Nativity Fast

Why does the Church urge us to use this lenten period to bring our souls into a state of complete humility? Because the coming holiday, although so joyous and so great, is completely enveloped in the spirit of humility. The Apostle Paul explains to us that in this holiday “God on high descended upon earth, in order to elevate us into heaven.” But in order to achieve this, the Lord “diminished Himself, taking on the image of a servant, and was likened to man.” We are all servants of God, that is, we have all been created, and in order to become like man, the Lord had to diminish, lessen, exhaust, in other words - humble His Divinity. And all of this the Lord did for us, in order to save us from death and the power of the devil, so that man - the crown of God’s creation - would not perish.

In like manner we, too, should honor and thank our Creator and Saviour. We should diminish our pride, lessen our self-exaltation, exhaust our selfishness, and only then - through total humility - will we find that ascending road into heaven, into the Heavenly Realm, which the Lord has opened for us in His descent to earth.

In the Holy Land, in the town of Bethlehem, where the Lord was born in a humble manger 2,000 years ago, a majestic church now stands over the site of His birth. This church is distinguished by its entrance doors, which were made so low, that an average adult has to stoop in order to go in. This was done deliberately, to constantly remind us of the need for spiritual humility before the greatness of the event that took place here.

At the same time, Christmas Lent is also a time for joy. During Great Lent, for example, the Church so gives itself over to penitence, that with the exception of two major feasts - the Annunciation of the Holy Virgin and the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem - which are both directly linked to paschal events, there is hardly any commemoration of the feasts of major saints, since a holiday spirit would interfere with the purpose of this lent. The entire Christmas Lent, on the other hand, is studded with the feasts of major saints like glittering jewels: holy great martyr Catherine, Saint Apostle Andrew, holy great-martyr Barbara, the great Saint Nicholas, Saint Herman of Alaska, and many others, as though indicating to us that the presence of all these saints and all this rejoicing has become possible only because the Lord has come down to earth and has opened the way to heaven. Thus throughout this entire period the Church strongly urges us to prepare for the coming joy with the words of the Christmas canon: “Christ is born - glorify Him! Christ cometh from heaven - meet ye Him! Christ is on earth - be ye exalted!” Amen.

Father Rostislav Sheniloff

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese :: www.antiochian.org
Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest :: www.antiochian.org/midwest
Fr. Pat’s Daily Reflections :: touchstonemag.com/daily_reflections
"Homilies from All Saints" podcast :: ancientfaith.com/podcasts/allsaints

Note to Visitors and Guests: Welcome! We are glad you have joined us today for worship! If this is your first visit to All Saints, please take a moment to fill out a visitor’s card at the greeter’s stand before you leave. The greeter also has Liturgy Books for use during the service, if you desire one. We hope you will join us for brunch following this morning’s service.
Troparion of All Saints (Tone 4):
Adorned in the blood of Thy martyrs, throughout all the world as in purple and fine linen,
Thy Church through them doth cry unto Thee, O Christ God: Send down Thy compassion
upon Thy people; grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls.

Prokeimenon Psalm:
O Lord, how magnified are Thy works. In wisdom hast Thou made them all.
Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Epistle Reading: Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians 2:16-20


This Week at All Saints

Saturday, November 16: Vespers, 7:30 PM (Confession available before and after)

Volunteers

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reader</th>
<th>Prophora</th>
<th>Greeter</th>
<th>Flowers</th>
<th>Coffee</th>
<th>Food</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Nov 24</td>
<td>Polycarp</td>
<td>Domitille N.</td>
<td>Hal O.</td>
<td>Sarah S.</td>
<td>Scott &amp; Christy K.</td>
<td>L - P</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday Nov 27</td>
<td>Sd. Joseph</td>
<td>Cristina P.</td>
<td>Roberta P.</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Potluck</td>
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<td>Sunday Dec 1</td>
<td>Doug J.</td>
<td>Eva W.</td>
<td>Azizeh C.</td>
<td>Kim A.</td>
<td>Paul &amp; Elizabeth K.</td>
<td>R - W</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Dec 8</td>
<td>Sd. Joseph</td>
<td>Dn. Walid</td>
<td>Jerry C.</td>
<td>Domitille N.</td>
<td>Chris &amp; Nancy L.</td>
<td>A - F</td>
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<td>Sunday Dec 15</td>
<td>Jim K.</td>
<td>Sandy A.</td>
<td>Ofelija I.</td>
<td>Melissa W.</td>
<td>Phil &amp; Rowena L.</td>
<td>G - K</td>
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News and Announcements

Advent Fast: Begins Friday, November 15th

Pilgrimage to the Miraculous Weeping Icon: A Paraklesis Service and Anointing with Tears will be held at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, 1220 S 60th Ct, Cicero IL and presided over by His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH on Friday November 15, 2019 at 6:30 PM. Refreshments following. All are welcome!

Teen SOYO Events: Saturday November 16th, from 3:30 to 6:30 PM, the teens will meet at All Saints to play games and enjoy a meal and devotional. Please RSVP to Melissa W. meljeff99@gmail.com

Gifts for Foster Children: Forms are here for gifts for the DCFS foster children. All gifts are due on Sunday, November 25. Purchase a new gift from the ones suggested on your form, place it in a gift bag (please do not wrap gifts this year), tag it with ones provided on your form, and place it in the back of the church on or near the table. Thank you to all who are participating in this worthy cause! Any questions contact Kim A. keggers854@aol.com

Advent Food Drive: Once again we are blessed to be able to participate in our Advent food drive for the poor in our city. Beginning on Sunday, November 17, please bring your donations of non-perishable foods, in particular those that don't require cooking. These will be given to individuals living on the street who visit the drop in center (where a microwave is available for use) of Northside Housing. Please place your donations in the back of the church on or near the table. The deadline is Sunday, December 15. If you have any questions, please call or email Sandy A. God blesses those who remember the poor! Here is a list of possible donations:

- Granola/protein bars; Pop-top pasta (ravioli, etc) and soups; Microwaveable ramen cups.
- Instant mac and cheese; Trail mix; Vienna sausages; Oatmeal packets; Pop tarts
- Fruit cups; Peanut butter or cheese cracker packets; Jerky; Tuna packets