



## NEWSLETTER & DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

**27th Week after Pentecost**

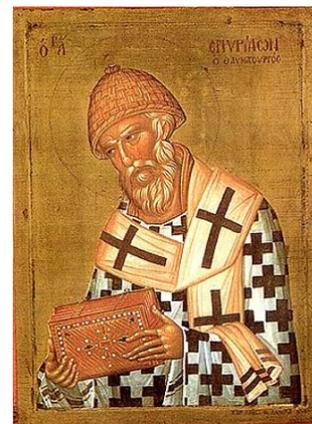
Monday, December 20 — Sunday, December 26, 2021



**St. Ambrose,  
bishop of Milan**



**The Conception by St. Anna  
of the Most Holy Theotokos**



**St. Spyridon the  
Wonderworker of  
Tremithon**

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## ~ A NOTE FROM FATHER JOHN ~

St Ephraim the Syrian states in his thoughts on the Nativity of Jesus Christ, 'In this night of reconciliation let no man be wroth or gloomy! In this night that stills all, none that threatens or disturbs! This night belongs to the sweet One; bitter or harsh be in it none! In this night that is the meek One's, high or haughty be in it none! In this day of pardoning let us not exact trespasses! In this day of gladnesses let us not spread sadnesses! In this day so sweet, let us not be harsh! In this day of peaceful rest, let us not be wrathful in it! In this day when God came to sinners, let not the righteous be in his mind uplifted over sinner! May each one find the Peace that passes all understanding.

Christ is Born!

Glorify Him!

— Fr. John

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## ~ TWITTER SUMMARY ~

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

This past Sunday we recounted the miraculous story of St Nicholas. His story is worthwhile for all Orthodox Christians to learn and share with others (he is the real Santa Claus!)

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**~ THOUGHTS FOR EVERY DAY ~**

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

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>~ MONDAY ~</b> <b>(12/20)</b></p> <p><b>Commemoration of the Day:</b> St. Ambrose, bishop of Milan (397)</p> <p><b>Excerpt from the Menaion:</b> <b>St. Ambrose, Bp. of Milan, Tone IV —</b> <i>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.</i></p> <p><b>Holy Scripture:</b> 1 Timothy 5:1-10 Luke 20:27-44</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>~ TUESDAY~</b> <b>(12/21)</b></p> <p><b>Commemoration of the Day:</b> Venerable Patapius of Thebes (7th c.)</p> <p><b>Excerpt from the Menaion:</b> <b>St. Patapius of Thebes, Tone VIII —</b> <i>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.</i></p> <p><b>Holy Scripture:</b> 1 Timothy 5:11-21 Luke 21:12-19</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>~ WEDNESDAY~</b> <b>(12/22)</b></p> <p><b>Commemoration of the Day:</b> The Conception by St. Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos</p> <p><b>Excerpt from the Menaion:</b> <b>Conception of the All-Holy Theotokos by St. Anna; Troparion, Tone IV —</b> <i>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!</i></p> <p><b>Holy Scripture:</b> Galatians 4:22-31 St. Anna Luke 8:16-21 St. Anna</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>~ THURSDAY~</b> <b>(12/23)</b></p> <p><b>Commemoration of the Day:</b> Martyrs Menas the Melodius, Hermogenes, and Euphrasius of Alexandria (310)</p> <p><b>Excerpt from the Menaion:</b> <b>Holy Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes &amp; Euphrasius of Alexandria, Troparion, Tone VIII —</b> <i>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!</i></p> <p><b>Holy Scripture:</b> Ephesians 6:10-17 Martyrs Luke 21:12-19 Martyrs</p>

~ FRIDAY ~  
(12/24)

**Commemoration of the Day:**

Venerable Daniel the Stylite of Constantinople (490)

**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.*

**Holy Scripture:**

2 Timothy 1:1-2, 8-18  
Luke 21:37-22:8

~ SATURDAY ~  
(12/25)

**Commemoration of the Day:**

St. Spyridon the Wonderworker of Tremithon (348)

**Excerpt from the Menaion:**

**St. Spyridon the Wonderworker, Bp. of Tremithus, Troparion, in Tone IV —**

*The very truth of things revealed thee to thy flock as a rule of faith, a model of meekness and teacher of abstinence. Wherefore, thou didst attain the heights through humility, and riches through poverty. O father Spyridon, entreat Christ God that our souls be saved!*

**Holy Scripture:**

Hebrews 13:17-21 St. Spyridon  
Luke 6:17-23 St. Spyridon

~ SUNDAY ~  
(12/26)

**Commemoration of the Day:**

Martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius, and Orestes at Sebaste (284)

**Excerpt from the Menaion:**

**Holy Martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius & Orestes; Holy Martyr Lucia, Tone IV —**

*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.*

**Holy Scripture:**

Ephesians 6:10-17 Martyrs  
Luke 21:12-19 Martyrs

***“Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, their words unto the ends of the world.”***

**[Prokeimenon of Pentecost, Tone 8, Liturgy]**

**To read more:**

<https://www.holytrinityorthodox.com/calendar/>

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## ~ PONDER THIS ~

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

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

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2010/12/09/103506-the-conception-by-righteous-anna-of-the-most-holy-mother-of-god>

The Orthodox Church does not accept the teaching that the Mother of God was exempted from the consequences of ancestral sin (death, corruption, sin, etc.) at the moment of her conception by virtue of the future merits of Her Son. Only Christ was born perfectly holy and sinless, as Saint Ambrose of Milan teaches in Chapter Two of his Commentary on Luke. The Holy Virgin was like everyone else in Her mortality, and in being subject to temptation, although She committed no personal sins. She was not a deified creature removed from the rest of humanity. If this were the case, She would not have been truly human, and the nature that Christ took from Her would not have been truly human either. If Christ does not truly share our human nature, then the possibility of our salvation is in doubt.

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## ~LOOK IT UP~

**Did you know:** At the First Ecumenical Council, Saint Spyridon displayed the unity of the Holy Trinity in a remarkable way. He took a brick in his hand and squeezed it. At that instant fire shot up from it, water dripped on the ground, and only dust remained in the hands of the wonderworker. “There was only one brick,” Saint Spyridon said, “but it was composed of three elements. In the Holy Trinity there are three Persons, but only one God.”

**Read more:**

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2019/12/12/103526-saint-spyridon-the-wonderworker-bishop-of-tremithus>

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**~ PRAYER CORNER ~**

- Fr Moses
- Alexander Dubravka
- Oleg
- Sr Verena
- Vaughn
- Corbet
- Archbishop Benjamin
- Archpriest Anthony
- Archpriest Michael
- Fr John & Mat Deborah
- John Westley

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To submit **commemorations for the next Divine Liturgy**, to make an appointment with Fr. John to give **confession by telephone**, to alert us to any pastoral needs, to submit an item for the **Prayer Corner**, or just to chat, please contact Fr. John or Mat. Deborah using the following contact information:

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Matushka Deborah Tomasi \* (310) 849-9451 \* [deborahTomasi@yahoo.com](mailto:deborahTomasi@yahoo.com)

**Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!**