening prayers has a residual effect on the rest of our day and night. This is also true of the cumulative effect of prayer on us if we sustain and even deepen our prayer rules in a consistent way over time. The fruit of consistency in prayer is the increased remembrance of God throughout the day. Our goal in life should be to ceaselessly remember God and to cultivate within us the awareness of His presence in our life at all times and in every place.

(... TO CONTINUE READING, CLICK ON THE LINK ABOVE)

~LOOK IT UP~

Did you know: Elder Gabriel burnt down a giant portrait of Lenin that hung on the House of Government of Georgia and which was supposed to be “venerated” by soviet citizens.

Read more: <https://orthochristian.com/136151.html>

~ PRAYER CORNER ~

- Father John and Matushka Deborah.
- Please keep in prayer our older parishioners who, if they contract the COVID-19 virus, will be in greater risk of serious health complications.
- Anna and her family
- Ekaterina, memory eternal
- Please keep in prayer our heroic parishioners who work in the health care profession and are on the front lines of our society's fight against the Novel Corona Virus and COVID-19 disease.

~ THIS WEEK'S SERVICES ~

Monday	6pm - Vigil (Facebook Live)
Tuesday	8 am - Divine Liturgy 6pm - Vespers (Facebook Live)
Wednesday	6pm - Vespers (Facebook Live) 6:40 - Akathist: St. Nicholas the Wonderworker
Thursday	6pm - Vigil (Facebook Live)
Friday	9 am - Divine Liturgy 6pm - Vespers (Facebook Live)

