Hieromartyr Eleutherios

From a good tree comes good fruit. This wonderful saint had noble and greatly eminent parents. Eleutherius was born in Rome, where his father was an imperial proconsul. His mother Anthia heard the Gospel from the great Apostle Paul and was baptized by him. Having been left a widow early, she entrusted her only son for study and service to Anicetus the Bishop of Rome. Seeing how Eleutherius was gifted by God and illumined by the grace of God, the bishop ordained him a deacon at the age of fifteen, a priest at the age of eighteen, and a bishop at the age of twenty. Eleutherius's God-given wisdom made up for what he lacked in years, and this chosen one of God was appointed Bishop of Illyria with his seat in Valona (Avlona), Albania. The good shepherd guarded his flock well and increased their number day by day. Emperor Hadrian, a persecutor of Christians, sent the commander Felix with soldiers to seize Eleutherius and bring him to Rome. When the raging Felix arrived in Valona and entered the church, he saw and heard the holy hierarch of God; suddenly his heart changed, and he became a Christian. Eleutherius baptized Felix and departed for Rome with him, returning joyfully as if he were going to a feast and not to trial and torture. The emperor subjected the noble Eleutherius to harsh torture: flogging, roasting on an iron bed, boiling in pitch, and burning in a fiery furnace. But Eleutherius was delivered from all these deadly tortures by God's power. Seeing all this, Caribus the Roman eparch declared that he also was a Christian. Caribus was tortured and then beheaded, and so was Blessed Felix. Finally, the imperial executioners cut off the honorable head of St. Eleutherius. When his mother, the holy Anthia, came and stood over the dead body of her son, she also was beheaded. Their bodies were translated to Valona, where even today St. Eleutherius glorifies the name of Christ by his many miracles. He suffered during the reign of Hadrian in the year 120 A.D.

Prologue from Ochrid

December 15, 2019 – Hieromartyr Eleutherios, bishop of Illyria & Sunday of the Forefathers (Ancestors) of Christ

Martyr Anthia, mother of Eleutherius; Venerable Paul of Latra; Stephen, bishop-confessor of Surozh; Venerable Tryphon of Pechenga


Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 1):
While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O Giver of Life: Glory to Thy Resurrection O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou who alone art the lover of mankind.

Troparion for the Forefathers (Tone 2):
Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and she it was who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

A 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.
Apolytikion of St. Eleutherios of Illyria (Tone 5):
Being comely adorned in thy sacred priestly robes and newly drenched with the streams of thy pure and sanctified blood, thou didst soar aloft to stand before thy Master, Christ; hence never cease to intercede for those honoring with faith thy mighty and blessed contest, thou overthrower of Satan, O wise and blessed Eleutherios.

Kontakion for the Nativity (Tone 3):
Today the Virgin cometh unto the cave to give birth to the Word Who was born before all ages, begotten in a manner that defies description. Rejoice therefore, O Universe, if thou should hear and glorify Him Who by His Will shall become a newborn Babe and Who is our God before all ages.

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:
Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saint.

Epistle Reading: the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy 1:8-18


This Week at All Saints

**Saturday, December 21:** Vespers, 7:30 PM (Confession available before and after)

“He that is without sin among you, let him be the first to cast a stone at her.”

“Do you fast? Then feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, visit the sick, do not forget the imprisoned, have pity on the tortured, comfort those who grieve and who weep, be merciful, humble, kind, calm, patient, sympathetic, forgiving, reverent, truthful and pious, so that God might accept your fasting and might plentifully grant you the fruits of repentance.”

~ Saint John Chrysostom

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**News and Announcements**

**Teen SOYO Events:** TODAY December 15th, after Church School, the teens will meet from 1-4 PM at All Saints to make fleece blankets to bless the homeless at Northside Housing. Please RSVP to Melissa W. meljeff99@gmail.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. 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 TODAY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15. If you have any questions, please call or email Sandy A. God blesses those who remember the poor!

- 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

**Church Decorating:** Everyone is welcome and encouraged to help decorate the church for Christmas on Sunday, December 22nd after coffee hour. Many hands will make light work for this joyous occasion.

**Volunteers**

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<th>Greeter</th>
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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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<td>Sunday Dec 22</td>
<td>Polycarp</td>
<td>Carmen C.</td>
<td>Sarah K.</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Robert H.</td>
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<td>Wednesday Dec 25</td>
<td>Joseph L.</td>
<td>Debbie K.</td>
<td>Nancy L.</td>
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<td>Sunday Dec 29</td>
<td>Doug J.</td>
<td>Pat K.</td>
<td>Hal O.</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Gabriel &amp; Domitille N.</td>
<td>R – W</td>
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<td>Sunday Jan 5</td>
<td>Jim K.</td>
<td>Domitille N.</td>
<td>Roberta P.</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Eric &amp; Cristina P.</td>
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<td>Sunday Jan 12</td>
<td>Joseph L.</td>
<td>Cristina P.</td>
<td>Azizeh C.</td>
<td>Polycarp &amp; Gosia G.</td>
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