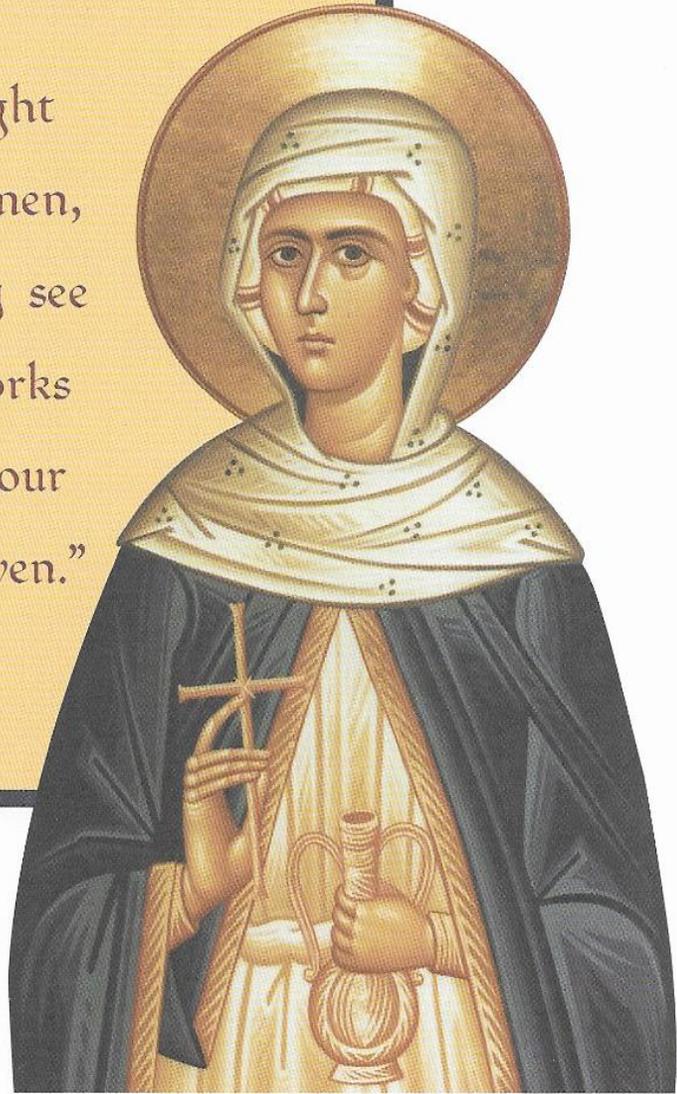


# Great Martyr ANASTASIA

“Let your light  
shine before men,  
that they may see  
your good works  
and glorify your  
Father in heaven.”



## THE PATRON SAINT OF PHARMACISTS

**S**aint Anastasia, whose name means “resurrection,” lived in the early 4th century. Persecution and suffering were still everyday realities for Christians believers. Pagan rulers of the Roman Empire used every means possible to stop the growth of our Christian Faith.

Anastasia was the daughter of a heathen father and a Christian mother. Of noble birth, she was given in marriage to a Roman official who was embittered against the Christian Gospel. During the violent persecutions carried on by the command of the Emperor Diocletian, Anastasia devoted herself to the care of Christians who were arrested for their faith and packed into prisons and dungeons. She gave of her time, money and skill to ease the suffering of those who bore witness to their faith in Christ. She provided medicines for the sick and wounded, and came to be known as “the medicine woman.”

Starvation, disease and torture took the lives of many. After tending to them in their suffering, Anastasia saw to it that the martyrs received a Christian burial.

Her husband was killed while on a journey for the empire. Anastasia then sold her earthly possessions and used the funds in caring for the incarcerated. It wasn't long before she herself was arrested by the pagan rulers and brought to trial for her Faith. She remained steadfast and was martyred in the year 304.

Not much else is known about St. Anastasia; few incidents of her life have been preserved. But the most important of these are known: She believed in Christ, served Him faithfully, loved Him and died for Him. Surely that is more than enough!



# HOLY RESURRECTION ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese  
Ecumenical Patriarchate  
10201 Democracy Blvd  
Potomac, Maryland 20854  
301-299-5120(Office) 301-367-9051(cell)  
www.holyresurrection.com  
www.facebook.com/groups/hroc25  
YouTube: HROC Media



Very Rev. Peter Zarynow, Pastor  
Protopresbyter John Fedornock

Subdeacons Anastasios Davis & Theodoros Zarynow Reader Stephen Sudik

## Sunday 03 January 2021

Sunday Before Nativity

Virgin Martyr Juliana

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40 Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

Tone Five

### 03 Jan (SUN) Sunday before Nativity

Chanting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour 9:10am

Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom 9:30am/Group B

Panachida: +Helen Beveridge by Sudik Family

Socially distanced Coffee Social to follow

### 06 (Wed) Nativity Eve (Strict Fast Day)

Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great 9:30am

(Attendance limited to Senior 65+)

Great Compline 7:30pm



### 07 Jan (Thu) FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom 11am @ St George Church, Bethesda

### 08 Jan (Fri) 2<sup>nd</sup> Day of Nativity/Synaxis of the Theotokos

Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom 9:30am

### 10 Jan (SUN) Sunday after Nativity

Chanting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour 9:10am

Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom 9:30am/Group A

Socially distanced Coffee Social to follow

## Announcements:

**Confessions** be heard by appointment. Your Confession will be heard with Father, in front of the Icon of Christ, in the front pew. Masks (face cover) are required for both priest & penitent. Social distancing will also be in effect. Call Father Peter to set a time and date for an appointment. As we prepare for the Feast of the Nativity, it is time to prepare the "Manger of your soul" for the coming of the Messiah. **Last opportunity for Confessions will be after Compline on Nativity Eve, Appointments are necessary!!!**

This Wednesday, the Eve of the Nativity, is a Strict Fast Day, meaning no meat or dairy products. The traditional evening meal is the "Holy night Supper" Following the Nativity (7-17 January) there is no fasting, meaning all foods are permitted.

Wall calendars for 2021 are available on the table near the stairwell.

Offering envelopes for 2021 are available in the hall under the TV. Please take yours home. If you have opted not to use the envelope system for your offerings please do not use any "leftover" envelopes for the numbers have changed. If there are any questions, please contact Marie Smith.

Grocery Gift cards from Giant are still available. Contact Mark or Marie Sudik to have them mailed to you.

**NOTE: While we are in the situation where we are not able to meet fully, if you are able, please continue to make your regular tithe/offering to the parish. Even though we are not together, the bills continue to come in (electric, water, communications, etc.) Your continued support is necessary and appreciated. Your offering can simply be made through the PayPal button on our parish website homepage or by sending it in the mail to the church. (Also, new in the tax code for 2020, all charitable donations, no matter if you take the standard deduction or itemize, will be able to be used as deductions when you file your returns in early 2021.)**

The First ACRY Soup Sale of the season will be Sunday 17 January 2021. It will be a outdoor pick up event. Begin preparing now by thinking of the soups you will be making. Remember, each Sr ACRY household is asked to make at least one 5-qt. batch of soup. Soup containers (heavy paper, waxed) are in the ACRY closet. Soups must be here before Divine Liturgy begins. If it is not "your week" to be in church, contact Fr Peter to arrange a drop off.

The ACRY will be holding their annual Super Bowl pool. We know it is early but with staggered attendance, we figured we better start. Square sheet is in the church office to fill out. Also, you can SEE or EMAIL Mark or Marie Sudik (group B) or Nick Dzubak (group A) for squares. Cost is \$20 per square (like usual). \$400 from the proceeds will be donated to the church

For Group A, we need coffee social hosts for next week, 10 January and for 24 January. Please use the Sign-up Genius link to register <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040845adab2ba5f85-host>

On the bulletin board in the hall, you will find the sign ups for Bulletin sponsors (\$30/month) and website sponsors (\$25/month). Let us try to have these filled as soon as possible.

During this time of Covid-19, if you have any candle requests, please email or text them to Fr Peter by no later than Wednesday evening. Candles will be lit as requested.

## CANDLE OFFERINGS

### Vigil Candles Offered For the Living (Many Years! Mnohaja L'ita!)

- 1-health of Mom-your loving family- Chrysa, Taina & Craig
- 1-health Dad Michael-love Alex & Melanie
- 2-for health-love Mom & Dad  
*Jonathan & Lara; Stephanie*
- 2-for health-John & Sheila  
*HROC parishioners; Family members*
- 3-special intention-John & Sheila  
*Fr. Peter & family; Diocesan Priests & their families; OCMC Missionaries*
- 1-health of Chris Fallon-Michael, Kathleen, John & Anna
- 1-specail intention Roby Family-Scott
- 2-special intention-brother George  
*Archbishop Michael; Barbara Knighton*
- 2-special intention-George Dahulich  
*Metropolitan Gregory; Bishop Matthias*
- 8-for health-George Dahulich  
*Fr Tom Kadlec; Fr Jim Dutko; Chris Fallon; Charlie Myers; Barbara Knighton; Pañi Kathy Dutko Kamilah Wimberly; Randy Wimberly*
- 2-happy birthday-George Dahulich  
*Josie Lavender; Allen Dzubak*
- 1-health of Savannah, Chloe, Caroline, Christopher, Natalie, Cole-love Grandparents
- 19-health & healing-John & Marie Smith  
*Irene Dzubak; Melanie Samson; Fr Tom Kadlec; John & Barbara Homick; Chris Hudack; Ray & Georgene Ammon; Marge Tomasevich; Carol Miller; Marie Skasko; Pañi Eleanor Pribish; Lois Erhard; Chris Fallon; Emilia Zak; Stephen Brancho; Charlie Myers; Debbie & Tom Delare; Rose Marie Jung; Pañi Jean Hutnyan; Tim Dzubak*
- 6-special intentions-the Breno Family  
*Breno Family; Fedornock Families; Peart Family; Nakonecznyj Family; Zankey Family; Fabian Family*
- 1-happy birthday Michel Fedornock-the Breno Family
- 2-special intention-the Breno Family  
*Stephanie & baby; all who are ill*
- 1-health of all who are ill-the Breno Family
- 2-specail intention-Mom & Dad  
*Angela & Brian; Stephen*
- 1-special intention Mark-love Marie
- 1-special intention Marie-love Mark
- 8-for health-Mark & Marie  
*Mom/Baba; Ann Thear; Verna Czap; Nancy Shields; Mike & Josie Czap; Skeets; Williams Family; Charlene Myers*
- 12-health & special intention- Mark & Marie  
*Chris Hudack; Ray & Georgene Ammon; Marge Tomasevich; Irene Dzubak; Carol Miller; Alex & Eleanor Breno; Fr John & Pañi Marge; James Battaglini; Bridget Myers; Charlie Myers; Pañi Bernadette; Fr Peter*
- 1-health of Charlie-love Debi
- 2-for health-Charlie, Debi, Jacob & Joey  
*Grammy; Skeets*
- 2-specail intention-love Mom & Dad  
*Jacob; Joey*
- 1-health & healing Dorothea Fotis-daughter Linda
- 1-health and healing Hayley, Bob, Aunt Michalene, Dan, Chris Hudack, John Homick, Peggy and Bruce, Andrea and all who are sick-Lois
- 1-health of Savanah, Caroline, Natalie, Karen K, Elizabeth Michel, Marge Tomasevich-Lois

### Vigil Candles In Loving Memory: (Memory Eternal! Vicnaja Pamjat!)

- 1+in loving memory of Les-love Carol
- 1+in memory Mother & Father. Carol Miller
- 1+loving memory of my husband Tom-your loving wife Ann
- 1+in loving memory of our father-Chrysa, Taina and Craig
- 1+in memory of Steve Sheftic-love your family
- 2+loving memory-the Fallons  
*Pañi Jeannette; Anna & John Luchok*
- 1+in memory of Marion Fallon-Diane
- 1+in loving memory of Helen Rowland-Diane
- 1+in loving memory Parents & Grandparents-Diane & Brian
- 1+Memory Eternal Parents/Grandparents-Koval Family
- 2+Memory Eternal-Koval Family
- Uncle George & Uncle Tony*
- 3+Memory Eternal . love Alex, Melanie  
*Mother Katherine; Dad John; Mother Elaine*
- 5+in memory-John & Sheila  
*Dad Kraynok; Mom Kraynok; Charles Hrapchak; Anna Hrapchak; Evelyn Hrapchak*
- 1+In loving memory of Metro-Love, Joan and Family
- 1+in loving memory of parents Peter & Ann Dahulich-love son George
- 1+in memory Helen Beveridge-Mark & Marie
- 1+in memory of Aunt Enka-Charlie, Debi, Jacob & Joey

## Looking ahead to the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord:

As we look to the Days of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord, so that you can plan ahead, here is the schedule we will be following:

### 06 January-Eve of the Nativity (Strict Fast Day)

Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great (Nativity Vigil) 9:30am - Attendance limited to Seniors 65+

Great Compline on the Eve of the Nativity 7:30pm (open attendance)

### 07 January-Feast of the Nativity of our Lord

Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom 11:00am at St. George Orthodox Church, 7701 Bradley Blvd, Bethesda (Christmas Carols will begin at approx. 10:50am)

### 08 January-2<sup>nd</sup> Day of Nativity-Synaxis of the Theotokos

Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom 9:30am (open attendance)

### 10 January-Sunday after Nativity

Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom 9:30am/Group A



## Something to Think about.....

*“When Abba Sisoës lay upon his deathbed, the disciples surrounding the Elder saw that his face shone like the sun. They asked the dying man what he saw. Abba Sisoës replied that he saw St Anthony, the prophets, and the apostles. His face increased in brightness, and he spoke with someone. The monks asked, “With whom are you speaking, Father?” He said that angels had come for his soul, and he was entreating them to give him a little more time for repentance. The monks said, “You have no need for repentance, Father” St Sisoës said with great humility, “I do not think that I have even begun to repent.”*

Please pray for the following: Metropolitan Gregory, Bishop Matthias, Fr. Frank & Pa i Connie Miloro; Pa i Betty Jean Baranik, Fr. John Fencik, Fr. Paul Stoll, Fr. Robert Teklinski, Fr. John Gido, Dn. Peter Skoog & family, Pañi Kathy Dutko, Fr. Gregory Allard, Fr. Lawrence Barriger, Fr. James Gleason, Fr. Luke Mihaly, Fr. Ted & Pa i Marjorie Mozes, Fr. Thomas Blaschak, Hieromonk Michael, Fr Thomas Kadlec; Pa i Donna Smoley, Fr. Michael & Pa i Annamarie Slovesko, Fr John & Pa i Patricia Duranko, Fr. Christopher Rozdilski, Fr John & Pa i Cindy Zboyovski, Fr. Jonathan & Pa i Marsha Tobias, Fr Robert Lucas, Pañi Delores Zuder; Pa i Amy George, Fr Ken Ellis; Pa i Dorothy Hutnyan, Fr Ed Pihanich, Elisa Castilla, Ann Thear, Beth & Ed SkeetsqWilliams, Carol Miller, Cindy Russell, Michael Buchko, Dorothy Mastronicola, Angie Wali, Nancy Lynn Arthur, Tony Zankey, Justin Popek, Karen Ogden, Joshua, Faye & Tess, Emilie Dixon, Shirley Miree, Michael Rake, Olga Vasconez, Diane Dupere-Lindell, Gerry Sadler, Ann Eckert, Lois Hall, Marshal Smith, Dave Stanton, Florence Gregoric, James & Melody Peyton, Louann Giger, Daniel Ward, Jennifer Brady, Carol Blum, Katie Bleeker, Alexi Williams, Missy Johns, Susan Buckley, Constance Amey, James Lazor, Debbie Dell, Rose & Douglas Eade, Edward & Grace Yoon, Michael Dinneen, Kellie Barrett, Joan Detwiler, Joan Kondratick, John Homick, Jim David, Melanie Samson, Mary West, Laura Gary; Richard & Wendy Sulich; James Durachko, Julia Rapach, Randi Caffalle, Hayley Marshall, Jon Green, Aleia Dick, MaryJane, Kyle & Rosie Brant, Mary Agnes, Alicia, Lisa Chern, Stephen Branch, Emily, MaryMargaret, Leslie Perez, Thomas & Deborah Delare, Diana Hannan; Ed Murphy; LeLe Luu; Bridget Myers; Devan Merrill; Joann Wiant; Bob Fitzurka; Vasili Pavuk; Frank Pavuk; Richard, Kari, Nicholas & Daniel Zarynow; Olga Vovk; infant Emilia Zak; Susan B.; Gregory Naugle; Dorothea Fotis; Daniel Winsky; Lela; Vladimir; Anna Fallon & baby; Brittany Arata & twins; Pa i Kathryn Dutko & baby

***May Our Lord Jesus Christ Touch Them with His Healing Hand!!***

**Follow Your Diocese On-Line**

Diocesan Website: <http://www.acrod.org> Camp Nazareth: <http://www.campnazareth.org>  
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/acrodnews>  
 You Tube: <https://youtube.com/acroddiocese>

**Fifth Issue of SPF50 NOW AVAILABLE!!**

Scripture – Prayer - Family

Thank you to all our families who have participated in the SPF50 Ministry. Together we have completed 4 of the SPF50 publications!!

**The fifth edition of SPF50 is now available. The reading schedule will begin on January 10, 2021.**

We are excited for the NEW reading program in the fifth edition!! The NEW reading program will highlight many **ESSENTIAL Biblical Stories** like Creation, Noah and the Ark, the Exodus, the call of the Prophet Samuel, and many others throughout the Old and New Testaments.



In addition, in order to support families and parishes engaged in the SPF50 Ministry, we will be hosting an **online event for parents** across the Diocese on **Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 6:30pm**. The online event is being offered to support and encourage us as we make prayer and Scripture reading a part of our family's life of faith at home. Join other parents around the Diocese as we simply talk with one another and share our experiences with each other. The online event is free-of-charge. You can sign up for the event at the following link: [SPF50 Parents Event](#). Signing up is quick and easy.

If you haven't joined SPF50 yet, the new year is a great time to start! Make a commitment to reading Scripture and praying together with your family. Even the busiest of families can make a commitment to read from the Bible and pray together for 50 minutes a month. Don't forget to fill out the Commitment Card which is available in the SPF50 Section of the Diocesan Website, and then return the Card to your parish priest.

**To access this material or to find out more about how SPF50 can help your family grow in Christ, visit the Diocesan Website at [acrod.org](http://acrod.org) and look for the SPF50 logo.**



**PARISH ANNUAL MEETING – February 21, 2021**

This year due to the coronavirus restrictions, the parish Annual Meeting will be held on Zoom on Sunday, February 21 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Sign-in information will be emailed the week before the meeting. This will be a great opportunity to see parishioners that you haven't seen since last March!



**Election of Officers:** This year the following Council officer positions will be elected: Vice President, Financial Secretary, Curator, and two Auditors. To be eligible, a candidate must be 21 years old, a member of the parish for a minimum of one year, and in good standing both spiritually and financially. Refer to "Serving on the Church Council 2021" which describes the duties for the positions. If you are interested in being a candidate, please talk to Diane Rowland, Nominating Chair.

**Requests for Reports:** Presidents of the Junior and Senior ACRY and chairs of committees are asked to submit a written report summarizing their activities in 2020 and any plans for 2021. Please email your report to Fr. Peter no later than January 31.

**Suggestions for Agenda topics:** Is there something you would like to be discussed at the Annual Meeting? If so, please give your suggestion to Marie Sudik, Council Secretary. We welcome your suggestions!

# Joy for the Imperfect People of the World

Priest Philip Lemasters, from his blog *Eastern Christian Insights*

Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40; Matthew 1:1-25

I listened to a podcast recently which stressed that comparing ourselves to other people tends to make us unhappy. That is apparently one of the great problems with social media, since people normally post pictures and news about themselves that make them look as though their lives were perfect. Since we know that our lives are not perfect, such images of others easily fuel a sense of inadequacy and insecurity.

The Lord's genealogy in St. Matthew's gospel traces the Savior's human ancestry back through many generations to Abraham. The story of the ancestors of Christ, who helped to prepare the way across the centuries for the incarnation of the God-Man, certainly does not read like a Facebook posting. The Old Testament presents them realistically as unlikely members of His family tree. Since we are the unlikely recipients of the fulfillment of God's promises in Jesus Christ, we should not bear the burden of maintaining a false appearance of perfection in our neighbors' eyes or our own. Becoming like God in holiness is our goal, but we will fool only ourselves if we think that we have already attained it.

Not long after God told him that he would be blessed as the father of a multitude, Abraham gave his wife Sarah away to Pharaoh, encouraging her to say that she was his sister (Gen. 12). Later, when they were impatient about their inability to conceive, Abraham fathered a child by Sarah's servant Hagar (Gen. 16). These are scandalous stories about the faith and marriage of the foundational couple of the Hebrew people. Nonetheless, God worked through them to bring salvation to the world. When God called Moses to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt in the Exodus, he made excuse after excuse to try to get out of it (Ex. 4). Even after their liberation, the Israelites worshipped a golden calf (Ex. 32) and wanted to go back to Egypt as they complained about the hardships of wandering in the desert (Exod. 16). The Bible does not present an idealized view of the Lord's ancestors, but instead shows that God remained faithful to His gracious promises to the descendants of Abraham despite their many failings.

The first woman mentioned in St. Matthew's genealogy is Tamar, who became pregnant by her father-in-law Judah. A widow, she disguised herself as a prostitute when he would not give her his youngest son in fulfillment of the requirements of levirate marriage (Gen. 38). Judah, Tamar, and the twins they conceived are listed in the genealogy. This family tree also includes Rahab, a Gentile prostitute who protected two Hebrew spies before the conquest of Jericho (Josh. 2). She is listed as the mother of Boaz, a Jewish man who married Ruth, a Moabite woman, even though the Old Testament clearly prohibited such marriages (Ruth 4). Nonetheless, Boaz and Ruth are listed as David's great-grandparents. Then we read that "David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah." David had committed adultery with Bathsheeba, who became pregnant, and then had Uriah killed in battle in order to hide what he had done (2 Sam. 11). He composed Psalm 50 (51) as he repented of his great sin. Obviously, there is no façade of human perfection in these accounts.

Matthew's description of the family tree prepares us for the kind of Savior we encounter in Jesus Christ. Even as His ancestors sinned, He came to show mercy upon those who had fallen short of fulfilling God's purposes for them. His family line even included Gentiles, and He has made all with faith in Him the heirs of the promise to Abraham.

We may have heard the story of the Savior's conception and birth so many times that we are no longer shocked by it. We must never forget, however, that He was born in circumstances that were quite scandalous, for the idea of a virginal conception and birth was just as shocking in the first century as it is today. The circumstances of His conception were truly outrageous and fit with no one's conventional assumptions, as His teenage virgin mother became pregnant



by a miracle of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, the older man to whom she was betrothed as her guardian, was horrified to find her pregnant. Knowing that he was not the father, he planned to divorce her quietly, but did not after an angel told him in a dream of the miraculous virginal conception of the Savior.

It is also easy for us to forget how scandalous our Lord's ministry was. Opponents charged Him with being a servant of the devil, a blasphemer, and one who disobeyed God's commandments. He conveyed mercy to Gentiles, tax collectors, prostitutes, and other public sinners and lowly people whom the religious establishment had rejected. Respectable religious people, such as the Pharisees and the Sadducees, were scandalized by what He taught and did. Even His closest followers considered His death on the cross to be a sign of complete failure that would never have occurred to the true Messiah. When the tomb was empty three days later and He rose in glory, a different kind of scandal occurred. In an outrageously unconventional way, Christ did what even the most righteous people of the Old Testament could never have accomplished. He overcame death itself and made even the tomb an entryway into the eternal life of the Kingdom of God.

The only way to take our place in the great heritage which Christ has fulfilled is by faith, which means entrusting ourselves to Him. If, instead, we offer ourselves to the false gods of social respectability or of maintaining an illusion of perfection in the eyes of others, we will simply build obstacles to welcoming the Savior more fully into our hearts at His Nativity. His Kingdom remains a scandal in this world, and there is severe tension between seeking our fulfillment in the praise of our neighbors and finding the healing of our souls. Today's epistle reading states that "by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God." If we are truly uniting ourselves to Christ in holiness, we will remain strangers and foreigners to conventional expectations as we journey to embrace the fullness of the promise that is ours. We will have faith in Him, not in vain efforts to give meaning and purpose to our lives by meeting the expectations of any group or individual, including our own.

As those who have received the fullness of the promise, we are even more scandalous than the ancestors of Christ. We must not hide our imperfection, but instead open the brokenness of our souls to the healing that the Savior was born to bring to the world. We must turn away from our conventional distractions and excuses to confront the truth about where we stand in relation to the Lord. That is why we must devote ourselves to prayer, confessing and repenting of our sins, fasting from the richest and most satisfying foods, and denying ourselves as we serve those in need. As we conclude our preparation to receive the Savior at His Nativity, let us pay no attention to impressing others, but instead embrace the outrageous joy of those who have received a salvation that they never thought was possible and that they could never have given themselves. Such joy is not the same as worldly contentment of any kind, but a foretaste of the eternal life of a Kingdom that is not of this world and which will inevitably appear as a scandal in its eyes. May that joy become characteristic of us as we get ready to welcome our Lord.

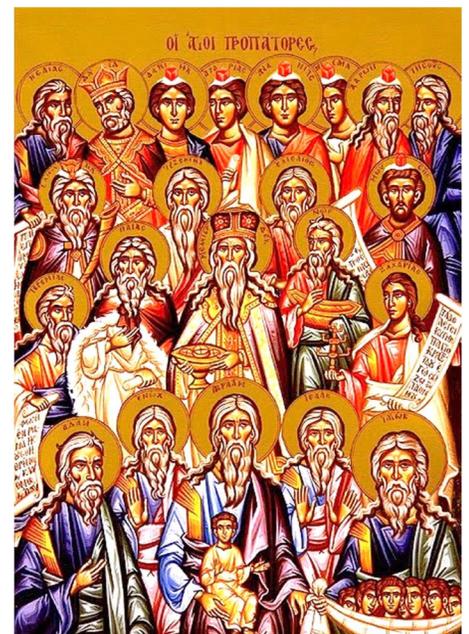
## **Sunday before the Nativity of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ**

*Commemorated on the Sunday that falls between 18/31 December and 24 December/06 January*

"On the Sunday before the Nativity (which falls between the 18th and 24th of December), the Holy Fathers have instituted the Commemoration of the Genealogy of our Saviour Jesus Christ, in which we include not only His ancestors according to the flesh from Adam to Joseph the Betrothed of the Mother of God, but all the Righteous and the Prophets, who, by their words or deeds, announced the coming in the flesh of the Son of God." (Synaxarion)

As baptized Christians, we ourselves are by adoption children of the Father and brethren of Christ, as the Apostle says, and are therefore a continuation of this spiritual lineage. May we be made worthy!

Since the Jews did not trace genealogies in the mother's line, the Scriptures do not give us the lineage of Christ according to the flesh, which was through his mother Mary; but instead list the forebears of Joseph the Betrothed, who served according to the Law as husband of Mary and father of Jesus. According to the Fathers, the blessed Virgin was the daughter of Joachim, son of Bar-Panther, son of Panther, son of Levi, son of Nathan, son of King David. Thus, as prophesied, the Messiah was of the house and lineage of David.



## Virgin Martyr Juliana of Nicomedia, and 500 men and 130 women with her

Commemorated 23 December/03 January



The Holy Virgin Martyr Juliana, daughter of an illustrious pagan named Africanus, was born in the city of Nicomedia. As a child, she was betrothed to a certain Elusius, one of the emperor's advisors. Saint Juliana was endowed with a profound intellect and goodness of soul. She saw through the delusion and deception of the pagan faith, and secretly accepted holy Baptism.

When the time of her wedding approached, Juliana refused to be married. Her father urged her not to break her engagement, but when she refused to obey him, he began to beat her viciously. Then Africanus handed his daughter over to the Eparch, who happened to be Elusius, Juliana's former fiancé. Elusius fervently asked Juliana to marry him, promising not to require her to abandon her faith. Saint Juliana refused and said that she'd rather be put to death.

They beat the saint both long and harshly, but after each beating, she received healing and new strength from God. Her punishment took place before a large number of people. Of these, 500 men and 130 women came to confess Christ after witnessing the steadfastness and courage of the holy virgin miraculously healed from her wounds. They were all beheaded, and were baptized in their own blood.

Convinced of the futility of attempting to separate the holy virgin from her heavenly Bridegroom, Elusius sentenced Juliana to death. She accepted the sentence with joy and glorified the Lord for permitting her to receive a martyr's crown. The holy Martyr Juliana was executed in the year 304.

Saint Juliana is the subject of an Anglo-Saxon poem, believed to have been written by Cynewulf in the eighth century.

## NON-MARTYR Eugenia of Rome

Commemorated 24 December/06 January



The Holy Martyr Eugenia, was a Roman by birth. She lived at Alexandria, where her father Philip was sent by the emperor Commodus (180-192) to be Prefect of Egypt. Eugenia received a fine upbringing and was noted for her beauty and good disposition. Many illustrious youths sought her hand, but she did not wish to marry anyone, for she was determined to preserve her virginity.

Providentially, she became acquainted with the Epistles of the Apostle Paul. She yearned with all her soul to become a Christian, but kept this a secret from her parents. At that time, Christians were banished from Alexandria by the command of the emperor. Wishing to learn more about Christian teachings, she asked permission to visit one of the family estates outside the city, supposedly to enjoy the countryside. She left in the company of her two servants Protus and Hyacinthus, dressed in men's clothes. She and her companions were baptized at a certain monastery by Bishop Elias, who learned about her in a vision. He blessed her to pursue asceticism at the monastery disguised as the monk Eugene.

By her ascetic labors, Saint Eugenia acquired the gift of healing. Once, a rich young woman named Melanthia turned to her for help. Seeing Eugenia, this woman burned with an impure passion, and when she was spurned, she falsely accused the saint of attempted rape. Saint Eugenia came to trial before the Prefect of Egypt (her father), and she was forced to reveal her secret. Her parents and brothers rejoiced to find the one for whom they had long grieved.

After a while they all accepted holy Baptism. But Philip, after being denounced by pagans, was dismissed from his post. The Alexandrian Christians chose him as their bishop. The new Prefect, fearing the wrath of the people, did not dare to execute Philip openly, but sent assassins to kill him. They inflicted wounds upon Saint Philip while he was praying, from which he died three days later.

Saint Claudia went to Rome with her sons, daughter, and her servants. There Saint Eugenia continued with monastic life, and brought many young women to Christ. Claudia built a wanderers' hostel and aided the poor. After several peaceful years, the emperor Galienus (260-268) intensified the persecution against Christians, and many of them found refuge with Saints Claudia and Eugenia.

Basilla, an orphaned Roman girl of imperial lineage, heard about the Christians and Saint Eugenia. She sent a trusted servant to the saint asking her to write her a letter explaining Christian teachings. Saint Eugenia sent her friends and co-ascetics, Protus and Hyacinthus, who enlightened Basilla, and she accepted holy Baptism.

Basilla's servant then told her fiancé Pompey that his betrothed had become a Christian. Pompey then complained to the emperor against the Christians for preaching celibacy and denouncing idolatry. Basilla refused to enter into marriage with Pompey, and so they killed her with a sword. They dragged Saints Protus and Hyacinthus into a temple to make them sacrifice to the idols, but just as they entered, the idol fell down and was shattered. The holy Martyrs Protus and Hyacinthus were beheaded. They also brought Saint Eugenia to the temple of Diana by force, but she had not even entered it, when the pagan temple collapsed with its idol.

They threw the holy martyr into the Tiber with a stone about her neck, but the stone became untied and she remained unharmed. She also remained unscathed in the fire. Then they cast her into a pit, where she remained for ten days. During this time the Savior Himself appeared to her and said that she would enter into the heavenly Kingdom on the day He was born. When this radiant Feast came, the executioner put her to death with a sword. After her death, Saint Eugenia appeared to her mother to tell her beforehand the day of her own death.