

# Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

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Paul Zawolowycz  
Ambo Editor

## Divine Services

Eve Sundays & Feast Days

5:00 PM Confessions

6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sundays and Feast Days

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hour

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Please check weekly schedule  
for specific days (last page).

Previous Ambos on website.

Articles for publication  
should be submitted to:

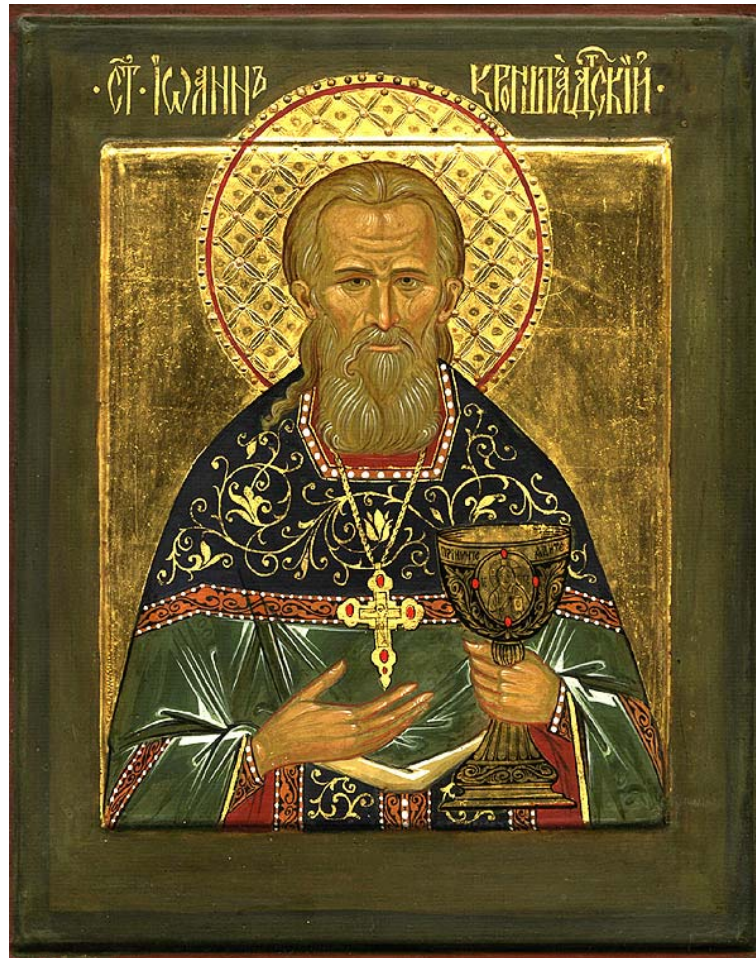
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DECEMBER 15, 2024

25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY OF THE  
FOREFATHERS



## The Repose of Saint John of Kronstadt

(Dec 20): Saint John of Kronstadt was born in the village of Sura in Archangel province on October 19, 1829, and was called John in honor of Saint John of Rila (August 18).

His parents were very poor but were very devoted to the Church. Even though he was poor, as a young boy John learned to feel compassion for others in their misfortune. His neighbors frequently asked him to pray for them, as they noticed this special grace-endowed gift in him. When John was ten, his parents were able to raise some money

and send him to the local school which was attached to the church. At first, the boy had an extremely difficult time with his studies. He worked for days on end, but still failed to keep up.

Writing about his life he once recalled an evening when everyone had already gone to bed. "I could not sleep, and I still failed to understand anything I was taught. I still read poorly and could not remember anything I was told. I became so depressed I fell to my knees and began to pray. I don't know whether I had spent a long time in that position or not, but suddenly something shook my whole being. It was as if a veil

had fallen from my eyes, and my mind had been opened, and I remembered clearly my teacher of that day and his lesson. I also recalled the topic and the examples he had given. I felt so light and joyous inside." After this experience he did so well he became one of the first in his class to be chosen to go to seminary, and after seminary to the Theological Academy in Saint Petersburg (a great honor at that time).

Throughout his studies, John thought about the importance of forgiveness, meekness, and love, and came to believe that these were the very center and power of Christianity, and that only one path—the path of humble love—leads to God and the triumph of His righteousness. He also thought a great deal about the Savior's death on the Cross at Golgotha, and pitied those who did not know Jesus Christ. He wished to preach to them about His death and Resurrection. He dreamed about becoming a missionary to distant China, but saw that there was a great deal of work for a genuine pastor of Christ's flock both in his own city and the surrounding towns.

When John graduated from the Academy he met Elizabeth Nesvitsky who lived in the town of Kronstadt. They dated, he proposed, and they were married. After his studies, John still desired to learn more about his faith and his Church.

It was in this frame of mind that he prepared to be a priest and to enter public ministry. He was ordained a deacon on December 10, 1855, and then priest on December 12. He was assigned to Saint Andrew's Cathedral in the city of Kronstadt. He said, "I made myself a rule to be as sincere as possible in my work, and of strictly watching myself and my inner life."

Father John wanted most of all to earn the love of the people in his care, because only a loving attitude could provide the firm support and help he needed as he faced the difficult work of the priesthood. His constant thought was how he would come before the Last Judgment and have to give an account, not only for his own deeds, but also the deeds of his flock, for whose education and salvation he was responsible. To him no one was a stranger; everyone who came to him for help became a friend and relative. He

would tell people "The Church is the best heavenly friend of every sincere Christian." He conducted divine services daily and offered the prayers of the faithful. He called all who rarely receive Holy Communion to prepare themselves and live their lives in a Christian way so that they could receive more often. Listening to Father John, many people changed their lifestyle, repented sincerely, and joyfully received Holy Communion on a regular basis.

At that time the government exiled murderers, thieves and other criminals to Kronstadt. Life was horrible for the exiles. Even children of exiles would become thieves and criminals. He would go to their dugouts, hovels and shacks to visit with them. Not satisfied with staying for five or ten minutes to administer some rite and then leave, Father John believed he was coming to visit a priceless soul, his brothers and sisters. He would stay for hours, talking, encouraging, comforting, crying, and rejoicing together with them.

From the beginning he also concerned himself with the material needs of the poor. He would shop for food, go to the pharmacy for prescriptions, to the doctor for help, many times giving the poor his last few coins. The inhabitants of Kronstadt would see him returning home barefoot and without his cassock. Often parishioners would bring shoes to his wife, saying to her, "Your husband has given away his shoes to someone, and will come home barefoot." He would also write articles for the newspaper exhorting the people of Kronstadt to "support the poor morally and materially." These appeals touched the hearts of many and Father John organized many charitable efforts. Realizing that his individual charity was insufficient for aiding the needy, he founded the Orthodox Christian House Parish Trusteeship of Saint Andrew the First-Called. This brotherhood coordinated many charitable efforts throughout the city and helped many needy people.

In 1857, he began teaching in the local city schools. He would tell people, "If children cannot listen to the Gospel, it is only because it is taught like any other subject, with boredom and indifference. Such teaching defeats the purpose of the Gospel. It fails because it forces students only to read words and memorize them instead

of making them live in their lives.” To Father John there were no incapable students. He taught in such a way that poor pupils as well as good ones were able to understand. His attention was aimed not so much at forcing students to memorize as to fill their souls with the joy of living according to Christian values, sharing with them the holy thoughts which filled his soul.

When speaking to other priests about their vocation he would say, “You are a representative of the faith of the Church, O priest; you are a representative of Christ the Lord Himself. You should be a model of meekness, purity, courage, perseverance, patience, and lofty spirit. You are doing the work of God and must not let anything discourage you.”

Saint John has performed more miracles than almost any other saint, with the possible exception of Saint Nicholas. Through his prayers he healed the sick, gave hope to the hopeless, and brought sinners to repentance.

Father John labored endlessly in his work for the Lord preaching, teaching, and helping those in need. Having spent his entire life serving God and His people, Father John fell ill and died on December 20, 1908. Almost immediately, people from near and far began to make pilgrimages to the monastery where he was buried. Even today millions of Orthodox Christians in Russia and around the world pray to him to intercede for them as he had always done from his childhood.

Saint John was glorified by the Russian Orthodox Church on June 8, 1990.

### Coffee Hour Sign-Up

Questions/Concerns: Cathy Weber (412-215-1928)

October 6

Cathy and Tammy

October 13

Sarah and Mike Brennan

October 20

Gayle and Wayne

October 27

Joyce Tabeling and Judy Schwind

November 3

Mat. Jana

November 10

Mat. Cindy and Nikol

November 17

Georgi and Lina

November 24

Joyce Tabeling and Judy Schwind

December 1

Dan and Lavinia

December 8

Mat. Jana

December 15

Mary Swit

December 22

Shawna Whitlock and Cathy

December 29

Shawna Whitlock

### THE 2024 MERRICK HOUSE ANGEL TREE IS A SUCCESS!

A huge *THANK YOU* to everyone who helped make the *Merrick House Angel Tree* successful another year!

Despite a few glitches, the end result is that 20 children have a brighter Christmas, thanks to YOU!

God bless for your kindness.

-Dan Morris





# PRAYER REQUESTS

as of 12/15/2024

## **Deceased**

James Timko (*Lauren Eppel's uncle*)

## **Special Intentions:**

**Archpriest Jason** Kappanadze

**Subdeacon Theodore** Lentz

**Subdeacon Roger** Pinta

**Subdeacon Leon** Felon

**Reader Frank** Tkacz

**Reader Daniel** Morris

**Stephan** Chwalyk

**Horia** Dascalescu (*Lavinia's brother*)

**Janice** Tkacz

**Eleanor** Wachovec (*friend of Karen Felon*)

**Rachel** Ohlin (*relative of Tatiana*)

**Erin** Zawolowycz

**Jeffrey** Parhamovich (*brother of Karen Felon*)

**Margaret** Parhamovich

(*sister-in-law of Karen Felon*)

**Jean** Woycitzky Thompson (*Frank's cousin*)

**Anna Marie** Luvison (*daughter of Matthew & Katie (Ellis) Luvison*)

**Debra** Parhamovich (*sister of Karen Felon*)

**Grace Mary** Parhamovich

(*mother of Karen Felon*)

**Lonnie** Ellis

(*Husband to Debra Ellis*)

**Robert** Martin Prock

**Valentina** Zawolowycz (*mother of Paul Z*)

**Child McKenna** Kranek

**Elizabeth** and **Michael** Prendergast and their **unborn child**

**Betty** Balasz

**Jeremy, Yvonne, and Unborn Child**

**Herman** Leslie Levin

**Russell** Schafer

**Sonia** Vorell

**Ivan** Lavrasiuk

**Elisabeth** Lavrasiuk

**Elena** Rich

**Beth** Carson

**Gregory** Jakubisin

**Phyllis** Gindlesperger

Please submit names to the Prayer List by emailing them to Fr. Jan Cizmar

[st.theodosiuscathedral@gmail.com](mailto:st.theodosiuscathedral@gmail.com)

Or calling at 1 (440) 732-8182

Names remain on the list for 30 days unless requested otherwise.

# ST. THEodosIUS IS A SUBSCRIBER TO TITHE.LY

In response to requests to be able to donate electronically, we have set up a Tithe.ly account so people can donate either regularly or for special occasions online. Click here to see: <https://www.sttheodosius.org/donate>



## Sunday, December 15

25th Sunday after Pentecost

### Sunday of the Forefathers

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour

## Monday, December 16

Prophet Haggai (Aggæus—50 B.C.)

## Tuesday, December 17

Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths: Ananias, Azarias and Misael (600 B.C.)

## Wednesday, December 18

Martyr Sebastian at Rome and his companions (ca. 287)

## Thursday, December 19

Martyr Boniface at Tarsus in Cilicia, and Righteous Aglaïa of Rome (290)

5:00 PM Confessions

6:00 PM Daily Vespers

## Friday, December 20

### Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ

Repose of St. John of Kronstadt (1908)

5:00 PM Confessions

6:00 PM Daily Vespers & 1st Royal Hour

## Saturday, December 21

### Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ

Saturday before the Nativity

Virgin Martyr Juliana of Nicomedia, and with her 500 men and 130 women (304)

6:00 PM Great Vespers

## Sunday, December 22

26th Sunday after Pentecost

### Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ

Sunday before the Nativity

Great Martyr Anastasia

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour

## Monday, December 23

### Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ

Holy Ten Martyrs of Crete: Theodulus, Saturninus, Euporus, Gelasius, Eunician, Zoticus, Pompeius, Agathopus, Basilides, and Evaristus

# BIWEEKLY SCHEDULE 2024



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).

(3rd c.)

5:00 PM Confessions & Chrismation

6:00 PM Daily Vespers & 6th & 9th Royal Hours

## Tuesday, December 24

### Eve of the Nativity of Christ

Nun-martyr Eugenia of Rome, and with her Martyrs Philip, her father, Protus, Hyacinth, Basilla, and Claudia (ca. 262)

11:00 AM Vespertal Liturgy

6:00 PM Vigil for the Nativity

## Wednesday, December 25

### The Nativity According to the Flesh of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ

The Adoration of the Magi:

Melchior, Caspar, and Balthasar

Commemoration of the Shepherds in Bethlehem who were watching their flocks, and went to see the Lord

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

## Thursday, December 26

Second Day of the Feast of the Nativity

### Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

## Friday, December 27

Third Day of the Feast of the Nativity

Holy Protomartyr and

Archdeacon Stephen (34)

## Saturday, December 28

Afterfeast of the Nativity

Saturday after the Nativity

The 20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia

6:00 PM Great Vespers

## Sunday, December 29

26th Sunday after Pentecost

### Holy Righteous Ones:

Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord

Afterfeast of the Nativity of Christ

Sunday after Nativity

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hours

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour