



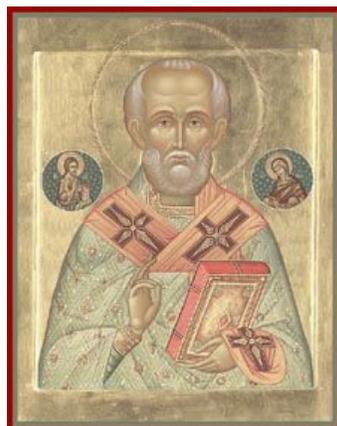
NEWSLETTER & DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

28th Week after Pentecost

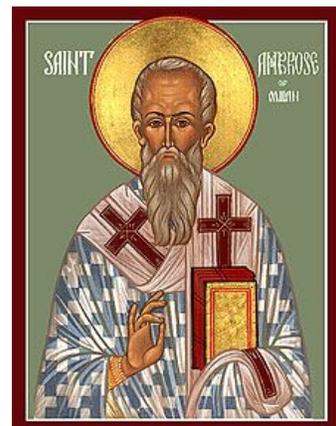
Monday, December 14 — Sunday, December 20, 2020



Venerable Sabbas the Sanctified



Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia



Saint Ambrose, Bishop of Milan

~ CONTENTS ~

A Note from Fr. John	Look It Up!
“Twitter Summary”	Prayer Corner
Thoughts for Every Day	This Week’s Services
Ponder This	Bookstore

~ A NOTE FROM FATHER JOHN ~

What does one need to resist trouble? Joy. How does one withstand suffering? With patience. We see in these two quotes from Monk Symeon of Mt. Athos that the path to salvation is trod with patience and joy: patience, because we know God loves us and we are willing to wait on Him, and joy, because we can rejoice in the fact God does indeed love us. It is important for us to resist any doubts we may have, any judgments we might hold, and any behavior that takes us from the love of God.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

~ “TWITTER SUMMARY” ~

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

If we took care of our neighbor, we wouldn’t need all these agencies and organizations. If we think too highly of ourselves we will stumble, but if we are obedient to God He will bless us. If you succumb to the fallenness of this world, know that you can give confession and God will forgive. Be simple in heart, love God and your neighbor.

~ THOUGHTS FOR EVERY DAY ~

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

<p align="center">~ MONDAY~ (12/14)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:20-26 Luke 19:37-44</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: Holy Prophet Nahum, Troparion, Tone II — Celebrating the memory/ of Thy prophet Nahum O Lord,// through him do we entreat Thee, save Thou our souls.</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Prophet Nahum (7th c. B.C.)</p>	<p align="center">~ TUESDAY~ (12/15)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:16-4:4 Luke 19:45-48</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: Holy Prophet Habbakuk, Troparion, Tone II — Celebrating the memory/ of Thy prophet Habbakuk O Lord,// through him do we entreat Thee, save Thou our souls.</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Prophet Habakkuk (Abbacum) (7th c. B.C.)</p>
<p align="center">~ WEDNESDAY~ (12/16)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:9-22 Luke 20:1-8</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: Holy Prophet Zephaniah, Troparion, Tone II — Celebrating the memory/ of Thy prophet Zephaniah O Lord,// through him do we entreat Thee, save Thou our souls</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Prophet Zephaniah (Sophonias) (635 B.C.)</p>	<p align="center">~ THURSDAY~ (12/17)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Galatians 3:23-29 Great-martyr Barbara Mark 5:24-34 Great-martyr Barbara</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: Greatmartyr Barbara, Troparion, Tone VIII — Let us honor the holy Barbara; for the most honored one broke the snares of the enemy// and was delivered from them like a bird, with the help and aid of the Cross.</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Great-martyr Barbara and Martyr Juliana at Heliapolis in Syria (306)</p>
<p align="center">~ FRIDAY~ (12/18)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Galatians 5:22-6:2 Epistle, Saint Matthew 11:27-30 Gospel, Saint</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: St. Sabbas the Sanctified, Tone VIII —</p>	<p align="center">~ SATURDAY ~ (12/19)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Hebrews 13:17-21 St. Nicholas Luke 6:17-23 St. Nicholas</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: St. Nicholas, Archbp. of Myra in Lycia, Tone IV —</p>

<p>With the streams of thy tears thou didst irrigate the barren desert,/ and with sighs from the depths of thy soul thou didst render thy labors fruitful an hundredfold./ Thou wast a beacon for the whole world, radiating miracles.// O our father Sabbas, entreat Christ God that our souls be saved.</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Venerable Sabbas the Sanctified (532)</p>	<p>The truth of things revealed thee to thy flock as a rule of faith,/ a model of meekness and a teacher of abstinence/ wherefore thou hast attained the heights through humility/ and riches through poverty.// O hierarch Nicholas our father, entreat Christ God that our souls be saved.</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, archbishop of Myra in Lycia (345)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">~ SUNDAY ~ (12/20)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Colossians 1:12-18 Luke 17:12-19</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion : St. Ambrose, Bp. of Milan, Tone IV — The truth of things revealed thee to thy flock as a rule of faith,/ a model of meekness and a teacher of abstinence/ wherefore thou hast attained the heights through humility/ and riches through poverty.// O hierarch Ambrose our father, entreat Christ God that our souls be saved.</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: St. Ambrose, bishop of Milan (397)</p>	<p>“Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, their words unto the ends of the world.”</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.

<https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/prayingintherain/2020/12/overcoming-temptations-through-low-expectations/>

Overcoming Temptations Through Low Expectations

The advice of St. Isaac is not the advice you get in the world. The world teaches us the opposite. The world teaches us that a comfortable life is normal,

that it is normal to be fulfilled, content and satisfied. And the world teaches us that if you are not experiencing such a happy life, it's someone's fault, and probably not yours. And even though it's not your fault, the world teaches us, that it is up to you to do something about it, to affix blame on someone, to fight for your rights, your right to a normal life as the world defines it.

The advice of St. Isaac and the saints is very different. Here we are advised to have low expectations of this life. To expect things to be difficult, to go sideways when you least expect it. Jesus, did say, "In this world you will have tribulations." However, our low expectations of this world are to be matched by a very high expectation that God loves us and will be good to us and will work every circumstance for our salvation. That is, in whatever life in this fallen world throws at us, God will give us the Grace to become more like Christ through it. God will be near us and help us. God will not abandon us.

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

~LOOK IT UP~

Did you know: Saint Nicholas, fired with zeal for the Lord, assailed the heretic Arius with his words, and also struck him upon the face. For this reason, he was deprived of the emblems of his episcopal rank and placed under guard. But several of the holy Fathers had the same vision, seeing the Lord Himself and the Mother of God returning to him the Gospel and omophorion. The Fathers of the Council agreed that the audacity of the saint was pleasing to God, and restored the saint to the office of bishop.

Read more:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2016/12/06/103484-saint-nicholas-the-wonderworker-archbishop-of-myra-in-lycia>

~ 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 - Vespers (Facebook Live)
Tuesday	8 am - Divine Liturgy
Wednesday	6pm - Vespers (Facebook Live) 6:40 - Akathist: St. Nicholas the Wonderworker 7pm - Studies in the Faith
Thursday	8 am - Divine Liturgy 6pm - Vespers (Facebook Live) 6:40 - Akathist: Joy of All Who Sorrow
Friday	8 am - Divine Liturgy 6pm - Vespers (Facebook Live)
Saturday	7am - Matins 8:30 - Divine Liturgy 5pm - Vigil (Facebook Live)
Sunday	9am - Divine Liturgy

