

Household Devotionals: Icons and Prayers

Monday, December 19 - Friday, December 23

Virgin Juliana of Nicomedia

(+304)

December 21

Apolytikion of the Saint
Fourth Tone

All-blameless bride and venerable trophy-bearer, you are wedded to the Word of the immortal Father, O glorious Juliana. For having wisely disdained your mortal bridegroom, you strove beyond nature to destroy the serpent, and now you delight in the joys of your Bridegroom!

Righteous John of Kronstadt

(+1908)

December 20

Kontakion of the Saint
Third Tone

This day the pastor of Kronstadt appears before the throne of God praying fervently on behalf of the faithful to the chief pastor Christ, who has promised: "I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it!"

Ignatius of Antioch

(+107)

December 20

Apolytikion of the Saint
Fourth Tone

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles, you became a successor to their throne. Through the practice of virtue, you found the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of God; by teaching the word of truth without error, you defended the Faith, even to the shedding of your blood. Hieromartyr Ignatius, entreat Christ God to save our souls.

Martyr Boniface at Tarsus

(+290)

December 19

Apolytikion of the Saint
Fourth Tone

Fervently, you followed the renowned Martyrs / steadfastly confessing Christ before unbelievers, O wise Boniface. / You returned your relics to the august Aglaia / as an imperishable treasure; / from them flow healing and mercy for the world.

Ten Martyrs of Crete

(+3rd c.)

December 23

Apolytikion of the Feast
Third Tone

Let us show forth our great praise of Crete that brought forth these precious Christians: the pearls of Christ! And these blessed ten, the offspring of martyrs, who though few in number, overcame all the deceits of powerful demons. Therefore these martyrs of Christ have been crowned with victory!

Martyr Anastasia The Deliverer from Potions

(+304)

December 22

Apolytikion of the Saint
Fifth Tone

As a Martyr you emulated the deeds of the Martyrs to whom you ministered, and, striving valiantly, you overcame the Enemy. You are an abundant and overflowing source of grace for all who come to you, O godly-minded Anastasia.

Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ

December 20

Apolytikion of the Feast
Fourth Tone

Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all! Adorn yourself, O Ephratha, for the tree of life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave! Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit: If we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam. Christ comes to restore the image which He made in the beginning!

Kontakion of the Feast
Third Tone

Today the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth ineffably to the pre-eternal Word. Hearing this, rejoice, O inhabited earth! With the angels and the shepherds glorify the pre-eternal God, Whose will it was to appear as a young child!

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