

Household Devotionals: Icons and Prayers

Monday, December 12 - Sunday, December 18

Pilemon, Apollonios, Arrianus and the Bodyguards (+286-287)

December 14

Troparion of the Saint
Third Tone

Let us adorn the phalanx of Martyrs with garlands of songs: Thyrsos, Philémon, steadfast Apollonios, Arrian, Kallinikos, and the glorious Leukios, for they overthrew the Enemy, and are pillars of piety. Together they illumine the world with the radiance of heavenly grace.

Herman of Alaska (+1837)

December 13

Apolytikion of the Saint
Fourth Tone

O blessed Father Herman of Alaska, north star of Christ's holy Church, the light of your holy life and great deeds guides those who follow the Orthodox way. Together we lift high the Holy Cross you planted firmly in America. Let all behold and glorify Jesus Christ, singing his holy Resurrection.

Spyridon the Wonderworker (+348)

December 12

Kontakion of the Saint
Second Tone

Wounded by the love of Christ, most holy one, your mind was given wings by the radiance of the Spirit, O God-inspired one, you found your work in active contemplation, O God-pleasing Spyridon, becoming a godly sacrifice, and entreating divine illumination for all.

Mardarije of Libertyville (+1935)

December 12

Contagion of the Saint
Plagal of the Fourth Tone

Tireless preacher of Christ the Lord, leader on the path of Saint Savva for your people in diaspora, labor-loving practitioner and teacher of repentance, Saint Mardarije* of Libertyville and America, together with all the Enlighteners of the American lands, entreat the only Lover of mankind, to grant peace and unity to all Orthodox Christians.

* Mah-DAH-ri-yeh (or Mardários)

The Ancestors of Christ Sunday Before the Nativity

Konatkion of the Feast
First Tone

Be glad, O Bethlehem! Prepare yourself, O Ephratha; for the Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Great Shepherd she carries in her womb. The God-bearing Fathers will rejoice, beholding Him, and with the shepherds, they will praise the Virgin who nurses Him

Three Holy Youths: Ananias, Azarias, and Misael (+600 BC)

December 17

Kontakion of the Saints
Second Tone

You would not worship an image made by hands, O thrice-blessed youths; but shielded by the ineffable Essence, you were glorified through your ordeal by fire. In the midst of the unbearable fire you called upon God, crying: "Hasten, O compassionate One, and in Your mercy come to our aid, for if You will, You can do so."

Domna of Tomsk, The Fool for Christ (+1872)

December 16

Apolytikion of the Saint
First Tone

Hearing the voice of Thine Apostle Paul say "We are fools for Christ;" Thy handmaiden Mother Donna, O Christ God, was a fool on earth for Thy sake; therefore, honoring her memory, we entreat Thee: O Lord, save our souls.

Eleftherios of Illyria (+2nd c.)

December 15

Apolytikion of the Saint
Fifth Tone

Adorned with the robe of a priest stained with the streams of your blood, O wise and blessed Eleutherius, over-thrower of Satan you hastened to Christ your Master. Pray unceasingly for those who faithfully honor your contest!

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