

**PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR ...**

*The health and salvation of –*

Abducted Bishops Paul & John	Pauline
Hieroschemamonk Ambrose	Ann
Archpriest Eugene	Stefan
Archpriest Dimitrie	John
Priest Kyrill & family	Vivian
Priest James	Jung Sook
Priest John	Thomas
Reader Aleksei	Cheyenne
Reader Sergei	Nancy
Monk Philaret	Randall
Matushka Mary	Rose
Matushka Mary Sara	Don
Marie • Kyra	Norma
John • Euphrosynos	James
Virginia • Thomas	
John • Luke	
Catechumen Rebecca	
Catechumen Jennifer	

*The repose and salvation of –*

Mitred-Archpriest Michael (Nov. 11)  
Pauline (November 17)  
Ann (December 6)

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

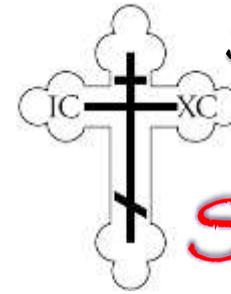
***Next Sunday, December 24, 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy followed by***

***Great Vespers for the Eve of the Nativity of the Lord***

***Next Sunday, December 24, 5:00 PM – Nativity Vigil***

***Monday, December 25, 9:30 AM – 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*



**ST TIKHON ORTHODOX  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**



**Sunday, December 17, 2017**

**Sunday of the Holy Forefathers**



*Tomb of the Holy Prophet Daniel in Shush, Iran*

**Sunday Hours & Divine Liturgy at 9:10 AM, followed by agape potluck  
Wednesdays at 6:30 PM – Evening Prayers & Saints of the Day  
Other services as announced**

**Rev. Alexander Vallens, Rector**  
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## Sunday of the Holy 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).

### The Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Youths: Ananias, Azarias and Misael

All four were of the royal tribe of Judah. When Nebuchadnezzar destroyed and plundered Jerusalem, Daniel, as a boy, was carried away into slavery together with the Jewish King Jehoiachim and countless other Israelites. An account of his life, sufferings and prophecies can be found in detail in his book. Completely devoted to God, St. Daniel from his early youth received from God the gift of great discernment. His fame among the Jews in Babylon began when he denounced two lecherous and unrighteous elders, Jewish judges, and saved the chaste Susanna from an unjust death. But his fame among the Babylonians began from the day he deciphered and interpreted the dream of King Nebuchadnezzar. For this, the king made him a prince at his court. When the king made a golden idol on the Plain of Dura, the Three Children refused to worship it, and for this they were cast into a fiery furnace. But an angel of God appeared in the furnace and cooled the fire so that the children walked around the furnace unharmed by the fire, singing: Blessed art Thou, Lord God of our fathers (Daniel 3:26). The king saw this miracle and was amazed. He then brought the children out of the furnace and bestowed upon them great honors.

In the time of King Belshazzar, when the king was eating and drinking with his guests at a banquet from consecrated vessels taken from the Temple in Jerusalem, an invisible hand wrote three words on the wall: Mene, Tekel, Upharsin (Daniel 5:25-28). No one was able to interpret these words except Daniel. That night, King Belshazzar was killed. Daniel was twice thrown into the lions' den because of his faith in the One, Living God, and both times the Lord saved him and he remained alive. Daniel beheld God on a throne with the heavenly hosts; saw angels; discerned the future of certain people, of kingdoms, and of the whole human race; and prophesied the time of the coming of the Savior on earth. According to St. Cyril of Alexandria, Daniel and the three children lived to old age in Babylon and were beheaded for the true Faith. When they beheaded Ananias, Azarias stretched out his cloak and caught his head; following this, Misael caught Azarias's head and Daniel caught Misael's head. An angel of the God translated their bodies to Judea, to Mount Gebal, and placed them under a rock. According to tradition, these four God-pleasers arose at the time of the death of the Lord Christ, appeared to many and again fell asleep. Daniel is numbered among the four great prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel). He lived and prophesied five hundred years before Christ.

*Also this week: Martyr Sebastian 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); Holy Ten Martyrs of Crete (December 23).*

**\* NATIVITY FAST THIS WEEK: wine and oil allowed on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday \***

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

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

### Troparion – Tone 3 (Resurrection)

Let the heavens rejoice! / Let the earth be glad! /  
For the Lord has *shown* strength with his arm! /  
He has trampled down death by death! /  
He has become the first-born of the dead! /  
He has delivered us from the *depths* of hades, /  
And has granted to 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.