

December 15th, 2024

Sunday of the Holy Forefathers of Christ - Hieromartyr Eleutherios

*As we enter the Church let us pray.....
I will come into Thy House In the multitude of Thy mercy;
And in Thy fear I will worship toward Thy Holy Temple.*

Resurrectional Apolytikion – Tone 8

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the threeday burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Apolytikion of 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 St. Eleutherios of Illyria – Tone 5

Being comely adorned in thy sacred priestly robes and newly drenched with the streams of thy pure and sanctified blood, thou didst soar aloft to stand before thy Master, Christ; hence never cease to intercede for those honoring with faith thy mighty and blessed contest, thou overthrower of Satan, O wise and blessed Eleutherios.

Apolytikion of St. John Chrysostom - Tone 8

Grace shining forth from your lips like a beacon has enlightened the universe. It has shown to the world the riches of poverty. It has revealed to us the heights of humility. Teaching us by your words, O Father John Chrysostom, intercede before the Word, Christ our God, to save our souls!

Kontakion of Preparation for Christ’s Nativity – Tone 3

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.

Synaxarion

On December 15 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Venerable Paul of Latra. On this day, we also commemorate the contest of the holy Hieromartyr Eleutherios, Bishop of Illyria, and his mother, Saint Anthia. Anthia heard the Gospel from the great Apostle Paul himself, and was baptized by him. Being early left a widow, she entrusted her only son to the education and service of the Bishop of Rome, Anacietus. Seeing how greatly Eleutherios was gifted and illumined by the grace of God, the bishop ordained him as bishop of Illyria at age 20. This Godly man kept his flock like a good shepherd, adding to their number from day to day. In the year 120, Emperor Hadrian, a persecutor of Christians, sent a commander, Felix, with soldiers, to seize Eleutherios. Instead, Felix became a Christian, as did the Governor Choribus. They went back to the capitol where all three men were tortured and beheaded. As Anthia held the dead body of her son, she was also beheaded. Their bodies were taken to Valona in Albania, where Eleutherios glorifies the name of Christ to this day by many wonders.

On this day we celebrate the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers (Ancestors) of our Lord Jesus. We remember all the holy Patriarchs of the Old Testament who prefigured or foretold Christ: Adam the first Father, Enoch, Melchizedek, Abraham, the friend of God, Isaac, the fruit of the Promise, Jacob and the twelve patriarchs. We then commemorate those who lived under the Law: Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Samuel, David, and the Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel; the twelve minor prophets; Elijah, Elisha, Zachariah, and John the Baptist; and finally the Virgin Mary, the intermediary between mankind and her divine Son. Indeed, the Lord Jesus did not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to redeem humanity which bemoaned the weight of evil since Adam; to realize the promise made to Abraham; to change the Law of Fear into the Law of Love; and to give Resurrection and Life to mankind. This feast prepares us for the Nativity of Jesus Christ, placing before us the anticipation and hope for His coming among us. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen

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St John Chrysostom Antiochian Orthodox Church is a parish of the Antiochian Archdiocese of North America

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA, Metropolitan of New York and North America
His Grace Bishop Thomas, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Charleston, Oakland and the Mid-Atlantic
The V. Rev. Peter Pier, Pastor

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Come Visit St. John Chrysostom's Web Sites: www.orthodoxyork.org

The Inquirer's Class – will meet today, Sunday, December 15th, following the Divine Liturgy. These classes are for those studying the Orthodox Christian Faith, and those wishing to deepen their understanding of the Faith. All are welcome.

Weis and Giant Grocery Gift Cards – are available for purchase. You pay the face amount of the card and the church receives 5% of the value of the card. Please go to the church office after any Divine Liturgy to purchase a card. Purchases benefit the general fund of St. John Chrysostom Church.

Attendance: 202

Operating Fund Offering Received: \$9,275.00

Amount Needed Each Week To Meet Operating Fund Budget: **\$7,443.00**

Church Calendar

Dec. 15 8:50 am Orthros. 10:00 am Divine Liturgy. SCS. Inquirer's Class. Caroling.
Dec. 16 6:00 pm Vespers and Nativity Bible Study.
Dec. 17 9:00 am 3rd Hour and Pray and Play. 7:30 pm School Meeting
Dec. 18 6:00 pm Vespers
Dec. 19 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy. St. Ignatios of Antioch.
Dec. 21 6:00 pm Great Vespers.
Dec. 22 8:50 am Orthros. 10:00 am Divine Liturgy. SCS. Parish Council.

Remember In Your Prayers

Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear" (Is. 65:24)

The Living – for their health & wellbeing

Metropolitan SABA
Bishop Thomas
Denise Zakula
Subdeacon Ron Bartholomew Bassarab
Olena Bassarab
Jayme Miller
Matthew Miller
Officer Jamie Miller
Joyce "Kassiane" Williams
Michael Acierno
Jerry "David" Desautels
Christopher Reese
Beverly Kushner
Michelle Prince
Richard "Stephen" Vangel
Joshua "John" Ranck
Ronna "Sophia" Castle
Kera McBurnett
Arlene "Éirene" Maisch
Christine Bogosh
Sasha Florenz
Nicholas Glagola
Marjorie "Marion" Barrett

The infant Jesse Hanna

The Departed – Memory Eternal!

Metropolitan PHILIP
Bishop Antoun
Priest Boniface Black
Helen Diamond
Angela Burke
Wayne "Stephen" Coleson
Georgette Habib Soliman
Joseph Danyo
Leavitt "George" Keener
Mary Jane Glagola
Norm "Nourhan" and Eva "Marie" Kailian
Nicholas Raptapolus
Walter and Mary Damm
Donnell Gregory and Mary "Rebecca" Beck
Michael Bogosh
Christos Tsakiris
Harry and Grace Dorion
Marianne Rupp and Mary Bincarowsky
Gene "Paul" Strayer
Katherine Monsour
George and Darla Feeser

Cindi "Monica" Bennett
Mary Kopey
Martha Allen
Mary Lou Grove
Melinda "Magdalena" Stika
James Fetter
Andrew Himes
Patty May
Julie Acierno
Vincent Michael Terzano-Borovic
Steven Smith
Edward Boner
Cheryl "Alexandra" Bury
Thomas Lehman
Barry "John" Hart
Angela Pandelidis
Kathryn Velen
Karl and Nancy Usner