



ALL SAINTS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America
4129 W. Newport Ave., Chicago, IL 60641
www.allsaintsortodox.org

Sunday, December 14, 2025

2nd Sunday before the Nativity • Forefathers of our Lord



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Apolytikion for the Resurrection (Tone 2): When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal one, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: ‘O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee!’

Apolytikion 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.

Apolytikion 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.

Kontakion for the Nativity Fast (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!

THE EPISTLE READING

For the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

Prokeimenon – Daniel 3:26, 27

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and worthy of praise; Thy name is glorified forever. Thou art just in all that Thou hast done to us.

The reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians (3:4-11)

BRETHREN, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

THE GOSPEL READING

For the Sunday of 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.



CHOIR & CHANTER APPRECIATION SUNDAY

His Eminence Metropolitan Saba

“Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.” (Eph. 5:18-19)

Each year, on the second Sunday of December, we honor those who chant praises to God in the Divine Liturgy and the divine services of the Church on this “Musician Appreciation Sunday.” As we ponder the verses above taken from St. Paul’s Epistle to the Ephesians, we cannot help but think of the importance of our sacred music in the life of the Church. The hymnography inspires us to contemplate the divine and ponder our own salvation as we are engrossed in the theology that is transmitted by the sacred hymns of the various feasts and resurrectional cycles of the ecclesiastical year.

St. Theophan the Recluse, when commenting on the purpose of church hymns, said, “All of our liturgical hymns are instructive, profound, and sublime. They contain the whole of our theology and moral teaching, give us Christian consolation, and instill in us a fear of the Judgment. He who listens to them attentively has no need of other books on the Faith.”

With that in mind, we are grateful for all those who train, practice, and sing praises to God in our parishes. We thank our thousands of choir members, chanters, readers, and their directors who sing from their hearts to praise God. It is our fervent prayer that not only are they transformed by what they are singing, but that through the beauty of their voices and the content of what they chant, they, in turn, also inspire those who listen. All this becomes possible through the dedicated efforts of those who train them, led by our Chairwoman of the Department of Sacred Music, Ms. Mareena Boosamra Ball, and her dedicated team. We are grateful for their many efforts in providing sound and correct settings for our sacred music, their biannual Sacred Music Institutes, the Antiochian Orthodox Ecclesiastical Online Music School, as well as the many workshops offered throughout the Archdiocese.

May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ continue to give them strength, not only on this day in which we honor them, but throughout the entire year!

Announcements and Upcoming Events

*For a full calendar of events and services at All Saints, see our website
www.allsaintsorthodox.org*

Today: Forefathers and Foremothers of our Lord

- Orthros & Divine Liturgy, beginning 8:30am
- Coffee hour provided by households R-Z
- Church school for all ages. Adult class: Fr Pat in the church
- Christmas tree decorating, immediately after Church school.
- Musicians' play date, 1:30pm downstairs. *Note this is not a concert but a fun time for musicians! Please see Subdeacon Joseph if you are interested in participating.*

Tuesday, Dec. 16:

- Morning prayers, 9am
- Parish council meeting (online), 7:30pm

Wednesday, Dec. 17:

- Morning prayers, 9am
- Vespers, 7pm

Thursday, Dec. 18:

- Morning prayers, 9am
- Miloshevski karate school 6-8pm

Friday, Dec. 19: Funeral services for Debra Johnson at Muzyka and Sons Funeral Home. Visitation begins 10am and Orthodox funeral rite at 11am. *May her memory be eternal, and may the Lord grant consolation and comfort to Jeanetta and the entire Obah family.*

Saturday, Dec. 20:

- Neighborhood Christmas caroling, 4:30pm
- Nativity Vespers with Old Testament prophecies, 7pm

Next Sunday, Dec. 21: Genealogy Sunday

- Orthros & Divine Liturgy, beginning 8:30am
- Chrismation of Daniel Sebastian

- Coffee hour provided by households A-F
- Church school for all ages. Adult class: Joseph Letendre

NATIVITY FAST. Orthodox Christians observe the 40 days before Christmas with prayer, abstinence from meat, eggs, and dairy as we are able, repentance and confession, and generosity to each other and to the poor. The goal is to simplify your life and your diet, so you have more time to pray and more resources for the poor. Of course not everyone will be able to fast the same way due to health, age, pregnancy, or other concerns, but we should all abide by the rules when we come together to share meals as a church community. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Fr. Andrew.

ADVENT FOOD DRIVE. During this holy season, we continue to collect donations of non-perishable foods for the men's shelter at Northside Housing. In particular, they are asking for items that don't need to be cooked, including heat-and-serve containers, and cans with pop-tops (there is a microwave available at the center). A list of suggested items is on the greeter table. **The deadline is next Sunday, Dec. 21.** Monetary donations are also accepted; make checks to All Saints Church and write 'food drive' on the memo line.

If you have any questions, please call or email Sandy Abraham. God blesses those who remember the poor!

ALL SAINTS TALENT SHOW. Mark your calendars! Our church talent show returns **Sunday, January 4** after Liturgy and a potluck meal (no church school that day due to the holidays). Please see Eva Walter if you have any questions.

PRISON MINISTRY. Those interested in prison ministry are invited to a short meeting after Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, January 11.** If you have not already contacted Jim Marks to ensure he has your email address for ongoing communication, please find his in the directory & contact him.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS:

Tuesday, Dec. 23: First & Third Royal Hours, 9am

Wednesday, Dec. 24:

- Sixth & Ninth Royal Hours, 9am
- Nativity Orthros and Divine Liturgy, beginning 10pm

Saturday, Dec. 27:

- Vespers, 5:00pm
- Christmas carols & desserts, 7pm

Volunteer Schedule

Date	Reader	Prospora	Greeter	Coffee	Food
Sun 12/14*	Steve K	Sandy A	John O	<i>volunteer</i>	R-Z
Sun 12/21*	Joseph L	Sephora	JoAnne	Zach	A-F
Wed 12/24 <i>Christmas</i>	Rich C	Debbie K	Azizeh	n/a	n/a
Sun 12/28	Michelle	Pat K	Richard B	Lydia A	G-K
Wed 12/31 <i>St. Basil</i>	Sd Joseph	Domitille	Nancy L	n/a	n/a

For Sunday coffee hour, the last names of our church members have 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, monitor them as they go through the coffee hour line, and make sure they don't take more than they can eat. Please also help your children clean up after themselves.

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

**Shaded dates indicate fasting. No meat or dairy should be served at church on these dates.*



DAILY BIBLE READINGS DECEMBER 14–20, 2025

*Beginning this week, all daily readings have
been chosen for our preparation for the
Nativity.*

Sunday, Dec. 14: Second Sunday before the Nativity

Luke 24:12-35 / Colossians 3:4-11 / Luke 14:16-24

Monday, Dec. 15: Martyr Susannah the Deaconess

Malachi 3:19-24 [4:1-6] / Hebrews 11:1-7 / Luke 1:1-25

Tuesday, Dec. 16: Holy Prophet Haggai

Genesis 3:8-19 / Hebrews 11:8-22 / Luke 1:26-38

**Wednesday, Dec. 17: Holy Prophet Daniel & the Three Holy
Youths: Ananias, Azarias, & Misail**

Isaiah 11:1-10 / Hebrews 11:23-31 / Luke 1:39-56

Thursday, Dec. 18: Martyr Sebastian & his companions

Malachi 3:1-4 / Hebrews 11:32-12:2 / Luke 1:57-66

Friday, Dec. 19: Aglaia the Righteous of Rome

Numbers 24:2-18 / 2 Corinthians 4:1-6 / Luke 1:67-80

Saturday, Dec. 20: Ignatius the God-Bearer, Bishop of Antioch

Daniel 2:31-45 / Galatians 3:8-12 / Luke 13:18-30

**ALL SAINTS IS A PARISH OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
WWW.ANTIOCHIAN.ORG**

**HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SABA, ARCHBISHOP OF NORTH AMERICA
ARCHIMANDRITE JEREMY DAVIS, VICAR FOR THE DIOCESE OF TOLEDO &
THE MIDWEST**