

# ALL SAINTS ORTHODOX CHURCH

*Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America*

*4129 W. Newport Ave., Chicago, IL 60641*

*773-231-6177*

*www.allsaintsorthodox.org*

**Sunday, December 12, 2021**

Saturday Vespers, 7pm • Sunday Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30am  
**Sunday of the Forefathers of Christ • St. Spyridon of Trimythous**



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*Hymns of the Day, immediately after the Small Entrance:*

**Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 8):** From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate one. And Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion. Thou art our life and our resurrection; O Lord, glory to Thee!

**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 it was she who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls!

**Troparion for St. Spyridon (Tone 1):** Thou wast shown forth as a champion of the First Council and a wonderworker, O Spyridon, our God-bearing Father. Wherefore, thou didst speak unto one dead in the grave, and didst change a serpent to gold. And while chanting thy holy prayers, thou hadst angels serving with thee, O most sacred one. Glory to Him that hath glorified thee; glory to Him that hath crowned thee; glory to Him that worketh healings for all through thee!

**Kontakion for Advent (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 with the angels and the shepherds! 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.

## THE EPISTLE

*For St. Spyridon*

The saints shall boast in glory. Sing unto the Lord a new song.

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians (5:8-19)**

Brethren, walk as children of light—for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth—proving what is acceptable to the Lord; and have no communion with the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them; for it is a shame even to speak of the things which they do in secret. But all things when they are exposed are made manifest by the light, for everything that is made manifest is light. Therefore, he says: “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine upon thee.” See then that you walk circumspectly, not as unwise, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit; speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and chanting in your heart to the Lord.

## THE GOSPEL

*For the Holy Forefathers*

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (14:16-24)**

The Lord spoke this parable: “A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for all is now ready.’ But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.’ And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”



## :: ST. SPYRIDON OF TRIMYTHOUS ::

*Adapted from [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org)*



Saint Spyridon of Trimythous was born towards the end of the third century on the island of Cyprus. He was a shepherd, and had a wife and children. He used all his substance for the needs of his neighbors and the homeless, for which the Lord rewarded him with a gift of wonderworking. He healed those who were incurably sick, and cast out demons.

After the death of his wife, during the reign of Constantine the Great (306-337), he was made Bishop of Trimythous, Cyprus. As a bishop, the saint did not alter his manner of life, but combined pastoral service with deeds of charity.

According to the witness of Church historians, Saint Spyridon participated in the sessions of the First Ecumenical Council in the year 325. At the Council, the saint entered into a dispute with a Greek philosopher who was defending the Arian heresy. The power of Saint Spyridon's plain, direct speech showed everyone the importance of God's wisdom before human wisdom: "Listen, philosopher, to what I tell you. There is one God

Who created man from dust. He has ordered all things, both visible and invisible, by His Word and His Spirit. The Word is the Son of God, Who came down upon the earth on account of our sins. He was born of a Virgin, He lived among men, and suffered and died for our salvation, and then He arose from the dead, and He has resurrected the human race with Him. We believe that He is one in essence (consubstantial) with the Father, and equal to Him in authority and honor. We believe this without any sly rationalizations, for it is impossible to grasp this mystery by human reason."

As a result of their discussion, the opponent of Christianity became the saint's zealous defender and later received holy Baptism. After his conversation with Saint Spyridon, the philosopher turned to his companions and said, "Listen! Until now my rivals have presented their arguments, and I was able to refute their proofs with other proofs. But instead of proofs from reason, the words of this Elder are filled with some sort of special power, and no one can refute them, since it is impossible for man to oppose God. If any of you thinks as I do now, let him believe in Christ and join me in following this man, for God Himself speaks through his lips."

At this Council, Saint Spyridon displayed the unity of the Holy Trinity in a remarkable way. He took a brick in his hand and squeezed it. At that instant fire shot up from it, water dripped on the ground, and only dust remained in the hands of the wonderworker. “There was only one brick,” Saint Spyridon said, “but it was composed of three elements. In the Holy Trinity there are three Persons, but only one God.”

The saint cared for his flock with great love. Through his prayers, drought was replaced by abundant rains, and incessant rains were replaced by fair weather. Through his prayers the sick were healed and demons cast out.

Another time, hastening to save his friend, who had been falsely accused and sentenced to death, the saint was hindered on his way by the unanticipated flooding of a stream. The saint commanded the water: “Halt! For the Lord of all the world commands that you permit me to cross so that a man may be saved.” The will of the saint was fulfilled, and he crossed over happily to the other shore. The judge, apprised of the miracle that had occurred, received Saint Spyridon with esteem and set his friend free.

Sozomen, in his *Church History*, offers an amazing example from the life of the saint of how he received strangers. One time, at the start of the forty-day fast, a stranger knocked at his door. Seeing that the traveler was very exhausted, Saint Spyridon said to his daughter, “Wash the feet of this man, so he may recline to dine.” But since it was Lent there were none of the necessary provisions, for the saint “partook of food only on certain days, and on other days he went without food.” His daughter replied that there was no bread or flour in the house. Then Saint Spyridon, apologizing to his guest, ordered his daughter to cook a salted ham from their larder. After seating the stranger at table, he began to eat, urging that man to do the same. When the latter refused, calling himself a Christian, the saint rejoined, “It is not proper to refuse this, for the Word of God proclaims, ‘Unto the pure all things are pure’” (Titus 1:15).

Another historical detail reported by Sozomen, was characteristic of the saint. It was his custom to distribute one part of the gathered harvest to the destitute, and another portion to those having need while in debt. He did not take a portion for himself, but simply showed them the entrance to his storeroom, where each could take as much as was needed, and could later pay it back in the same way, without records or accountings.

Saint Spyridon lived his earthly life in righteousness and sanctity, and prayerfully surrendered his soul to the Lord. His relics repose on the island of Corfu (Kerkyra), in a church named after him (His right hand, however, is located in Rome).

# Announcements and Upcoming Events

*For a full calendar of events and services at All Saints, see our website [www.allsaintsorthodox.org](http://www.allsaintsorthodox.org)*

Today:

- **Coffee hour** and **church school** will follow the Liturgy as usual.
- **Church clean-up day**, following church school. Please stay and help if you can: We will be doing various cleaning projects, polishing brass candlesticks, and decorating for Christmas.

This week:

- Confession, anointing, and other pastoral services will be available after every listed service, or by appointment with Fr. Andrew.
- **Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday:** Morning prayers, 9am.
- **Wednesday, Dec. 15:** Vespers, 7pm.
- **Saturday, Dec. 18:** Intro to Orthodoxy class, 6pm; Vespers, 7pm.
- **Sunday, Dec. 19: Genealogy Sunday.** Matins, Liturgy, and the **chrismation of David Baeckelandt and Richard Beaudoin**, beginning at 8:30am, followed by coffee hour and church school.

**ADVENT FOOD DRIVE:** We are blessed again to be able to participate in an Advent food drive for the poor in our city. **From Saturday, Nov. 13 to Sunday, Dec. 12, please bring any donations of non-perishable foods.** These will be given to individuals living on the street who visit the drop-in center of Northside Housing. In particular, they are asking for items that don't need to be cooked or heated, heat and serve containers, or cans with pop-tops (there is a microwave available at the center).

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES:** Join us as we celebrate together the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ!

- **Dec. 21-24:** Our usual Tuesday through Friday morning prayers will be replaced by the four Royal Hours services for the Nativity.
- **Wednesday, Dec. 22:** Nativity Vespers with Old Testament readings, 7pm. This service contains eight Old Testament lessons as prophecies of our Lord's Nativity.
- **Friday, Dec. 24:** Nativity Matins & Divine Liturgy, beginning at 10pm.
- There will be **NO VESPERS** on Saturday, Dec. 25.
- **Sunday, Dec. 26:** Matins & Divine Liturgy at 8:30am, as usual.
- **Friday, Dec. 31:** Vespertine Divine Liturgy for St. Basil's Day, 7pm.

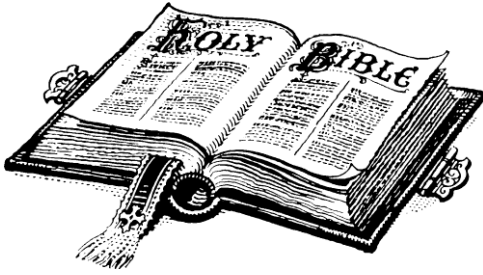
# Volunteer Schedule

Date	Reader	Prospora	Greeter	Coffee	Food
Sun, Dec. 12*	Richard C. <i>Eph 5:8-19</i>	Debbie K	Sandy A	Domitille	L-P
Sun, Dec. 19*	Michelle C <i>Heb 11:1-40</i>	Pat K	Domitille	Alina C	R-Z
Fri, Dec 24 <i>Nativity</i>	Sdn Joseph <i>Gal 4:4-7</i>	Domitille	Azizeh		
Sun, Dec 26	Polycarp <i>Gal 1:11-19</i>	Cristina P	Jerry C	Zach C	A-F
Fri, Dec 31 <i>St. Basil's Day</i>	Doug J <i>Col 2:8-12</i>	Dn Walid	Nancy L		

***For Sunday coffee hour, the church has been divided into four parts alphabetically (A-F, G-K, L-P, and R-Z). On your assigned week, please bring something simple to share with everyone for coffee hour. If you have children, please monitor them as they go through the coffee hour line, and help them clean up after themselves.***

***Weekly clean-up will be the responsibility of those providing coffee hour. And of course, things go faster when we can all pitch in and help.***

***\*Asterisks denote fasting days (no meat or dairy).***



# DAILY BIBLE READINGS

DECEMBER 12-18, 2021

ADAPTED FROM THE  
LECTIONARY OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ARCHDIOCESE

**Sunday, Dec. 12: The Forefathers & Foremothers of our Lord Jesus Christ**  
Mark 16:9-20 / Ephesians 5:8-19 / Luke 14:16-24

**Monday, Dec. 13: Herman, Wonder-worker of Alaska; St. Lucia of Syracuse**  
Numbers 35 / 1 Timothy 1:1-11 / Luke 15:11-32

**Tuesday, Dec. 14: Holy Martyrs Thyrsus, Leucius, and Callinicus of Asia Minor**  
Numbers 36 / 1 Timothy 1:12-20 / Luke 16:1-18

**Wednesday, Dec. 15: Martyr Eleutherios, Bishop of Illyricum; & his mother Anthia**  
Genesis 1:1-13 / 1 Timothy 2:1-15 / Luke 17:1-10

**Thursday, Dec. 16: Holy Prophet Haggai**  
Numbers 24:1-19 / 1 Timothy 3:1-16 / Luke 17:20-37

**Friday, Dec. 17: Holy Prophet Daniel & the Three Holy Youths**  
Micah 4:6-7, 5:1-3 / 1 Timothy 4:1-16 / Luke 18:1-8

**Saturday, Dec. 18: Martyr Sebastian**  
Galatians 3:8-12 / Luke 13:19-29

*NOTE: The daily Old Testament readings beginning on Wednesday with Genesis 1, are from the services of Christmas Eve.*

ALL SAINTS IS A PARISH OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE  
THE MOST REVEREND METROPOLITAN JOSEPH  
THE RIGHT REVEREND BISHOP ANTHONY, DIOCESE OF TOLEDO AND THE MIDWEST  
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