

**PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR ...**

*The health and salvation of –*

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

*The repose and salvation of –*

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

***This Wednesday, September 20, 6:30 PM - Small Compline  
& Saints of the Day***

***This Saturday, September 23, 5:30 PM - Great Vespers & confession***

***Next Sunday, September 24 - Strategic Planning***

***Next Sunday, September 24 - Church School***

***Next Wednesday, September 27, 6:30 PM - Small Compline  
& Saints of the Day***

*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, September 17, 2017**

Martyrs Sophia, Faith, Hope, and Love



*The relics of Saints Sophia, Faith, Hope, and Love at the Abbey of St Trophime  
in Eschau, Alsace, France*

Sunday Hours & Divine Liturgy at 9:10 AM, followed by agape potluck  
Other services as announced

Rev. Alexander Vallens, *Rector*

[priest@sttikhonparker.org](mailto:priest@sttikhonparker.org)

(303) 305-8443

19035 East Plaza Drive, Parker, Colorado 80134

[www.sttikhonparker.org](http://www.sttikhonparker.org)

## The Martyrs Sophia and her three daughters at Rome

The Holy Martyrs Saint Sophia and her Daughters Faith, Hope and Love were born in Italy. Their mother was a pious Christian widow who named her daughters for the three Christian virtues. Faith was twelve, Hope was ten, and Love was nine. Saint Sophia raised them in the love of the Lord Jesus Christ. Saint Sophia and her daughters did not hide their faith in Christ, but openly confessed it before everyone.

An official named Antiochus denounced them to the emperor Hadrian (117-138), who ordered that they be brought to Rome. Realizing that they would be taken before the emperor, the holy virgins prayed fervently to the Lord Jesus Christ, asking that He give them the strength not to fear torture and death. When the holy virgins and their mother came before the emperor, everyone present was amazed at their composure. They looked as though they had been brought to some happy festival, rather than to torture. Summoning each of the sisters in turn, Hadrian urged them to offer sacrifice to the goddess Artemis. The young girls remained unyielding.

Then the emperor ordered them to be tortured. They burned the holy virgins over an iron grating, then threw them into a red-hot oven, and finally into a cauldron with boiling tar, but the Lord preserved them. The youngest child, Love, was tied to a wheel and they beat her with rods until her body was covered all over with bloody welts. Undergoing unspeakable torments, the holy virgins glorified their Heavenly Bridegroom and remained steadfast in the Faith. They subjected St Sophia to another grievous torture: the mother was forced to watch the suffering of her daughters. She displayed adamant courage, and urged her daughters to endure their torments for the sake of Christ. All three maidens were beheaded, and joyfully bent their necks beneath the sword.

In order to intensify St Sophia's inner suffering, the emperor permitted her to take the bodies of her daughters. She placed their remains in coffins and loaded them on a wagon. She drove beyond the city limits and reverently buried them on a high hill. St Sophia sat there by the graves of her daughters for three days, and finally she gave up her soul to the Lord. Even though she did not suffer for Christ in the flesh, she was not deprived of a martyr's crown. Instead, she suffered in her heart. Believers buried her body there beside her daughters. The relics of the holy martyrs have rested in the church of Eschau since 777.

**Also this week:** *Ven. Hilarion of Optina (September 18); St Theodore of Tarsus, Abp of Canterbury (September 19); Greatmartyr Eustathius Placidus, his wife Martyr Theopistes, and their children Martyrs Agapius and Theopistus, of Rome (September 20); Leavetaking of the Elevation of the Cross; Apostle Quadratus of the Seventy (September 21); Hieromartyr Phocas, Bp of Sinope; Prophet Jonah (September 22); CONCEPTION OF THE HONORABLE GLORIOUS PROPHET, FORERUNNER AND BAPTIST JOHN (September 23).*

**\* Regular fasting this week \***

**Epistles:** Galatians 2:16-20 (Sunday after Elevation) / II Corinthians 4:6-15 (Sunday)

**Gospels:** Mark 8:34-9:1 (Sunday after Elevation) / Matthew 22:35-46 (Sunday)

## Troparion – Tone 6 (Resurrection)

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb; / The guards *became* as dead men. / Mary stood by Thy grave, / Seeking *Thy* most pure body. / Thou didst capture hell, / Not being tempted by it. / Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. /// O Lord, Who didst rise from the *dead*: glory to Thee!

## Troparion – Tone 1 (Feast)

O Lord, save thy people / And bless Thine inheritance. / Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / Over their adversaries; / And by virtue of Thy Cross /// Preserve Thy habitation.

## Troparion – Tone 5 (Saints)

Thou didst blossom in the courts of the Lord / As a fruitful olive tree, / O holy martyr Sophia. / In thy contest thou didst offer to Christ the sweet fruit of thy womb: / Thy daughters Faith, and Hope, and Love. /// Together with them intercede on behalf of us all.

## Kontakion – Tone 6 (Resurrection)

When Christ God, the Giver of Life, / Raised all of the *dead* from the valleys of misery with His mighty Hand, / He bestowed resurrection on the human race. /// He is the *savior* of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

## Kontakion – Tone 1 (Saints)

The three sisters Faith, and Hope and Love, / Have blossomed as the sacred branches of the blessed Sophia, their mother. / For by grace, they made foolish the wisdom of idolatry; // And having suffered, they revealed themselves as bearers of victory. /// And were granted incorruptible crowns by Christ, the Master of all.

## Kontakion – Tone 4 (Feast)

As Thou wast voluntarily crucified for our sake, / Grant mercy to those who are called by Thy Name. / Make all Orthodox Christians glad by Thy power / Granting them victories over their adversaries /// By bestowing upon them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace.