



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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Sunday of the Forefathers

December 13, 2020

Troparion – Tone 2

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out:// “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

Troparion – Tone 2

Through faith Thou didst justify the Forefathers, betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles. These saints exult in glory, for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit: she who bore Thee without seed.// So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

Troparion – Tone 7

O joyful North Star of the Church of Christ, guiding all men to the Heavenly Kingdom, teacher and apostle of the True Faith, intercessor and defender of the oppressed, adornment of the Orthodox Church in America: Blessed Father Herman of Alaska, pray to our Lord Jesus Christ// for the salvation of our souls!

Kontakion – Tone 2

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee,// and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

Kontakion – Tone 3

The eternal light of Christ our Savior guided thee, O blessed father Herman, on thine evangelical journey to America to proclaim the Gospel of peace. Now thou standest before the throne of glory: intercede for thy land and its people,// asking peace for the world and salvation for our souls.

Kontakion – Tone 6

You did not worship the graven image, O thrice-blessed ones, but armed with the immaterial Essence of God, you were glorified in a trial by fire. From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God, crying: “Hasten, O compassionate One! Speedily come to our aid,// for Thou art merciful and able to do as Thou dost will!”

Prokeimenon – Tone 4

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever!

V. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

Prokeimenon – Tone 7

Precious in the sight of the Lord / is the death of His saints.

Sunday of the Forefathers

The Sunday that falls between December 11-17 is known as the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers. These are the ancestors of Christ according to the flesh, who lived before the Law and under the Law, especially the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, "In thy seed shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 12:3, 22:18).

Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11

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.

Epistle: Galatians 5:22-6:2

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Gospel: Luke 14:16-24

Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. 'For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.'"

Gospel: Luke 6:17-23

And He came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all. Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples, and said: "Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man's sake. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, for in like manner their fathers did to the prophets.

Service Schedule for the week of December 13 – services will be streamed live

Today – MASKS NOT REQUIRED 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Saturday December 19 – MASKS NOT REQUIRED 5:00 PM Vespers *There is no Divine Liturgy service today!*

Sunday December 20 – MASKS REQUIRED 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Weekly Giving

November 29 – 42 adults, 12 youth, \$1,989

December 6 – 49 adults, 11 youth, \$4,475

Parish Announcements

Masks will be required at all Holy Day services. Masks may be worn during any service, even those indicating No Mask.

Upcoming service schedule (Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM):

Saturday December 12 – Masks required

Sunday December 13 – Masks not required

Saturday December 19 – **NO DIVINE LITURGY**

Sunday December 20 – Masks required

Thursday December 24 – Masks required

Friday December 25 – Masks required

Saturday December 26 – Masks required

Sunday December 27 – Masks not required

Saturday January 2 – Masks not required

Sunday January 3 – Masks required

Saturday January 9 – Masks required

Sunday January 10 – Masks not required

Please note there will be no Divine Liturgy next Saturday, December 19; only Vespers at 5:00 PM, masks not required.

There will be a St. Vladimir FOCA meeting today after Divine Liturgy in Daria Hall. Masks are required.

There are still a few pierogies for sale - \$8/dozen. If you are interested please see Nina Laushell.

Church Flowers: If you are interested in donating flowers for a Sunday or Holy Day, please contact Father Volodymyr. Flowers are placed on both sides of the veneration icon. There are vases available to use for cut flowers.

In order to properly social distance, we ask that parishioners fill the front pews as well as all pews in the church before congregating in the back. Individuals should attempt to sit in a pew (one at each end) with another individual in order to free up pews for families. The choir loft is also available for a family. We must be vigilant in trying to prevent the spread of germs, so please do not attend church services if you have a fever, sniffles, cough, cold, sore throat, loss of smell or taste, etc. If individuals who attended church services are diagnosed with Covid, the church may need to shut down for a period of time. Father Volodymyr live streams Saturday Vespers and Sunday Divine Liturgy every weekend, so if you are home you may still participate in the services on line. Thank you for your consideration and cooperation!

It is important to partake in the sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion during the Nativity Fast. Please contact Father Volodymyr if you need to make an appointment if you cannot attend services. Masks must be worn during Confession.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Parish Council, please speak to Father Volodymyr before December 31.

The Senior R Club has voted to change the name of the club to St. Vladimir FOCA (Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America). Please see a member of the club if you are interested in joining!

Nativity Services will be as follows:

Thursday December 24 – **Christmas Eve – MASKS REQUIRED** 7:00 PM Vespers with Litya

NOTE: The parish will not have a Christmas Eve supper this year due to the Covid pandemic.

Friday December 25 – **NATIVITY – MASKS REQUIRED** 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Saturday December 26 – **Synaxis of the Holy Theotokos – MASKS REQUIRED** 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy and 5:00 PM Vespers with Litya

Sunday December 27 – **First Martyr Stephen – MASKS NOT REQUIRED** 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

In order to prevent the spread of germs, the Communion prosphora and prosphora after Divine Liturgy will be handed out by an Altar server. We ask that you receive the prosphora in your hand and not reach for the prosphora on the tray or bowl.

The church has been set up for appropriate social distance seating. However, if you are feeling ill, please stay home. Also, those age 65 and over are still considered high risk and should make careful decisions about attending services. Father Volodymyr will continue to stream live Vespers and Sunday Divine Liturgy.

During the pandemic we are grateful that our parishioners have continued to contribute every week so the church can remain operational. Please continue to pray for everyone's health and well-being!