



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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Sunday of the Forefathers / Righteous Priest Aaron

December 11, 2022

Troparion – Tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: “Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom!// Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!”

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!

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!

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).

Righteous Priest Aaron

The Righteous Aaron was the son of Amram and Jochebed, and the elder brother of the Prophet Moses the God-seer, and also of Miriam. He was a direct descendent of Levi by both parents. God called him “the Levite” in Exodus 4:14, when He appointed Aaron to be the spokesman for Moses, who was “slow of speech,” before the people. Later, he would also speak on behalf of Moses before Pharaoh in Egypt (Ex. 4:30; 7:2). Aaron was married to Elisheba, the daughter of the Prince of Judah (Ex. 6:23), who bore him four sons.

Moses was eighty years old and Aaron was eighty-three when they spoke to Pharaoh and asked that the Hebrews be released from their slavery. The Lord told Moses that Pharaoh would ask them for a miracle, and that Aaron should throw down his

rod before him, and it would become a serpent (Ex. 7:9). When Pharaoh would not allow the Hebrews to leave Egypt, God told Moses to have Aaron stretch forth his rod over the Nile River, and it would turn to blood.

Following a succession of plagues, Pharaoh relented and let the people go, then Moses led them on their long journey to the Promised Land. In Chapter 17 of Exodus, the Hebrews fought Amalek in a battle at Rephidim. Moses stood atop a hill with the rod of God in his hand. As long as he raised his hand, the Hebrews prevailed, but when he became tired and lowered it, Amalek prevailed. Aaron and Hur sat Moses on a rock and held up his hands, one on each side. This was a prefiguration of the suffering of Christ, because the arms of Moses formed a cross. In the Greek Septuagint, the names Aaron and Hur begin with the letters Alpha and Omega, another reference to Christ (Revelation 1:8).

Aaron and his sons were anointed and sanctified to serve God as priests (Exodus chapter 29). In chapter 32, Aaron fell into temptation when Moses went up on Mount Sinai to receive the Commandments. Since Moses was taking a long time, the people grew restless and asked Aaron to make them a golden idol in the form of a calf so that they could offer sacrifices. He gave into them, and Moses was angry when he returned and saw them dancing and singing before the calf. He threw down the tablets on which God had written the Ten Commandments, and then he burned the golden calf and ground it to powder. He scattered the powder on the water, and he made the people drink it. When Moses asked those who were on the Lord's side to gather around him, the Levites came to him. He ordered them to take their swords and slay their sons, companions, and neighbors. About three thousand people were killed that day.

Later, Aaron and Miriam criticized Moses for marrying a Cushite woman (Num. 12:1). God was angry with them, so He punished Miriam with leprosy. She was healed by God seven days after Moses interceded for her.

In chapter 17 of Numbers, the people murmured against Moses and Aaron, so God commanded that the leaders of the twelve tribes should have their names inscribed on their rods and placed in the tent of testimony. God would reveal His choice to make the people cease their grumbling against Moses and his brother. Aaron's rod bloomed miraculously in the tent of the testimony, to show that he had been chosen for this purpose.

Aaron reposed atop Mount Hor when he was one hundred and twenty-three years old. One of his descendants was Saint Elizabeth, the mother of Saint John the Baptist (Luke 1:5).

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.

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.'"

Service Schedule for the week of December 11

Sunday December 11 – 9:45 AM Hours; 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Saturday December 17 – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

Sunday December 18 – 9:45 AM Hours; 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by the children's Yolka Program and Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Upcoming Holy Day Service Schedule for 2022

Saturday December 24 – 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Supper (potluck Lenten) in Daria Hall followed by Great Compline with Litya at 7:00 PM. ***A sign-up sheet for the Supper is on the table in the back of the church.***

Sunday December 25 – NATIVITY 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Monday December 26 – SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY THEOTOKOS 9:30 Divine Liturgy

Saturday December 31 – FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION 5:00 PM Vespers with Litya

Sunday January 1 – FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Thursday January 5 – FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY 7:00 PM Great Compline with Litya

Friday January 6 – FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Great Blessing of Water

Saturday January 7 – SYNAXIS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy; 5:00 PM Vesper

Weekly Giving

December 4 – 64 adults, 20 youth, \$2,318

Parish Announcements

On Christmas Eve, the parish will have a potluck Lenten supper in Daria Hall at 5:00 PM. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the back of the church. Please sign up and also indicate what Lenten dish you will bring to share.

There will be a FOCA Club meeting today during Coffee Hour. The meeting will include election of Officers for 2023.

There will be a Parish Council meeting this Tuesday, Dec. 13, at 7:00 PM.

The Ladies Altar Society is raffling the following items. Chances are \$1.00 each and \$2.00 for the nutcracker.

Today – "The Lemonade Stand", part of the Lenox collection; an original work of art by renowned artist Lynn Bywaters – includes certification. \$1/chance

December 18 – Platter of delicious homemade cookies and fudge...just in time for Christmas! \$1/chance

December 11 (today) and December 18 - Genuine German Nutcracker made by Steinbach – Count Luckner (value \$109). \$2/chance

The FOCA Club is selling packages of 12 Christmas cards with envelopes for \$12 per pack. The cards are available to purchase in Daria Hall.

Yolka rehearsals with the children will take place every Sunday during Sunday School. Parents, please bring your children so they become familiar with the program.

The Sunday School Yolka will be held in Daria Hall next Sunday, December 18 during Coffee Hour. Please plan on attending to support the youth of our parish!

Please remember to partake of the Sacraments of Confession and Communion prior to the Nativity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Contact Father Volodymyr if you need to set up a time for Confession other than after Saturday evening Vespers.

Parishioners who are interested in becoming a member of the Parish Council should speak with Father Volodymyr prior to December 31. Elections will be held during the Annual Parish Meeting on January 29, 2023.

Catechism classes will begin Thursday January 12 at 7:00 PM in the church basement. Classes will be taught on a rotating schedule by Father Volodymyr, John Cassar, Herman Meyer, and Alan Berck. Everyone is invited to attend, but classes are mandatory for those wishing to convert to Orthodoxy. Classes will be finished before Pascha, at which time the Catechumens will schedule services to become Orthodox.

Please remember to sign-up for on-line giving, if you are interested. See a member of the Parish Council if you have any questions!

Youth and adults of the parish are invited to Bible Study classes during Coffee Hour. The classes are taught by Alan Berck.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:

Leon Brasowski – December 12

Brittani Brasowski – December 13

Carmine Guagenti – December 13

Tsion Demoze – December 15

Have a blessed birthday and may God grant you many years!

If you do not see your birthday listed above during your birthday week, please let Darice know and she will add it to the schedule!

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE – Coffee Hour Preparation Instructions are available in the Daria Hall kitchen.

Please remember the Coffee Hour Helpers do not normally bring any refreshments for Coffee Hour, but are there to assist in setting up for Coffee Hour. The host/hostess is responsible for bringing whatever refreshments they wish to serve – if desserts are needed please let the Helper know ahead of time as there are desserts in the freezer. Host/Hostess is also responsible for setting up in the morning starting at 9:00 AM and cleaning up after Coffee Hour. If you have any questions please contact Melody Stavisky, Alla Strauss, or the Helper assigned to your Coffee Hour date. Thank you!

Dec. 11 **FAST DAY** Olga & James Bates, Awet Tesfa
Dec. 18 **FAST DAY** Father Volodymyr & Matushka Oksana, Awet Tesfa
Dec. 25 CHRISTMAS – no Coffee Hour
Jan. 1 Matthew & Kris Bohush, Darice Keyes
Jan. 8 Manuel & Lourdes Montiel, Nancy Mitsos
Jan. 15 Matthew & Nana Barrett, Nina Laushell
Jan. 22 Sophie Dumas, Melissa Braun, Darice Keyes
Jan. 29 Blake & Jessica Kilgore, Alla Strauss
Feb. 5 Anna Brasowski, Francine Brady
Feb. 12 FOCA Club - Breakfast Fundraiser
Feb. 19 Carmen & Cezar Mateiescu, Darice Keyes
Feb. 26 **NO MEAT** Sami Bachir, Awet Tesfa
March 5 **FAST** Melody Stavisky, Darice Keyes
March 12 **FAST** Awet Tesfa, Nebiat Tesfa
March 19 **FAST** Alan & Mimi Berck, Francine & Herman
March 26 **FAST** John Cassar, Nina Laushell
April 2 **FAST** Anne Cheslock, Nancy Mitsos
April 9 **FAST** Francine Brady, Herman Meyer, Alla Strauss
April 16 **PASCHA** – No Coffee Hour
April 23 Madeleine Sekulich, Mark McDevitt, Nancy Mitsos
April 30 Fiyori Habtesilasse, Awet Tesfa