

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR ...

The health and salvation of –

Abducted Bishops Paul & John	John
Hieroschemamonk 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 –

Priest Athanasius (November 29)	Reagan (November 22)
Priest James (November 30)	Kieran (November 26)
Victoria (December 11)	
Amvrosy (November 30)	

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

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

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

Tuesday, December 25, 9:30 AM – Festival Divine Liturgy

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

**Saturday, January 5, 5:30 PM – Great Vespers & Litya for
the Holy Theophany of our Lord**

*A mission parish under the omphorion 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 23, 2018

Sunday of the Holy Fathers
Ten Holy Martyrs of Crete



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*
priest@sttikhonparker.org • (720) 295-7715
Deacon John Manutes, *Attached*
19035 East Plaza Drive, Parker, Colorado 80134
www.sttikhonparker.org

The Ten Holy Martyrs of Crete

Theodulus, Saturninus, Euporus, Gelasius, Eunician, Zoticus, Pompilus, Agathopus, Basilides and Evaristus suffered for Christ during the third century under the emperor Decius (249-251). The governor of Crete, also named Decius, fiercely persecuted the Church, and arrested anyone who believed in Christ. Once, ten Christians were brought before him from various cities of Crete, who at the trial steadfastly confessed their faith in Christ and refused to worship idols.

For thirty days they were subjected to cruel tortures, and with the help of God they all persevered, glorifying God. Before their death they prayed that the Lord would enlighten their torturers with the light of the true Faith. Since pain did not influence them, the saints were beheaded. St Paul of Constantinople visited Crete about a hundred years later. He took the relics of the holy martyrs to Constantinople to serve as a protection for the city, and a source of blessings for the faithful.

***Also this week:** EVE OF THE NATIVITY; Nun-Martyr Eugenia at Rome and those with her (December 24); THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST (December 25); SYNAXIS OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS (December 26); Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen (December 27); the 20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia (December 28); the 14,000 Infants (the Holy Innocents) slain by Herod at Bethlehem (December 29).*

**** STRICT FAST on Monday; no fasting the rest of the week ****

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40 (Sunday Before Nativity)

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25 (Sunday Before Nativity)

Troparion – Tone 5 (Resurrection)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, /
Co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, /
Born for our salvation from the Virgin; /
For He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, /
To endure death, / And to raise the dead /// By His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion – Tone 4 (Forefeast)

Mary once, with aged Joseph / Went to be taxed in Bethlehem, /
For they were of the lineage of David; /
And she bore in her womb the fruit that had not been sown. /
The time of her birth was at hand and there was no room at the inn; /
But the cave provided a fair palace for the Queen. ///
Christ is born, that He may raise up again the image that before was fallen.

Troparion – Tone 2 (Forefathers)

Great are the accomplishments of faith, /
For the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames
as though at the waters of rest. /
And the prophet Daniel appeared /
A shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep: /
So 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.

Kontakion – Tone 3 (Forefeast)

Today the Virgin comes to the cave /
To give birth ineffably to the pre-eternal Word. /
Hearing this, be of good cheer, O inhabited earth, /
And with the angels and the shepherds ///
Glorify Him whose will it was to be made manifest a young Child, the pre-eternal God.