

**PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR ...**

*The health and salvation of –*

Abducted Bishops Paul & John	John
Hieroschemonk Ambrose	Vivian
Archpriest Eugene	Jung Sook
Priest John	Thomas
Reader Aleksei	Randall
Monk Philaret	Don
Matushka Priscilla	Norma
Elizabeth • Marie • Marie	James
Virginia • Ignatius • Anne	
Thomas • John • Theodore	
Katherine • Roman	

Catechumens: Andrew, David,  
Michael, Sergio, Rachel,  
Jennifer, and Rebecca

*The repose and salvation of –*

Archpriest Joseph (November 9)	Reagan (November 22)
Priest Athanasius (November 29)	Kieran (November 26)
Priest James (November 30)	
Protodeacon Dennis (November 11)	
Matushka Helen (November 11)	
Amvrosy (November 30)	

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

**Monday, December 24, 1:00 PM – Vespers & Divine Liturgy**

**Monday, December 24, 5:00 PM – Vigil for the Nativity**

**Tuesday, December 25, 9:30 AM – Festal Divine Liturgy**

**Saturday, December 29, 5:30 PM – Great Vespers & Confession**

*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 16, 2018**

**Sunday of the Holy Forefathers**



Sundays at 9:10 AM – Hours & Divine Liturgy, followed by agape potluck

Wednesdays at 6:30 PM – Evening Prayers & Saints of the Day

Saturdays at 5:30 PM – Great Vespers

Other services as announced

Priest Alexander Vallens, *Rector*

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Deacon John Manutes, *Attached*

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### Righteous Jonathan

Eldest son of Saul by Achinoam, Jonathan joined his father in the struggle against the Philistines, and such was his bravery that Saul gave him the command of a thousand soldiers in Gabaa. Jonathan defeated the garrison of the Philistines in Gabaa, and subsequently routed them. In the excitement of the pursuit, Saul proclaimed a rash oath: "Cursed be the man that shall eat food till evening, till I be revenged of my enemies." The course of the flight led through a forest where wild honey appeared upon the ground. But Jonathan, not having heard his father's pronouncement, innocently tasted the honey. When a halt was called in the evening and the priest consulted Yahweh as to a further pursuit of the enemy, no answer was given. Saul immediately assumed that some sin had been committed, and again swore that, even should guilt be found on his son, he should surely die. Jonathan confessed to having tasted the honey, and he was saved only by the intervention of the people. When, after his victory over Goliath, David appeared at the court of Saul, a very deep and loyal friendship sprang up between him and Jonathan, who more than once saved his friend from Saul's envious wrath. But Saul finally became implacable, and Jonathan sent his friend away to Nob after a renewal of their covenant of friendship. Jonathan renounced his right to his father's throne in favor of his friend, happy to be second to him in the kingdom. In a battle against the Philistines in Mount Gelboe, he was slain together with his two brothers Abinadab and Melchisus, and Saul his father.

### Righteous Sarah

Sarah (Hebrew for "princess"), was the wife of Abraham and also his step-sister. When Abraham went down to Egypt because of famine, Sarah, who though 65 years of age was very beautiful, said that she was his sister. She was taken to wife by the King of Egypt, who, however, restored her after a divine admonition; she is also seen similarly taken by Abimelech, King of Gerara, and restored likewise to Abraham. Barren until the age of 90, three men visited Abraham at the oak of Mamre and said that she would conceive and have a son. She did not believe them at first, since she and her husband were old, but they insisted that she would bear a son. Their prediction was fulfilled, and she gave birth to Isaac in fulfilment of a divine promise. By granting to Sarah the birth of her son, God showed that He did not wish to leave human nature desolate without promise of salvation. Sarah lived to the age of 127 years, and was buried in the cave of Macphelah in Hebron. Sarah is praised in the New Testament for her faith and also for her obedience.

### Righteous Rachel

Jacob journeyed to Mesopotamia in quest of a bride, and met Rachel ("ewe"), daughter of Laban, at a well. Being in love with Rachel, Jacob agreed to serve her father for seven years, which seemed to Jacob "but a few days, because of the greatness of his love." Laban deceived him, however: at the end of the term Laban gave him not Rachel, who "was well favored, and of a beautiful countenance", but her elder sister Lia, who was "blear-eyed." Jacob only received Rachel on condition of serving seven more years. Rachel, being for a time childless and envious of her sister (who had four children), gave Jacob her handmaid Bala. Rachel died while giving birth to her son Benjamin. She represents the vision of the things of God, which is the aim of the practice of the virtues.

*Also this week: Prophet Daniel; Three Holy Youths: Ananias, Azarias, and Misael (December 17); Martyr Sebastian and his companions at Rome (December 18); Martyr Boniface at Tarsus in Cilicia, and Righteous Aida of Rome (December 19); Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-bearer, Bp of Antioch; Repose of St John of Kronstadt (December 20); Virgin Martyr Juliana and 630 with her (December 21); Greatmartyr Anastasia, her teacher Martyr Chrysogonus, and with them Martyrs Theodota, Evodias, Eutybianus, and others (December 22).*

*\* NATIVITY FAST: Wine and oil allowed on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday \**

**Epistle:** Colossians 3:4-11 (Forefathers)

**Gospel:** Luke 14:16-24 (Forefathers)

### 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 (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-blessed 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.