

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR ...

The health and salvation of –

Abducted Bishops Paul & John	Pauline
Hieroschemamonk Ambrose	Ann
Archpriest Ian	Stefan
Archpriest Eugene	John
Archpriest Seraphim	Vivian
Reader Aleksei	Jung Sook
Monk Philaret	Thomas
Matushka Mary	Cheyenne
Virginia • Thomas	Nancy
John • Jacqueline	Randall
Euphrosynos	Rose
John • Samuel	Don
Catechumen Rebecca	Norma

The repose and salvation of –

Please let Father know if there are any names you would like added to the list.

Next Sunday, December 18 – Parish Council

Saturday, December 24 - Eve of the Nativity:

9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy followed by Great Vespers

5:00 PM – Vigil for the Nativity of the Lord

Sunday, December 25, 9:30 AM

Festal Divine Liturgy

*A mission parish under the omophorion of His Eminence Benjamin,
Archbishop of San Francisco and the Diocese of the West,
Orthodox Church in America*



Venerable Daniel the Stylite



Stylite Pillar, Umm er-Rasas, Jordan

Sunday Hours & Divine Liturgy at 9:10 AM, followed by agape potluck
Other services as announced

Rev. Alexander Vallens, *Rector*
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Sunday of the Forefathers

The Sunday that falls between December 11 and December 17 is known as the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers. These are the ancestors of Christ according to the flesh, who lived before the Law and under the Law, especially the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, “In thy seed shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed” (Gen. 12:3, 22:18).

Venerable Daniel the Stylite of Constantinople

Saint Daniel the Stylite was born in the village of Bethara, near the city of Samosata in Mesopotamia. His mother Martha was childless for a long while and in her prayers she vowed that if she had a child, she would dedicate him to the Lord. Her prayers were heard, and Martha soon gave birth to a son, who was without a name until he was five years of age.

The boy’s parents desired that since he was born through the good-will of God, he should also receive his name from God. They took their son to a monastery located nearby and approached the igumen. The igumen gave orders to take down one of the service books, and unrolled it at random. He found the Prophet Daniel mentioned in it. Thus did the boy receive his name. The parents asked that he might remain at the monastery, but the igumen would not accept him, since he was still only a small boy.

At twelve years of age, saying nothing to no one, the child left home for the monastery. His parents were happy when they learned where their son was, and they went to the monastery. Seeing that he was still going about in his worldly clothes, they besought that the igumen should clothe him in the angelic garb. That Sunday the igumen fulfilled their request, but permitted them often to visit their son. The brethren of the monastery were astonished at the saint’s ascetical efforts.

Once, St Simeon the Stylite visited the monastery. He foretold to the young monk that he too would undertake the feat of pillar-dwelling. St Daniel continued with his ascetic life in seclusion. When the place of a new exploit was revealed to him in a vision, he withdrew into the Thracian wilderness together with two disciples. They set up a pillar, upon which St Daniel dwelt for 33 years. People thronged to the pillar, the unfortunate and those who were sick, and all received help and healing from St Daniel. Byzantine emperors also sought the prayers of the holy ascetic. The most notable of the saint’s predictions was about a great fire in Constantinople. St Daniel possessed also the gift of gracious words. He guided many onto the path of correcting their lives. The monk reposed in his eightieth year.

**** NATIVITY FAST: fish, wine, and oil allowed on Tuesday and Saturday; wine and oil allowed on Thursday ****

Also this week: *St Spyridon the Wonderworker, Bp of Tremithus (December 12); REPOSE OF VENERABLE HERMAN OF ALASKA, WONDERWORKER OF AMERICA (December 13); Martyrs Thyrsus, Leucis, and Callinicus of Apollonia (December 14); Hieromartyr Eleutherius, Bp of Illyria, and his mother Martyr Anthia (December 15); Prophet Haggai (December 16); Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths: Ananias, Azarias, and Misael (December 17).*

Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11 (Sunday)

Gospel: Luke 14:16-24 (Sunday)

Troparion – Tone 8 (Resurrection)

Thou didst descend from on *high*, O Merciful One! /
Thou didst accept the *three*-day burial to free us from our sufferings! ///
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection: glory to Thee!

Troparion – Tone 2 (Forefathers)

Thou hast justified the ancient forefathers by their faith; /
Through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed to Thyself the Church of the Gentiles /
Let the saints thus be glorified, /
For from their seed there came forth a noble fruit: /
She who gave birth to Thee without seed; ///
By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

Kontakion – Tone 2 (Forefathers)

O thrice-blessèd ones, you did not worship the image made by man /
But armed with the invisible power of God /
You were glorified in a trial by fire; /
From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God /
Crying: Hasten, O Compassionate One! /
Speedily come to our defense for Thou art merciful ///
And able to accomplish *all* that Thou dost will.