

**PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR ...**

*The health and salvation of –*

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

*The repose and salvation of –*

Pauline (November 17)  
Ann (December 6)

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

***Tonight, 5:00 PM – Nativity Vigil***

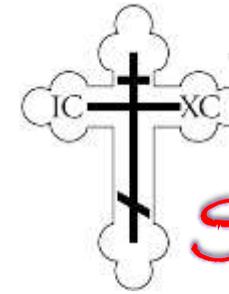
***Tomorrow, 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy***

**\* NOTE: NO Complime this Wednesday \***

***Friday, January 5, 6:30 PM – Great Vespers & Litya for  
the Holy Theophany of our Lord***

***Saturday, January 6, 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 24, 2017**

Sunday of the Holy Fathers • Eve of the Nativity



***Christ is born!  
Glorify Him!***



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 Fathers

The Sunday before the Nativity of the Lord (December 18-24) is known as the Sunday of the Holy Fathers. On this day the Church commemorates all those who were well-pleasing to God from all ages, from Adam to Saint Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, those who are mentioned in the genealogy of Luke 3:23-38.

### The Nun-Martyr Eugenia at Rome and those with her

Eugenia was the daughter of Philip the Eparch of all Egypt and was born in Rome. At that time the Christians had been driven out of Alexandria and lived outside the city. The virgin Eugenia visited the Christians and accepted their Faith with her whole heart. Fleeing from her parents with two of her faithful eunuchs, she was baptized by Bishop Elias. Disguised in men's clothing, she entered a men's monastery where she received the monastic habit. So much did she cleanse her heart by voluntary asceticism that she received from God the grace of healing the sick. Thus, she healed a wealthy woman, Melanthia.

After this, however, Melanthia wanted to lure Eugenia into bodily sin, not suspecting that Eugenia was a woman. Since she was adamantly rejected by Eugenia, out of revenge this evil woman went to the eparch and slandered Eugenia in the same manner as Potiphar's wife had once slandered the chaste Joseph. The eparch ordered that all the monks be bound and cast into prison together with Eugenia. But when St. Eugenia was brought before the tribunal, she revealed herself to her father as his daughter. The overjoyed Philip was then baptized with his entire household, and he was chosen as Bishop of Alexandria. Hearing of this, the Roman emperor sent a wicked commander, Terentius, who came to Alexandria and secretly had Philip killed. St. Eugenia moved to Rome with her mother and brothers.

In Rome she fearlessly and zealously converted pagans, especially maidens, to the true Faith, and thus she converted a beautiful maiden Basilla to the Faith. Shortly afterward, Basilla was beheaded for Christ as Eugenia had foretold to her. Then both eunuchs, Protus and Hyacinth, were beheaded. Finally, a martyr's end came to St. Eugenia, whose presence had caused the collapse and destruction of the Temple of Diana. The torturers threw her first into water and then into fire, but God saved her. The Lord Jesus Himself appeared to her in prison and told her that she would suffer on the day of His Nativity. And so it was. She was beheaded by the sword on December 25, 262, in Rome. After her death, St. Eugenia appeared in great glory to her mother and comforted her.

**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, Eutychianus, and others (December 22); Holy Ten Martyrs of Crete (December 23).*

**\* wine and oil allowed today; the rest of the week is FAST-FREE \***

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

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

### 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)

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.

### 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.

### Kontakion – Tone 2 (Forefathers)

O thrice-blessèd 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.