

**PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR ...**

*The health and salvation of –*

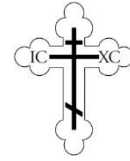
Metropolitan Onufriy + Ukrainian Orthodox Church	William Vivian
Metropolitan Isaiah Archbishop Benjamin	Valerie Deanna
Bishop Neofitos of Eldoret	Thomas
Archpriests Matthew & George	James
Hieroschemamonk Ambrose	Matthew
Subdeacon James	Keith
Reader Aleksei	Michael
Matushka Naomi	Rose
Jonathan • Phoebe • Anne	Abi
Iraida • Longinus • Nina	Gregory
Amal • Nicula • Maximus	John
Dmitry • Natalia	Keith • Diane
Danil • Anna • Kenneth	Robert
Irina • Galina • Sergey • Evgenij	Skyler
Venetia • Catherine	Craig
Katherine w/ child	Michael
	Patricia
Catechumens Rebecca, Isaac, Anna, Adalie, Everett, Ivey, Emily, David, Gregory, Christian, Michael, Lucy, Corey, Bryan, Damon, Samuel	

*The repose and salvation of –*

Reader Jospeh (3/6)

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

*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, March 9, 2025**

**Sunday of Orthodoxy  
The Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste**



Sundays at 9:05 AM – Hours + Divine Liturgy

This Wed., March 12, 5:50 PM – Typika + Presanctified Liturgy

This Friday, March 14, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM – Holy Cross healings

This Friday, March 14, 6:00 PM – Salutations to the Theotokos

Archpriest Alexander Vallens, *Rector*

[priest@sttikhonparker.org](mailto:priest@sttikhonparker.org) • (720) 295-7715

Protodeacon John Manutes

19035 East Plaza Drive, Parker, Colorado 80134

### 1st Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of Orthodoxy

The first Sunday of Great Lent is called the Sunday of Orthodoxy because it commemorates the restoration of the Holy Icons and the triumph of the Orthodox Faith against the heresy of the Iconoclasts, i.e. those heretics who refused to honor the Holy Icons. For more than 100 years the Church was disturbed by the doctrine of iconoclasm.

The first Emperor to persecute the Church was Leo the Isaurian, and the last was Theophilus, the spouse of Saint Theodora, who reigned after her husband's death and re-established Orthodoxy in the time of Patriarch Methodios. Empress Theodora proclaimed publicly that we do not kiss the Icons as a sign of worship, nor do we honor them as "gods," but as images of their prototypes.

In the year 843, on the first Sunday of the Fast, Saint Theodora and her son, Emperor Michael, venerated the Holy Icons together with the clergy and the people. Since that time this event has been commemorated every year, because it was definitively determined that we do not worship the Icons, but we honor and glorify all the Saints who are depicted on them. We worship only the Triune God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and no one else, neither a Saint, nor an Angel.

#### The Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste

All of them were soldiers in the Roman army and steadfastly believed in the Lord Jesus. When the persecution of Christians began during the reign of Licinius, they were brought to trial before the commander. When he threatened to strip them of their honor as soldiers, one of them, Candidus, responded: "Take away from us not only the honor of being soldiers but also our bodies, for nothing is more dear or honorable to us than Christ our God." After that, the commander ordered his servants to stone the holy martyrs. While the servants were hurling stones at the Christians, the stones turned and fell back on the servants, forcefully striking them. One of the stones struck the commander's face and knocked out his teeth. The torturers, angry as wild beasts, bound all the holy martyrs and threw them into the lake. They then stationed a guard around the lake to prevent any of them from escaping. There was a terrible frost, and the lake froze around the bodies of the martyrs. To increase their pain and suffering, and to persuade even one of them to deny Christ and acknowledge the idols of Rome, the torturers heated and illumined a bath by the side of the lake in sight of the frozen martyrs. Indeed, one of them was persuaded. He came out of the water and entered the bath. And behold, from heaven there appeared an extraordinary light, which warmed the water in the lake and the bodies of the martyrs. With that light, thirty-nine wreaths descended from heaven over their heads. Upon seeing this, a guard on the shore removed all his clothes, confessed the name of the Lord Jesus and entered the lake so that he could become worthy of the fortieth wreath in place of the betrayer. Indeed, the last wreath descended upon him. The next day the entire town was astonished when they saw that the martyrs were still alive. Then the wicked judges ordered that the lower part of their legs be broken and their bodies thrown into the water so that the Christians could not recover them. On the third day the martyrs appeared to Peter, the local bishop, and summoned him to gather their relics and remove them from the water. The bishop with his clergy went out in the dark of night and beheld the relics of the martyrs shining brightly in the water. Every bone which was separated from their bodies floated to the top and glowed like a candle. Bishop Peter gathered and honorably buried them. They suffered honorably and were crowned with unfading glory in the year 320.

### Troparion – Tone 4 (Resurrection)

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel /  
The joyous message of Thy Resurrection; / They cast away the ancestral curse /  
And elatedly told the apostles: / Death is overthrown! /  
Christ God is risen, /// Granting the world great mercy.

### Troparion – Tone 2 (Triodion)

We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One, /  
And ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God. /  
Of Thy good will Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh /  
And deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the enemy. /  
Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee: /  
Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior, /// For Thou didst come to save the world.

### Troparion – Tone 1 (Martyrs)

We beseech Thee, O Lord and Lover of mankind, /  
By the sufferings Thy saints endured for Thee, / To heal all our afflictions, ///  
And deliver us from our transgressions.

### Kontakion – Tone 4 (Resurrection)

My Savior and Redeemer as God /  
Rose from the tomb and delivered the earthborn from their chains. /  
He has shattered the gates of hades, / And as Master, ///  
He has risen on the third day!

### Kontakion – Tone 6 (Martyrs)

Forsaking all the warfare of the world, / O holy forty martyrs of the Lord, /  
You have truly passed through fire and water, /  
And have received your just reward in heaven; / Joining yourselves unto the Master of all ///  
And receiving from Him your many crowns of glory.

### Kontakion – Tone 8 (Triodion)

The uncircumscribed Word of the Father became circumscribed, /  
Taking flesh from thee, O Theotokos, /  
And He has restored the shined image to its ancient glory, / Filling it with the divine beauty. /  
This our salvation we confess in deed and word, /// And we depict it in the holy ikons.

**Epistles:** Hebrews 11:24-26,32 – 12:2 (Sunday); Hebrews 12:1-10 (Martyrs)

**Gospels:** John 1:43-51 (Sunday); Matthew 20:1-16 (Martyrs)

*Also this week: Martyr Quadratus and those with him at Corinth (March 10); St Sophronius, Pat. of Jerusalem (March 11); St. Gregory Dialogus, Pope of Rome; Ven. Simeon the New Theologian (March 12); Trans. of the relics of St Nicephorus, Pat. of Constantinople (March 13); Ven Benedict of Nursia (March 14); Martyr Agapius and those with him (March 15).*

*\*Lenten fast all week; wine & oil allowed Saturday\**