



ALL-MERCIFUL SAVIOR MISSION NEWSLETTER

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27TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST, DEC. 25, 2005

civil date / church date
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THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Dec. 25 / Dec. 12	SUNDAY	27th of Pentecost.	Tone 1.	Fast, FOW.*	St. Herman of Alaska.	Service 10 a.m.
Dec. 26 / Dec. 13	Monday			Fast, FOW*	Sts. Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius, & Orestes, martyrs.	
Dec. 27 / Dec. 14	Tuesday			Fast, FOW*	St. Higbald of Lincolnshire.	
Dec. 28 / Dec. 15	Wednesday			Fast	Sts. Eleutherius, bishop, & his mother Anthia, martyrs.	
Dec. 29 / Dec. 16	Thursday			Fast, FOW*	St. Aggeus (Haggai) the Prophet.	
Dec. 30 / Dec. 17	Friday			Fast	St. Daniel the Prophet.	
Dec. 31 / Dec. 18	Saturday			Fast, FOW*	St. Sebastian of Rome, martyr.	Vigil 6:30 p.m.

* Fast, OW means that oil and wine are allowed that day. *Fast, FOW means fish is also allowed that day.

SAINTS FOR DEC. 12/25

from the Prologue From Ochrid by St. Nikolai

1. Saint Spyridon the Wonderworker, Bishop of Tremithus
The island of Cyprus was both the birthplace and the place where this glorious saint served the Church. Spyridon was born of simple parents, farmers, and he remained simple and humble until his death. He married in his youth and had children, but when his wife died he devoted himself completely to the service of God. Because of his exceptional piety, he was chosen as bishop of the city of Tremithus. Yet even as a bishop he did not change his simple way of living, handling his livestock and cultivating his land himself. He used very little of the fruits of his labor for himself; instead, he distributed a greater share to the needy. He manifested great miracles by God's power: he brought down rain in time of drought, stopped the flow of a river, raised several people from the dead, healed Emperor Constantius of a grave illness, saw and heard angels of God, foresaw future events, discerned the secrets of men's hearts, converted many to the true Faith, and did much else. He took part in the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea [325], and he brought many heretics back to Orthodoxy by his simple and clear expositions of the Faith as well as by his mighty miracles. He was so simply dressed that

once, when he wanted to enter the imperial court at the invitation of the emperor, a soldier, thinking that he was a beggar, struck him on the face. Meek and guileless, Spyridon turned the other cheek to him. He glorified God through many miracles, and was of benefit, not only to many individuals but also to the whole Church of God. He entered into rest in the Lord in the year 348. His miracle-working relics rest on the island of Corfu, and even today they glorify God with many miracles.

2. The Holy Hieromartyr Alexander, Patriarch of Jerusalem
At first Alexander was the Bishop of Cappadocia, but during the persecution under Severus in the year 203 he was cast into prison and then exiled. Afterward he accepted the patriarchal throne of Jerusalem. He founded the famous Jerusalem Library, which Eusebius used when he wrote his Ecclesiastical History. He was tortured in various ways during the reign of Decius and thrown to wild beasts. Remaining alive and untouched by the beasts, he was cast into prison, where he ended his earthly life and went to the Lord in the year 251.

3. The Holy Martyr Synesius
As a young reader in Rome, he boldly preached the truth of Christ and denounced idolaters. For this, he was tortured and beheaded during the reign of Emperor Aurelian.

NEWS

- Fr. Aidan has completed over 200 pages of the Psalter on which he is working for publication.
- Don't forget the mission in Haiti, which is supplying good Haitian coffee to Americans to support the active Orthodox ministry there. Just send your order (\$15 per pound, for shipping and handling \$5 for 1 or 2 packages; call 615/536-5239 for shipping cost of larger quantities) to: Haitian Orthodox Mission, attn: Mission Bleu Coffees, 1180 Orthodox Way, Liberty, TN 37095. What a good Christmas present to a coffee lover!
- Don't forget to give your church a Christmas present this year.

- Our website is now home to the icons of over 400 hard-to-find Western Saints. All Saints of God, pray for us!

SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

Today: Ephesians 4:1-6, Luke 13:10-17

Mon. 2 Timothy 2:20-26; Luke 19:37-44

Tue. 2 Timothy 3:16-4:4; Luke 19:45-48

Wed. 2 Timothy 4:9-22; Luke 20:1-8

Thu. Titus 1:5-2:1; Luke 20:9-18

Fri. Titus 1:15-2:10; Luke 20:19-26

Sat. Galatians 3:8-12; Luke 9:57-62

Troparion, tone 8. O All-Merciful Saviour, Thou Luminary like the sun: | Through the light of Thy radiance grant us eloquence, | that with pure conscience we may sing praises on Thy feast all-divine, | glorifying Thee the only-begotten Son, and the consubstantial Spirit; | for Thou givest us peace and great mercy.

Kontakion, t. 4. I committed every abomination, O All-Merciful Saviour, | and fell into the pit of despair. | Yet I groan from the depths of my heart | and cry to Thee, O Word: | Hasten, O Merciful One, | and quickly help us, | for merciful art Thou!