

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 11, after coffee hour
St. Nicholas celebration

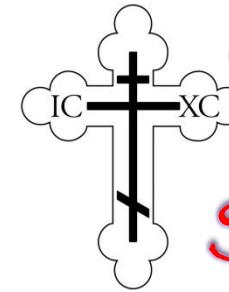
Sunday, December 18 – Parish Council

Saturday, December 24 - Eve of the Nativity:

9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy followed by Great Vespers

5:00 PM – Vigil for the Nativity

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



ST TIKHON ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 4, 2016

Hieromartyr Protopresbyter Alexander Hotovitsky



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

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The Holy Great-Martyr Barbara

This glorious follower of Christ was betrothed to Christ from early childhood. Her father Dioscorus was a pagan and was renowned for his position and wealth in the city of Heliopolis in Egypt. Dioscorus locked up his only daughter Barbara, brilliant in mind and of beautiful countenance, in a high tower. He surrounded her with every comfort, gave her female servants, erected idols for worship, and built her a bathing room with two windows. Looking through the window at the earth below and the starry heavens above, Barbara's mind was opened by the grace of God. She recognized the One True God, the Creator, despite the fact that she did not have a human teacher to bring her to this knowledge. Once, while her father was away from the city, she came down from the tower and, according to God's providence, met some Christian women who revealed the true Faith of Christ to her. Barbara's heart became inflamed with love for Christ the Lord. She ordered that a third window be cut open in the bath so that the three windows would represent the Holy Trinity. On one wall she traced a Cross with her finger, and the Cross etched itself deep in the stone as if cut by a chisel. A pool of water sprang forth from her footprints on the floor of the bath, which later gave healing of diseases to many. Learning of his daughter's faith, Dioscorus beat her severely and drove her from the tower. He pursued her in order to kill her, but a cliff opened up and hid Barbara from her brutal father. When she appeared again, her father brought her to Martianus, the magistrate, who handed her over for torture. They stripped the innocent Barbara and flogged her until her entire body was covered with blood and wounds, but the Lord Himself appeared to her in prison with His angels and healed her. A certain woman, Juliana, upon seeing this, desired martyrdom for herself. Both women were severely tortured and with mockery were led through the city. Their breasts were cut off and much blood flowed from them. They were finally led to the place of execution, where Dioscorus himself slaughtered his daughter, and Juliana was slain by the soldiers. That same day, lightning struck the house of Dioscorus, killing him and Martianus. St. Barbara suffered in the year 306. Her miracle-working relics rest in Kiev. Glorified in the Kingdom of Christ, she has appeared many times even in our own day, sometimes alone and sometimes in the company of the Most-holy Theotokos.

Saint John Damascene

John was first the chief minister to Caliph Abdul-Malik and later a monk in the Monastery of St. Sava the Sanctified. Because of his ardent defense of the veneration of icons during the reign of the iconoclastic Emperor Leo the Isaurian, John was maligned by the emperor to the Caliph, who cut off his right hand. John fell down in prayer before the icon of the Most-holy Theotokos, and his hand was rejoined and miraculously healed. Seeing this miracle the Caliph repented, but John no longer desired to remain with him as a nobleman. Instead, he withdrew to a monastery, where, from the beginning, he was a model to the monks in humility, obedience and all the prescribed rules of monastic asceticism. John composed the Funeral Hymns and compiled the Octoechos (The Book of Eight Tones), the Irmologion, the Menologion and the Paschal Canon, and he wrote many theological works of inspiration and profundity. A great monk, hymnographer, theologian and soldier for the truth of Christ, Damascene is numbered among the great Fathers of the Church. He entered peacefully into rest in about the year 776 at the age of 104.

Also this week: *Ven. Sabbas the Sanctified (December 5); ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER, ABP OF MYRA IN LYCLIA (December 6); St Ambrose, Bp of Milan (December 7); Ven Patapius of Thebes (December 8); CONCEPTION BY THE RIGHTEOUS ANNA OF THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS (December 9); Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, and Engrapus, of Alexandria (December 10).*

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

Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22 (Sunday) / Hebrews 13:7-16 (Hieromartyr)

Gospel: Luke 17:12-19 (Sunday) / Luke 12:32-40 (Hieromartyr)

Troparion – Tone 7 (Resurrection)

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise /
For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy /
And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, /
To proclaim that Thou art risen, /// Granting the world great mercy.

Troparion – Tone 8 (St Barbara)

Let us honor Saint Barbara, *for* she destroyed the snares of the enemy /
And like a bird, she *was* delivered from them /
With the aid and armor of the All-precious Cross.

Troparion – Tone 8 (St John)

As an instructor of Orthodoxy, a teacher of piety and purity, /
A lamp of the universe, *and* divinely-inspired enrichment of hierarchs, /
O most-wise father John, by thy teachings thou didst enlighten all ///
O spirit-filled voice, beseech Christ God to save our souls.

Kontakion – Tone 7 (Resurrection)

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, /
For Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers! /
Hades is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: /
The Savior has come to those in faith; ///
Enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!"

Kontakion – Tone 4 (St Barbara)

O holy martyr Barbara / Thou didst follow Him who is piously praised in the Trinity. /
And thou didst abandon the worship of idols /
And didst not shrink from the threats of the tyrants /
And for this suffered in the arena, /
Where, with great courage thou didst cry: ///
I worship the One Godhead, the Trinity.

Kontakion – Tone 4 (St John)

Come, O ye faithful, and let us honor John, worthy of all praise, /
The composer of hymns, the star and teacher of the universal Church, /
And the defender of her doctrines. /
Vanquishing heretical errors through the power of the Cross of the Lord. /
And as a fervent intercessor before Him / He entreats Christ God ///
To grant us all the remission of sins.