

December 17, 2023 / Tone 4



Today is the Sunday of the Forefathers

All the great Fathers and Mothers and Prophets of the Old Testament, starting with Adam, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, are called to mind this weekend including such figures as the Holy Prophets Eli-
as and Daniel. The Office of today concludes with the parents of the Forerunner of Christ, SS. Zechariah (Zachary) and his wife Elizabeth and the parents of the Virgin SS. Joachim and Ann. These are the faithful generations 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"(Gen12:3, 22:18).

What connection is there between them and us? In general, the Church brings them to our attention now, right before Christmas, largely because of their faith – their belief in the promise given by God to Adam during his expulsion from the Garden of Eden that in the end

a Savior will come into the world and will redeem mankind from original sin. All the forefathers of the Jewish people – who lived on earth long before the birth of Christ – lived and burned with this faith, never allowing it to be extinguished. They are a shining example to us, who are living on earth after the Incarnation of our Lord. Just like those ancient people we, too, have never actually seen Christ: they only knew that He would come into the world, while we know that He did come into the world. But they firmly believed in His coming and their faith was justified in Jesus!

Today we also celebrate the feast of the Prophet Daniel, and the Three Holy Youths. The name **Daniel** is translated as "God is my Judge" and this book **passes on God's judgment against the Gentile nations who persecuted Judaism**. Daniel's writings are used in the divine offices of the Byzantine Rite, especially on Holy Saturday for the baptism of Catechumens. During the Vespers, the story of the Three holy youth is read. These are three Jewish men who were among those deported from Jerusalem after it fell to the Babylonian army in 605 BC. They were enlisted as servants in the royal court. Ironically, their Jewish names are taken from them – Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah – and they were named after Babylonian gods – Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego – in order to wean them away from their faith. But **the True God of Israel will show His power in a dramatic way using these three**.

They and Daniel were allowed to keep kosher diets, and rose in the ranks due to their diligence and hard work. But they are endangered when Nebuchadnezzar orders everyone to worship statues of him. They refused and the three youths were thrown into a fiery furnace as punishment. But **an angel of the Lord descends and the raging fire becomes like cool dew to the Jews, while those standing nearby are burned alive by its heat. The Angel is traditionally interpreted as the Word of God, the Logos** Who became Jesus Christ in the Incarnation, hence the placement of this feast near Christmas.

Daniel was known for his skill in the interpretation of dreams (Daniel 1:17 and 2:14) **and of mysterious handwritings on the wall done by the Divine Hand itself**. He is included among the prophets and was referred to by Christ as a prophet in Mark 13:14 and in Matthew 24:15. The time and circumstances of Daniel's death are not recorded. By tradition his age at death was near 100 years. A number of places have claimed to be his place of burial, including Susa in present day Iran, and Daniel's Tomb in Kirkuk, the Kurdish capital in Iraq.

Daniel also includes the prophet's interpretation of dreams sent by God to the king, **the vision of the Ancient of Days** (the source of portraying God the Father as an elderly man dressed in shining white), and the **triumph of the worship of the True God**, thanks to the intervention of Cyrus who defeated Babylon in 539 BC.

**Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix
Most Reverend Kurt Burnette Apostolic Administrator**

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Byzantine Catholic Church
1837 Alvarado Dr. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110 Parish office: (505) 256-1539
www.olphnm.org**

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday—Friday 10:00 am—4:00 pm
Thursday OFF

THEOSIS: 2nd & 4th Thursday
Bible Study 6:45 pm / Zoom

Advisory Board

Fr. Chris Zuger, Dan Riley, Rafael Plut,
Jeff Brewer, Michael Grega, Alicia Wells

Finance Council

Matthew Blain, Maria Alden

**Father Artur Bubnevych, Pastor
Rectory (505) 268-2877
abbaolph@gmail.com**

**Father Deacon Thomas Donlin
donlin.thomas@gmail.com**

**Father Christopher Zuger
pastor emeritus
(505) 256-1787**

**Frchris.zuger@gmail.com
www.frchriszuger.com**

**Father Tyler Strand
(516) 661-0883
tylerastrand@yahoo.co.uk**

**Confession (Mystery of
Reconciliation):**

9:00—10:00 am on Sundays, before or
after weekday Liturgies, or by appoint-
ment with Father

**Mysteries of Baptism/Chrismation/
Eucharist:**

Must be arranged three months in
advance.
(Pre-Jordan requirement)

Mystery of Crowning:

Must be arranged six months in
advance
(Pre-Cana requirement)

Sick and Shut-Ins: It is the family's
responsibility to notify the parish office
when a parishioner is in the hospital or
confined to home because of sickness or
old age. Father will bring the confined
person the Holy Mysteries on a regular
basis. It is recommended that one re-
ceive the Anointing of the Sick before any
major surgery. Please don't let the priest
be last to know that someone is ill!

ONLINE GIVING / ONLINE TITHING

is available on our website:

For those parishioners who can't attend in person or
traveling or anyone who find this more convenient, we
just set up a new way to tithe online using your credit
card or debit card information. You can do a one-time
donation or setup weekly donations!! You will receive
a receipt and statement immediately after donating.

The software takes a very small percentage of the
donation, but its worth it for the ease of the system.

You can donate using your computer / smartphone
at: [ps://www.olphnm.org/giving](https://www.olphnm.org/giving).

Welcome to our Church! If you are looking for a spiritual home, contact Father Artur/Fr Chris or the office staff for more information. God bless you!

Colossians 3:4-11; Luke 14:16-24

YouTube Live

8:30 am Rosary 9:00 am Festal Matins & Confessions
10:00 am Divine Liturgy for Parish Family, Benefactors & Friends
Eternal Lamp: Holy Protection of the Mother of God over People of Ukraine

ECF Classes

Dec 18 Mon

Sebastian and Others Martyrs / Heb 8:7-13; Mk 9:42-10:1



9:00 am +Mary Sanchez by Debbie Sanchez

Dec 19 Tue

Boniface Martyr / Heb 9:8-10 & 15-23; Mk 10:2-12

9:00 am Healing and Salvation of Madalyn Davis by Shari

Dec 20 Wed

Ignatius Bishop Martyr / Heb 10:1-18; Mk 10:1-16



6:00 pm Healing and Salvation of Rebecca Russo by Shari

Dec 21 Thu

Juliana Martyr / Heb 10:35-11:7; Mk 10:17-27

Dec 22 Fri

Day of Strict Abstinence / Anastasia Great Martyr



9:00 am Service of the Royal Hours
7:00 pm Service of the Great Compline

Dec 23 Sat

Saturday Before Christmas / Gal 3:8-12; Lk 13:18-29

9:00 am (masks required) Health and Salvation of Christopher Webb and his family by Lara Davis

Dec 24 Sun

***Sunday Before Christmas—Of the Ancestors
Heb 11:9-10 & 32-40; Mt 1:1-25 / PM Heb 1:1-12; Lk 2:1-20***

4:00 pm Great Vespers / YouTube LIVE
Hebrew Scriptures for Sunday:
Genesis 14:14-20; Deuteronomy 1:8-11.15-17; Deuteronomy 10:14-21
5:00 pm God's Blessing on Riley Family

YouTube LIVE

8:30 am Rosary
9:00 am Matins & Confessions
10:00 am Divine Liturgy for Parish Family, Benefactors & Friends
12 noon All Parish Potluck Holy Supper in the hall
Eternal Lamp: Holy Protection of the Mother of God over People of Ukraine

YOUTUBE LIVE-STREAMING: OLPH Sunday / Holy Day Liturgies are available on YouTube. The link is <https://youtube.com/c/olphmedia>. Please click the "Subscribe" button to make it easier for you to find the channel in the future. Please, send your feedback about the quality of the live stream / comments / suggestions to Dan Riley: riley.dan@gmail.com

Remember Those Who Request Our Prayers:

Physician and Help of Those in sickness, Redeemer and Savior of the infirm; O Master and Lord of all, grant healing to your servants. Be clement, show mercy to those who have sinned much, and deliver them, O Christ, from their Iniquities, that they may glorify your might divine

Sharif Rabadi	Fr Robert Rankin	Juanita Montoya
Jenny Ford	Fr. Steve Washko	Jacob McTernan
Marilyn Fore	Buster Miscusi	Paola Terlaza
Sven & Barbara Svensson	Barbara De Lap	Ruth Sousa
Laurie Bienz	Irene Bradley	Linda Granci
Brent Dodson-Sands	Soriah Chavez	Vicki Frank
Lara Davis	Abraham Haddad	Christopher Barlow
Carol Donlin	Marianne Gerace	Jordan Smith
Marcie Dark	Michael Baron	Janet Worthington
Jesse Hebert	Gabriel Preisler	Patti Klinkovsky
Fr Chris Zuggger	Jessica Pieniadz	Matt Williamson
Fr Chris Andrews-Madalyn Davis	Rhonda	James Epstein
Rebecca Russo	Glasscock	Katy Ford
	Amber Roybal	Alton & Barbara
	Philip Leahy	Bertschinger

Intentions of the Rosary:

- 1st Decade: Help for persecuted Catholics, especially in communist and Islamic states
- 2nd Decade: Spiritual and physical growth of our parish and the Byzantine Catholic Church
- 3rd Decade: Increase in vocations to priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life to serve the Byzantine Catholic Church
- 4th Decade: Repose of the souls who have no one praying for them
- 5th Decade: Healing of the sick in body, mind and soul

Holy Father's Intentions / December For Persons with Disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

"Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled." Our gracious Lord seeks to bring all people who are willing to his heavenly banquet. His servants are called to reach out to the ends of the earth so that his house may be filled. While this is the calling of all Christians, those called to the priesthood, diaconate, minor orders, monastic and religious life do so in a special way. If this may be your calling, contact the Vocations Office at 206-329-9219 or email: vocations@ephx.org



Vocation Icon

Today: Carol Donlin
Next Sunday:
Gloetzner Family

December 24, 2023

Cantor: Andrea Riley

Reader: Michael Wells

Altar Server: Michael Grega

Trojica: Lucy Wells

Counters: Laura Serna & Michael Wells

**Propers for 12/24/23
Sunday Before Christmas
Sunday of the Ancestors
Tone 5**

Troparion (Tone 5) - 146
Troparion (Ancestors) - 285
Troparion (Vigil) - 286
v. Glory...
Kontakion (Ancestors) - 287
v. Now & Ever...
Theotokion - 406
Prokeimenon & Alleluia - 287
Our Father - 70
Communion - 79 & 283 [D]

The OLPH Prayer Warriors

make intercessory prayer a daily commitment. We pray voluntarily and without bias; that is, we take to the Blessed Trinity the requests that come our way.

The Prayer Warriors meet on Zoom every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. for themed meetings. If you would like to join the Prayer Warriors, would like additional information, and/or would like for us to pray for your intentions, please contact Patricia at pocb@unm.edu

THANK YOU NOTE: Sincere

GRATITUDE to Fr Tyler and Carol who prepared an incredible St Nicholas Play this year for our children and our beloved OLPH family!!!

Here are the Angel Tree results for

2023: Korolevo Orphanage - \$2,002.00; Seminarian Gift Cards - \$2,285.00. St Nicholas is very pleased!!! Thank you.

Coming Events—Mark Your Calendars Now

Mon Dec 25	Christmas-Birth of Our Lord Holy Day of Obligation 9:00 am Matins 10:00 am Divine Liturgy
Tue Dec 26,	Synaxis of the Theotokos Solemn Holy Day 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy
Wed Dec 27	Stephen Protomartyr Simple Holy Day 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy
Mon Jan 1 2024	Circumcision / Solemn Holy Day 10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St Basil / Blessing of Litija / Myrovanije
Fri Jan 5 Day of Strict Fast	Vigil of Theophany Noon— carpool to Rio Grande (parking lot of the National Hispanic Cultural Center on Avenida Chavez) Procession to the River 1:00pm Great Vespers with the Great Blessing of the Rio Grande
Sat Jan 6	Theophany of Our Lord Holy Day of Obligation 9:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil Great Blessing of Water / Myrovanije
Mon Jan 15	6:00 pm Advisory Board Meeting
Mon Jan 29 Tue Jan 30	Three Holy Hierarchs / Simple Holy Day 6:00 pm Vigil Liturgy 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
Fri Feb 2	Meeting of Our Lord with Simeon and Anna / Solemn Holy Day 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy Blessing of Candles / Myrovanije
Sat Feb 3	1st All Souls Saturday 9:00 am Divine Liturgy / Panachida
Mon Feb 12	First Day of the Great Fast
Sat Mar 2	3rd All Souls Saturday 9:00 am Divine Liturgy / Panachida
March 1—3	Lenten Retreat with Fr Michael O'Loughlin
Sat Mar	Feast of the 40 Martyrs of Sebaste 9 am Divine Liturgy / All Souls Panachida
Thu Mar 14	7:00 pm Matins with Great canon of St. Andrew of Crete / Reading Life story of St. Mary of Egypt

St. Nicholas Award 2023: This year we have two icons of St Nicholas given to our beloved Jon and Lo Hebert and Ilona Bilichak. Grant O Lord to your servants Ilona, Jon and Lo, exemplifying the virtues of St Nicholas, peace, health and happiness for many and blessed years!!!

Alicia's Hall Report Thank you, Brittany for making the delicious bolognese and winter squash sauces and bringing the pasta! And thanks to everyone else who contributed to the festive St. Nicholas celebration! A big thank you to Rita, Julia, and Andrea for cleaning up the big kitchen mess with multiple pots, bowls, and baking sheets!

I understand everyone was excited about the St. Nicholas festivities, but many children were acting like **Bandarlogs** and made messes, leaving chocolate cake smashed on the bench outside and spaghetti and mandarins on the patio floor. Adults cleared a dozen abandoned plates and bowls, after their owners were long gone. **Parents, please remind your kids to clean up after themselves.** Leftover food goes to the compost bowl, trash in the trash bin, and non-disposables in the dishwasher. The bin on the far left with green tape is only for non-soiled **RECYCLABLE** items. Reminder: parental permission and adult supervision is needed for kids to go out on the patio. Let's make the Child Jesus proud by taking good care of the gifts given to us. Please sign up for the Christmas Eve Social here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054AAAAA2AA4F94-olph#

Due to Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday, when there is no fasting, Friday of this week is a day of strict fast. If you are able to, please join us for the Great Compline with Litija at 7:00pm, a service of psalms, and prayers related to the Nativity of Our Lord.

Since Christmas Eve is on Sunday, December 24th, we will have an all-church potluck after the 10am Divine Liturgy. In keeping with the traditions of Holy Supper, we are asking you to bring meat-free and dairy-free foods. A few ideas might include foods like: baked salmon, soups (lentil, mushroom, minestrone), pierogies, (potato, onion and some with green chile), salads, fruit, bread. Bring foods you like. Please sign up on the Signup Genius: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054AAAAA2AA4F94-olph#

Do not worry if you haven't decided what to bring.

Just sign up under the appropriate category whether it be MAIN DISH, SIDE DISH, SALAD, FRUIT or BREAD. We will have plenty of food and Christmas caroling!

Great Compline is a penitential office which is served on the following occasions: Tuesday and Thursday nights of Cheesefare Week (the week before Great Lent) Monday through Thursday nights of the first week of the Great Lent, and on the eves of a small number of great feasts (Christmas, Theophany, and the Annunciation). However, since many of the faithful only encounter it at the feast of the Nativity, it is sometimes thought of specifically as a "Christmas service."

The service of Great Compline for the feast of the Nativity forms the first half of the night-time service of the feast. It is held during the evening hours normally on December 24th, often preceded by the singing of Christmas carols, and (according to the liturgical books) followed by Matins. In North America, however, it is often followed by a celebration of the Divine Liturgy, to form a Byzantine Rite analog of the Western "Midnight Mass" of Christmas.

Great Compline actually consists of three separate services:

- a vigil service imploring for and looking to God's saving help
- a penitential service
- a service of praise

On Christmas and Theophany, these are combined with a litija service - an intercessory procession with prayers for the whole world.

Please, sign up TODAY for the Traveling Pilgrim Vocation Icon in 2024: Dear Parish Family, the Love of Christ presses us to respond generously to God's call in our lives. We are all called to pray for vocations to Sainly Christian Marriage, to the Priesthood, the Diaconate and the Religious Life. Prayer is an invisible but essential ministry in the Church. This is an important way to be involved in vocation ministry. Sign up to have the Pilgrim Vocation Icon in your home. You will be greatly blessed. **The sign up sheet is on the greeting table.**

Retirement Fund for Religious: Our women and men religious offer gratitude. A sister shares, "I thank the Lord for all who give. I don't think we would make it without them." Thank you for giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious last week. Your donation makes a difference in the lives of elderly women and men religious. To learn more about how your gift helps, visit retiredreligious.org **Total collected for the Retirement Fund: \$335.00**

Guidelines for Volunteering at Our Lady of Perpetual Help

A volunteer is a valued part of the church. The volunteer should be at least 18 years of age. If under 18, the volunteer should be accompanied by a parent or have been given permission by the parent to perform volunteer activities while supervised by another adult.

All volunteers must be approved by the Pastor. At the Pastor's discretion, he can request letters of reference or additional information prior to approval.

All volunteers older than age 18 must complete a background check with the Eparchy of Phoenix and must complete the annual requirement for Safe Environment training.

For parishioners who are new to the parish, we ask for regular participation in the parish, the Holy Sacraments and Divine Liturgy for a period of one year before volunteering with Eastern Christian Formation, the Choir, or as an Altar Server.

SURRENDER by Laurie Bienz

Surrender—What does it mean? Surrender, submission, acceptance. At first they seem to be the same and interchangeable. Jesus helped me see they are different and not interchangeable. As I consider this I began to see that each is a step that brings me closer to Jesus. Each takes me deeper into my relationship with Him. Each is an ongoing process that needs renewal every day.

I surrender. I come before Jesus and lay down my weapons and defenses. Like anger, hurt, a sharp tongue, being judgmental, keeping a wall up to keep people out.

I allow Him to take down my walls. I ask Him to make me more open to His teaching and directions. I ask Him to make me more sensitive to the needs of others. I ask Him to change my attitude to give me a new outlook on life.

I submit. I bow my head to Jesus. I let go of my pride, selfishness. I become vulnerable to Him. I acknowledge that my life and death are in His hands. All I am and all I have are His gifts to me, my skills, my friends, my clothing, my food.

I accept. The trials, problems, successes, failures, illness, joys He has allowed into my life. He has a plan for me, a reason for what He allows to happen. I don't know what it is. I just know it is better than I can ever imagine.

Surrender, submission, acceptance. These three things mean I belong to you, Jesus. I will, with Your help, do what You ask of me, and go where You lead me. Not an easy thing to do.

I surrender!

Father Christopher Zugger's two-volume *Looking to Tomorrow: The History and Mission of the Byzantine Catholic Church* is available now, as a limited edition, in our bookstore and gift shop at a cost of \$80.

This covers the epic history of the Byzantine-Ruthenian Catholic Church to which our parish belongs. It is 800 pages, with professionally made maps, covering the entire history from the Mission of Saints Cyril and Methodius 1200 years ago to today. Father Chris used interviews and historical sources from archives and journals in multiple languages to track the development of our Church and the many challenges it has faced to its survival. Topics covered include the European development of the Church in the ancient Kingdom of Hungary; restoration of Union with the Holy See of Rome; attempts to subvert the Church into the Latin Rite; life in Austria-Hungary; the challenges of life in the new nations created in 1919; the attacks on the Faith by fascism and communism; the role of the Church in rescuing Jews during the Holocaust; persecution and underground life under communism; the restoration of Church life after the fall of communism and successful renewal. Topics for North America include immigration to the USA and the creation of the first parishes; difficulties in being welcomed and accepted as a Catholic Church in America; the mission to Canada; Orthodox missions which threatened the Church's survival; creation of the Metropolitan Province of Pittsburgh; expansion of the Church across the US; responding to the pandemic and expansion of new methods of evangelization.

There is no other work of this scope and size, and represents over ten years' of work.

December 20 St. Ignatius the God-bearer

A God-bearer? How does this elderly bishop-martyr deserve such an auspicious title, given to no other saint? While he himself took on the spiritual name of Godbearer, or Theophorus, he earned it by his life. He was a disciple of both the Apostles Peter and John, and was the third bishop of Antioch, following St Peter himself, then St. Euodias who was one of the Seventy Apostles (January 4) and was martyred in 66 AD by Emperor Nero. Ignatius came to this see already revered as a priest and teacher. His fame was assured by the letters he wrote to six Churches in Asia Minor and the seventh to Rome's Church while he was being transported to die in the arena of Rome around the year 107 AD, having served as bishop for nearly 40 years. As Orthodoxwiki writes of him: These letters proved to be influential in the development of Christian theology, since the number of extant writings from this period of Church history is very small. They bear signs of being written in great haste and without a proper plan, such as run-on sentences and an unsystematic succession of thought. Ignatius is the first known Christian writer to put great stress on loyalty to a single bishop in each city, who is assisted by both presbyters (priests) and deacons. Earlier writings only mention either bishops or presbyters, and give the impression that there was usually more than one bishop per congregation. Ignatius also stresses the value of the Eucharist, calling it "a medicine to immortality." The very strong desire for bloody martyrdom in the arena, which Ignatius expresses rather graphically in places, may seem quite odd to the modern reader, but an examination of his theology of soteriology (the science of the doctrine of salvation) shows that he regarded salvation as being from the power and fear of death. So, for him, to try to escape his martyrdom would be to fear death and place himself back under its power. Ignatius is often depicted with lions, the animals who killed him in the arena and fulfilled his hope to die for Christ and thus to see God.