

Household Devotionals: Icons and Prayers

Monday, December 26 - Sunday, January 1

20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia

(+302)

Fourth Day of the Nativity
December 28

Kontakion of the Saints
First Tone

Their souls strengthened by faith, the twenty thousand martyrs accepted their suffering by fire, and cried out to You, the One born of the Virgin: “Like gold, myrrh, and frankincense, the gifts of the Persian kings, receive our whole burnt offering, O Eternal God.”

Stephen the First Martyr

(+1st c. AD)

Third Day of the Nativity
December 27

Kontakion of the Saint
Third Tone

Yesterday the Master came to us in the flesh, today His servant departs from the flesh; / yesterday the King was born in the flesh, and today His servant is stoned; for His sake, the Protomartyr and divine Stephen is perfected.

Synaxis of the Mother of God

Second Day of the Nativity
December 26

Kontakion of the Saint
Plagal of the Second Tone

He Who was begotten before the morning star by the Father without a mother is incarnate of you today on earth without a father. Therefore, a star announces the glad tidings to the Magi, while Angels and shepherds sing of your undefiled child-bearing, O you who are full of grace.

Joseph the Betrothed

Second Day of the Nativity
December 26

Apolytikion of the Saint
Second Tone

Proclaim the miracles, O Joseph, to David, the ancestor of God: you have seen a Virgin great with child, you gave glory with the shepherds, you worshipped with the Magi, you heard the news from the Angel. Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

Circumcision of Christ

& St. Basil the Great (+379)

Eighth Day after the Nativity
January 1

Kontakion of the Feast
Third Tone

The Lord of all accepts to be circumcised, thus, as He is good, excises the sins of mortal men. Today He grants the world salvation, while light-bearing Basil, high priest of our Creator, rejoices in heaven as a divine initiate of Christ.

Leavetaking of the Nativity

Seventh Day of the Nativity
December 31

Kontakion of the Feast
Third Tone

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One! Angels with shepherds glorify Him! The wise men journey with a star! Since for our sake the Eternal God was born as a Little Child!

New Martyr Gideon of Karakallou (+1818)

Sixth Day of the Nativity
December 30

Apolytikion of the Saint
Fourth Tone

You were shone to be equal in honor to the Venerables, and a communicant with the Champions, and divide boast of Karakallou Monastery, O blessed one. You struggled strongly, and deposed the enemy, therefore, O Venerable Martyr Gideon, you were glorified. Intercede for all of us who praise you.

14,000 Holy Infants Slain by King Herod

Fifth Day of the Nativity
December 29

Apolytikion of the Saint
First Tone

As acceptable victims and freshly plucked flowers, as divine first-fruits and newborn lambs, you were offered to Christ who was born as a child, holy innocents. You mocked Herod's wickedness; now we beseech you: “Unceasingly pray for our souls.”

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