



# THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE DORMITION

OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD  
ΠΑΡΑΦΙΑ ΥΣΠΙΝΝΙΑ ΠΡΕΣΒ. ΒΟΓΟΡΟΔΗΤΙ

**Our Mission is to joyfully bring all people into the knowledge, love and service of the Holy Trinity, Who dwells amongst us.**

**Address:**

15608 -104 Avenue,  
Edmonton, AB  
T5P 4G5

**Services:**

Sunday Divine Liturgy  
(Ukr & Eng) at 10 am  
& Melkite (Arabic) D.L. at 2 pm



Major Feast Days at 7pm

**Parish Website:**

<http://dormition.eeparchy.com>

**Eparchial Website:**

[www.eeparchy.com](http://www.eeparchy.com)

**Pastor:**

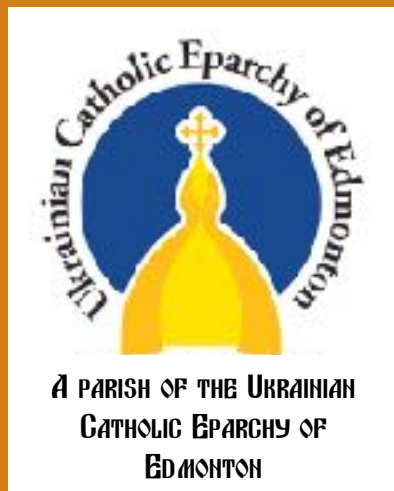
Fr. Bo Nahachewsky

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## December 12, 2021

**Sunday of the Holy Forefathers, Tone 4; Our Venerable Father Spiridon the Wonderworker, Bishop of Tremithus (337-61); Nativity Fast.**



### Welcome St. Nicholas!

We are very pleased that you can join us today after the liturgy to bless us and share your wise words.

We are also very thankful to the UCWLC and those of the Little Friends of Jesus who have prepared the treats that St. Nicholas will be handing out after the service.

### Phillipian Fast: Winter Pascha by Steve Puluka

*When the Creator saw the one whom He had created with his own hands perishing, He lowered the heavens and came down; He took upon himself human nature from the most holy and pure Virgin, truly becoming flesh; for this reason, we glorify Him.*

### Salvation History

On the two Sundays prior to the Nativity of Christ we remember all of salvation history. On the first Sunday, we recall all the faithful ones who God called and promised salvation. Next we remember the specific family line where Jesus takes his place in humanity. God created humanity as a reflection of the Divine nature. By disobedience in the Fall Adam and Eve rejected God's plan and followed their own way. But even as they were expelled from paradise God began reached out to restore our fallen nature.

Little by little over the centuries God touched individuals and called them to witness the greatness of God's plan. God witnessed the great faith of Abraham and the patriarchs. They experienced the power of God and obeyed his instructions. Moses gave the people the law, a concrete expression of God's will. Living as a nation the people had difficulty trusting in the Lord rather than the trappings of earthly power.

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But all the while, God continued to teach the people by chastising and rewarding them. Finally, in the fullness of time, God brought us back to paradise. God became flesh, born of a woman, born under the law to free us from the law and return us to paradise. Adam and Eve led us out of paradise, Christ and Mary lead us back. Christ is the new Adam and Mary the new Eve. Together they show us how to return to paradise.

Eve dispenses the words of transgression, inviting Adam to the forbidden tree. Mary points to the way of life, "Do whatever he tells you." Eve accepts Satan's invitation while Mary accepts the annunciation of Gabriel. Eve moves from paradise to toil. Mary comes from death to life.

Adam succumbs to temptation while Christ rejects the devil and all his ways. Adam leads us to toil and strife while Christ gives us peace and life. Adam makes a new law for himself. Christ embodies and fulfills the very law of God himself.

The second Nativity Kontakia of Romanos has Adam and Eve expounding on the role of Mary in salvation. They acknowledge their error and rejoice in the new life that Christ brings to the human race through Mary. Even at this moment of Christ's birth in winter, they have an eye on the springtime Pascha that is to come. Christ restores the tree of life by his incarnation and resurrection.

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*"You are truly most blessed, O virgin Mother of God. Through the One who was incarnate of you, Hades was chained, Adam revived, the curse wiped out, Eve set free, Death put to death, and we ourselves were brought back to life. That is why we cry out in praise: blessed are You, O Christ our God, who finds in this your good pleasure. Glory to You!"*

*- Sunday of the Holy Fathers Matins at the Praises*

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## Tree Of Life

Mary's womb is the mystical garden in which the tree of life is planted. At the feast of the Nativity we plant the seed that will grow into the cross. The cross that will bring us from death to life. Adam and Eve separate us from the tree of life in the garden. Mary brings the new tree of life, Christ, to us.

The patristic authors equated the tree of life, guarded by the angels, with the cross of Christ, open to us all. By eating the fruit of a tree we were expelled from paradise, by partaking of the tree of the cross we regain what was lost. At the Nativity of Christ we begin the long road back to paradise. The tree is planted in Bethlehem, which will mature and bear fruit some thirty years later in Jerusalem.

In contemplating the mystery of the cross, patristic literature saw the hints of the new tree of life in scripture. Moses held a

wooden staff during the Exodus that gave life to the people. The staff healed those sick with snake bites. The staff parted the Red Sea for the people to cross. The staff gave victory to the people over their enemies. As long as Moses held the staff aloft with his arms outstretched, Israel won the day. But if his arms lowered their enemies would start to win. Note the position of the arms forms the cross.

Here we see another strong connection between the Nativity and the great feast of Pascha. The incarnation and the resurrection are intertwined at all levels by these images. The birth and the death of Christ are one and the same mystery, in a sense. As Mary brings a new life into the world, we contemplate the NEW LIFE that God bestows on us by this miracle of the incarnation. By a tree sin comes into the world, by the incarnation a tree of life is planted.

## The Master's Hospitality

The Master's Hospitality is the banquet of our Lord, the Divine Liturgy, where we receive the Eucharist and connect our lives with one another and the Lord. This act of communion is given to us by our Savior on the very night that he died. Once again, we connect this event from Holy Week to the feast of our Lord's Birth. During the pre-feast, December 22, at the evening service of compline we sing the same canon songs that we do on Holy Thursday. We understand that the Nativity is the beginning of our journey with Christ. We share in the hospitality of the Holy Family this season of the birth, but we see the shadow of the hospitality to come. We know that intimate communion with one another and our Lord is on the horizon.

The incarnation is an icon of communion, or rather, communion is the continuation of the incarnation. In Mary, Christ becomes flesh, He is both fully God and fully man. The two natures are in one person. In the Eucharist we have the continuation of this marvelous mystery. The bread and wine are real bread and wine. In the consecration they remain fully bread and wine, but they also become the Divine Body and Blood of our Lord. Every Divine Liturgy we participate in an aspect of the incarnation. The human elements fuse with the Divine by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

When we partake the Eucharist we partake of the Divine nature. We unite ourselves to all Christians, past and present, and with the Lord himself. Christ became man so that we might become God. He demonstrates that human and divine natures can co-exist in a single person. We are called to share in that same Divine Nature and become Deified. We can accomplish this through living the example of Christ and joining that example to the Eucharist. The Eucharist allows us to experience the connection to all the community of faith. The Eucharist connects this community in the same manner that the community of the Trinity remains a single God.

# Saint Spyridon the Wonderworker, Bishop of Tremithus

(from [oca.org](http://oca.org))

Saint Spyridon of Tremithus was born towards the end of the third century on the island of Cyprus. He was a shepherd, and had a wife and children. He used all his substance for the needs of his neighbors and the homeless, for which the Lord rewarded him with a gift of wonderworking. He healed those who were incurably sick, and cast out demons.

After the death of his wife, during the reign of Constantine the Great (306-337), he was made Bishop of Tremithus, Cyprus. As a bishop, the saint did not alter his manner of life, but combined pastoral service with deeds of charity.

According to the witness of Church historians, Saint Spyridon participated in the sessions of the First Ecumenical Council in the year 325. At the Council, the saint entered into a dispute with a Greek philosopher who was defending the Arian heresy. The power of Saint Spyridon's plain, direct speech showed everyone the importance of God's wisdom before human wisdom: "Listen, philosopher, to what I tell you. There is one God Who created man from dust. He has ordered all things, both visible and invisible, by His Word and His Spirit. The Word is the Son of God, Who came down upon the earth on account of our sins. He was born of a Virgin, He lived among men, and suffered and died for our salvation, and then He arose from the dead, and He has resurrected the human race with Him. We believe that He is one in essence (consubstantial) with the Father, and equal to Him in authority and honor. We believe this without any sly rationalizations, for it is impossible to grasp this mystery by human reason."

As a result of their discussion, the opponent of Christianity became the saint's zealous defender and later received holy Baptism. After his conversation with Saint Spyridon, the philosopher turned to his companions and said, "Listen! Until now my rivals have presented their arguments, and I was able to refute their proofs with other proofs. But instead of proofs from reason, the words of this Elder are filled with some sort of special power, and no one can refute them, since it is impossible for man to oppose God. If any of you thinks as I do now, let him

believe in Christ and join me in following this man, for God Himself speaks through his lips."

At this Council, Saint Spyridon displayed the unity of the Holy Trinity in a remarkable way. He took a brick in his hand and squeezed it. At that instant fire shot up from it, water dripped on the ground, and only dust remained in the hands of the wonderworker. "There was only one brick," Saint Spyridon said, "but it was composed of three elements. In the Holy Trinity there are three Persons, but only one God."

The saint cared for his flock with great love. Through his prayers, drought was replaced by abundant rains, and incessant rains were replaced by fair weather. Through his prayers the sick were healed and demons cast out.

A woman once came up to him with a dead child in her arms, imploring the intercession of the saint. He prayed, and the infant was restored to life. The mother, overcome with joy, collapsed lifeless. Through the prayers of the saint of God, the mother was restored to life.

Another time, hastening to save his friend, who had been falsely accused and sentenced to death, the saint was hindered on his way by the unanticipated flooding of a stream. The saint commanded the water: "Halt! For the Lord of all the world commands that you permit me to cross so that a man may be saved." The will of the saint was fulfilled, and he crossed over happily to the other shore. The judge, apprised of the miracle that had occurred, received Saint Spyridon with esteem and set his friend free.

Similar instances are known from the life of the saint. Once, he went into an empty church, and ordered that the lampadas and candles be lit, and then he began the service. When he said, "Peace be unto all,"

both he and the deacon heard from above the resounding of a great multitude of voices saying, "And with thy spirit." This choir was majestic and more sweetly melodious than any human choir. To each petition of the litanies, the invisible choir sang, "Lord, have mercy." Attracted by the church singing, the people who lived nearby hastened towards it. As they got closer and closer to the church, the wondrous singing filled their ears and gladdened their hearts. But when they entered into the church, they saw no one but the bishop and several church servers, and they no longer heard the singing which had greatly astonished them.

Saint Simeon Metaphrastes (November 9), the author of his Life, likened Saint Spyridon to the Patriarch Abraham in his ...



...hospitality. Sozomen, in his *Church History*, offers an amazing example from the life of the saint of how he received strangers. One time, at the start of the Forty-day Fast, a stranger knocked at his door. Seeing that the traveller was very exhausted, Saint Spyridon said to his daughter, "Wash the feet of this man, so he may recline to dine." But since it was Lent there were none of the necessary provisions, for the saint "partook of food only on certain days, and on other days he went without food." His daughter replied that there was no bread or flour in the house. Then Saint Spyridon, apologizing to his guest, ordered his daughter to cook a salted ham from their larder. After seating the stranger at table, he began to eat, urging that man to do the same. When the latter refused, calling himself a Christian, the saint rejoined, "It is not proper to refuse this, for the Word of God proclaims, 'Unto the pure all things are pure'" (Titus 1:15).

Another historical detail reported by Sozomen, was characteristic of the saint. It was his custom to distribute one part of the gathered harvest to the destitute, and another portion to those having need while in debt. He did not take a portion for himself, but simply showed them the entrance to his storeroom, where each could take as much as was needed, and could later pay it back in the same way, without records or accountings.

There is also the tale by Socrates Scholasticus about how robbers planned to steal the sheep of Saint Spyridon. They broke into the sheepfold at night, but here they found

themselves all tied up by some invisible power. When morning came the saint went to his flock, and seeing the tied-up robbers, he prayed and released them. For a long while he advised them to leave their path of iniquity and earn their livelihood by respectable work. Then he made them a gift of a sheep and sending them off, the saint said kindly, "Take this for your trouble, so that you did not spend a sleepless night in vain."



All the Lives of the saint speak of the amazing simplicity and the gift of wonderworking granted him by God. Through a word of the saint the dead were awakened, the elements of nature tamed, the idols smashed. At one point, a Council had been convened at Alexandria by the Patriarch to discuss what to do about the idols and pagan temples there. Through the prayers of the Fathers of the Council all the idols fell down except one, which was very much revered. It was revealed to the Patriarch in a vision that this idol had to be shattered by Saint Spyridon of Tremithus. Invited by the Council, the saint set sail on a ship, and at the moment the ship touched shore and the saint stepped out on land, the idol in Alexandria with all its offerings turned to dust, which then was reported to the Patriarch and all the bishops.

Saint Spyridon lived his earthly life in righteousness and sanctity, and prayerfully surrendered his soul to the Lord. His relics repose on the island of Corfu (Kerkyra), in a church named after him (His right hand, however, is located in Rome).

His memory is also celebrated on Cheesefare Saturday.

**Our parish casino** has been tentatively rebooked for the 2nd quarter of 2022 at Gateway Casino located in West Edmonton Mall - Thursday June 2nd & Friday, June 3rd.

Recognizing remaining Covid concerns and other personal health considerations the Parish needs to determine if the required number of volunteers for this event can be obtained.

Any Parishioners that are still able to assist with the casino fundraising event, please contact our Casino Chairperson, Alex Schabel by January 16th @ 780-908-3339 ([aschabel14@gmail.com](mailto:aschabel14@gmail.com))

**Our UCWLC is collecting** for a couple things:

Flowers! Every year a call goes out for funds to help us decorate the church with flowers on special feasts like Christmas. If you can make a donation towards flowers, just put it in an envelope and mark it for "UCWLC Flowers", then throw it in with the regular Sunday Collection.

Donations to good charities. Our UCWLC is happy to pass on donations to needy charities. If you would like to contribute to any of them, talk to Virginia or Helen.

Special **Thank You** to Greg, Iryna, Kris, Darlene, Steve ad Janet who beautifully decorated the church for the feast of the Nativity. You are all awesome. God grant you many years.




This space is for rent.

Today after the Divine Liturgy there will be a Special Meeting of the Bylaw Committee.


## Current Covid Precautions:

- We need to wear masks
- We need to keep families 2 meters apart
- We need to limit the number of people in church to 1/3 of its normal capacity (now only 44 people)
- We can not all sing together, either we recite or we have 1 cantor (family)
- We will not be having fellowship after liturgy until further notice.

- **Please pray for** several of our parishioners and family members including (but not limited to): Mickey, Sister Andrea, Kristopher, Greg, Peter, Ross, Ron, Peter, Jean, Verna, Miranda, Sarah, Marge, Ann, Louis & Rosa Maria.
- **Happy Birthday** to: **Britany Kwas, Sharon Lonsberry** and **Sofie Vizza** who all celebrate their birthdays this week. May God grant you many happy years. Mnohaya Lita.
- **Next PPC meeting:** January 18. **AGM:** Feb 6.




**It's official!**  
We now have a Catholic Scouts Group in Edmonton!  
**#221 Our Lady's Scouts**








**Be part of the Adventure!**

At this time we are organizing ourselves and seeking families to help us get started. In particular we are looking for Adult Scouters and Volunteers. Children and Youth can be placed on the "We Are Interested: Waiting List" and will be kept up to date with our progress and notified when programming is ready to start (which will likely be in the new year, pandemic allowing). If you and your family are interested in being involved please contact Fr. Du Malachowsky at 780-340-3726 or at [fr.du@chewalkn@seperchy.com](mailto:fr.du@chewalkn@seperchy.com)

More info can be found at: [dormition.eeparthy.com/scouts/](http://dormition.eeparthy.com/scouts/)



 <p><b>BEAVER SCOUTS</b> AGES 5-7</p> <p>Discover adventures like camping, hiking, playing games and enjoying campfires. Make good new friends along the way, along with writing, drawing!</p>	 <p><b>CUB SCOUTS</b> AGES 8-10</p> <p>Embark on outdoor adventures, be hikes, weekend camps and camping. As a Cub, Cubs are encouraged to try new and exciting activities including STEM projects and cultural experiences.</p>	 <p><b>SCOUTS</b> AGES 11-14</p> <p>Blaze your own trail. Develop more leadership opportunities and develop self-confidence by planning adventures with your troop and going back to be community in a meaningful way.</p>	 <p><b>VENTURER SCOUTS</b> AGES 15-17</p> <p>Have your parents. Develop skills to reach the mountains of your goals and reach your potential as a leader, a team player, an explorer and a young real-world experience.</p>	 <p><b>ROVER SCOUTS</b> AGES 18-26</p> <p>Use your energy, experience and skills and challenge yourselves with peers and drive your personal initiatives with support from a mentor. Start preparing you for success.</p>
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**Next Interested Person / Volunteer Meeting:**  
**Tuesday, December 14 at 7 pm**

You can attend in person or via Zoom.  
Meeting details can be found at [dormition.eeparthy.com/scouts/](http://dormition.eeparthy.com/scouts/)

## Dormition Parish Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>12</b> 🐟</p> <p>Sunday of the Holy Forefathers, Tone 4; Our Venerable Father Spiridon the Wonderworker, Bishop of Tremithus (337-61); Nativity Fast. Colossians 3:4-11; Luke 14:16-24</p> <p><b>10 am Divine Liturgy bilingual Ukr / Eng</b></p> <p><b>St. Nicholas Visits us!</b></p> <p><b>Special Bylaw Committee Meeting after Liturgy</b></p> <p><b>2 pm Divine Liturgy bilingual Arabic / Eng</b></p> <p>5:30 appointment</p>	<p><b>13</b> 🐟</p> <p>The Holy Martyrs Eustratios, Auxentius, Eugenius, Mardarius and Orestes (284-305); the Holy Martyr Lucia, the Virgin (284-305); Polyeleos Feast. Nativity Fast. Ephesians 6:10-17; Luke 21:12-19</p>	<p><b>14</b> 🐟</p> <p>The Holy Martyrs Thyrsus, Leucius (249-51), Philemon, Apollonius and Callinicus (284-305); Nativity Fast. Hebrews 9:8-10,15-23; Mark 8:22-26</p> <p><b>10:30 am Fr Bo leads the funeral of Stanley Kalita in Vegreville</b></p> <p><b>7pm Scouts Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> 🐟</p> <p>The Holy Priest-Martyr Eleutherius; Our Venerable Father Paul of Latra (956); Our Holy Father Stephen the Confessor, Archbishop of Surozh (8th century); Nativity Fast. Abstention from meat and foods that contain meat. Hebrews 10:1-18; Mark 8:30-34</p> <p>Happy Birthday to Brittany Kwas &amp; Sharon Lonsberry</p>	<p><b>16</b> 🐟</p> <p>The Holy Prophet Haggai (6th c. BC); Nativity Fast. Hebrews 10:35-11:7; Mark 9:10-16</p> <p>Happy Birthday to Sofie Vizza</p>	<p><b>17</b> 🐟</p> <p>The Holy Prophet Daniel, the Three Holy Youths Ananiah (Ananias), Azariah (Azarias) and Mishael (Misael) (6th century BC); Nativity Fast. Abstention from meat and foods that contain meat. Hebrews 11:8,11-16; Mark 9:33-41</p>	<p><b>18</b> 🐟</p> <p>Saturday before the Nativity of Christ; The Holy Martyr Sebastian and His Companions; Nativity Fast. Galatians 3:8-12; Luke 13:18-29</p>
<p><b>19</b> 🐟</p> <p>Sunday before the Nativity of Christ - Sunday of the Holy Fathers, Tone 5; The Holy Martyr Boniface (230); Nativity Fast. Hebrews 11:9-10,17-23,32-40; Matthew 1:1-25</p> <p><b>10 am Divine Liturgy bilingual Ukr / Eng</b></p> <p><b>2 pm Divine Liturgy bilingual Arabic / Eng</b></p> <p>5:30 appointment</p> <p>Happy Birthday to Sonia Dashkewytch, Steven Shakeshaft &amp; John Vizza</p>	<p><b>20</b> 🐟</p> <p>Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ; the Holy Priest-Martyr Ignatius the Godbearer (110); Nativity Fast. Hebrews 11:17-23, 27-31; Mark 9:42-10:1</p>	<p><b>21</b> 🐟</p> <p>Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ; the Holy Martyr Juliana of Nicomedia (284-305); Nativity Fast. Hebrews 12:25-26; 13:22-25; Mark 10:2-12</p> <p>11 am Appointment</p> <p>3 pm Appointment</p>	<p><b>22</b> 🐟</p> <p>Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ; The Holy Great-Martyr Anastasia (305); Nativity Fast. Abstention from meat and foods that contain meat. James 1:1-18; Mark 10:11-16</p>	<p><b>23</b> 🐟</p> <p>Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ; The Ten Holy Martyrs of Crete (249-51); Nativity Fast. James 1:19-27; Mark 10:17-27</p>	<p><b>24</b> 🐟</p> <p><b>Eve of the Nativity of Christ;</b> The Holy Venerable-Martyr Eugenia; Nativity Fast. Strict Fast. Abstention from meat and dairy and foods that contain these ingredients. Hebrews 1:1-12; Matthew 13:31-36</p> <p><b>7 pm Complines &amp; Divine Liturgy in English</b></p> <p><b>10 pm Complines &amp; Divine Liturgy bilingually Ukrainian / English</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>The Nativity in the Flesh of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ - Christmas;</b> Feast of our Lord. Holy Day of Obligation. Galatians 4:4-7; Matthew 2:1-12</p> <p>No services on this day. Please attend an evening service on Christmas Eve.</p> 
<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Sunday after the Nativity of Christ Commemoration of the Holy and Rigeous Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James, Brother of the Lord; Galatians 1:11-19; Matthew 2:13-23</p> <p><b>10 am Divine Liturgy bilingual Ukr / Eng</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Post-feast of the Nativity of Christ; the Holy Apostle, First Martyr and Archdeacon Stephen; Our Venerable Father and Confessor Theodore the "Branded One" (844); Acts 6:8-7:5,47-60; Matthew 21:33-42</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Post-feast of the Nativity of Christ; the Two Thousand Martyrs Who Were Burned in Nicomedia (303); Passing into eternal life (1945) of Blessed Hryhoriy (Gregory) Khomyshyn, Bishop of Stanyslaviv (Ivano-Frankivs'k) and martyr; James 3:1-10; Mark 11:11-23</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>The Holy Children who were murdered by Herod in Bethlehem; Our Venerable Father Marcellus, Hegumen of the Monastery of the Sleepless Ones (c. 470); James 3:11-4:6; Mark 11:23-26</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Post-feast of the Nativity of Christ; the Holy Martyr Anysia (286-305); Holy Martyr and Presbyter, Zoticus, Protector of Orphans (4th c.); James 4:7-5:9; Mark 11:27-33</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>The Leave-taking of the Feast of the Nativity of Christ, Christmas; Our Venerable Mother Melania the Roman (439); 1 Peter 1:1-2, 10-12; 2:6-10; Mark 12:1-12</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>The Circumcision of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ; Our Father Among the Saints Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia (379); Gregory of Nazianzis, father of Gregory the Theologian (374); Holy Martyr Basil of Ankyra (322); Saturday before <b>6</b> Theophany. Colossians 2:8-12; 1 Timothy 2:14, 4:5;</p>

# Sunday, December 12, 2021

## Sunday of the Holy Forefathers, Tone 4; Our Venerable Father Spiridon the Wonderworker, Bishop of Tremithus (337-61)

**Troparion:** When the disciples of the Lord learned from the angel\* the glorious news of the resurrection\* and cast off the ancestral condemnation,\* they proudly told the apostles:\* “Death has been plundered!\* Christ our God is risen,\* granting to the world great mercy.”

**Troparion:** By faith You justified Your ancestors\* and through them in advance You betrothed the Church taken from the nations.\* The saints exult in glory;\* from their seed comes the blessed fruit, the one who bore You without seed.\* By their prayers, O Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

**Kontakion:** Armed by the Being that defies description,\* you defied the man-made idol, O thrice blessed youth.\* In the midst of the unbearable flames you stood and cried out to God:\* “In Your mercy, O gracious One, hasten and come to our aid,”\* for You can do whatever You will.

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### Prokeimenon:

Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers,\* and praised and glorified is Your Name forever.

*verse:* For You are righteous in everything that You have done to us.

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### Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11 (NRSV)

Bothers and Sisters, when Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

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### Alleluia verses:

Moses and Aaron are among His priests and Samuel among those who call upon His name.

They called on the Lord and He heard them.

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### Gospel: Luke 14:16-24 (NRSV)

The Lord spoke this parable: “Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for everything is ready now.’ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.’ Another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.’ Another said, ‘I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.’ So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, ‘Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.’ And the slave said, ‘Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.’ Then the master said to the slave, ‘Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.’”

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### Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens;\* praise Him in the highest

Rejoice in the Lord, O you just;\* praise befits the righteous.

Alleluia, alleluia,\* alleluia.

## Christmas Eve Schedule:

### 7 pm English & 10 pm Bilingual

Unless current covid restrictions change we will be reciting the services as singing is not currently permitted.

In order to guarantee a spot at the services you are encouraged to reserve a spot on our website:

**[dormition.eeparchy.com](http://dormition.eeparchy.com)**

We can only allow 44 persons (as mandated by the current covid laws). If you reserve a spot it will be there for you. If you come without reserving a spot, there may or may not be a spot available to you.