



AN OLD TESTAMENT PROPHET

PROPHET DANIEL remains to this day one of the most fascinating figures from ancient Israel. He was one of the multitude of persons taken to Babylon some six hundred years before Christ. That period when the Israelites were taken by the Chaldeans from the "land of milk and honey" is known as the Babylonian Captivity.

Daniel became one of the leaders of the people in exile. He became, in fact, one of the chief advisors to the king. But the kingdom was pagan, and Daniel and God's people would not bow down and pray to false gods. This led to difficulties. The Book of Daniel tells about three young men who were thrown into a fiery furnace because they refused to worship an idol. They walked in the fire unharmed as the Angel of the Lord protected them from the flames.

During the reign of King Darius, some of the native princes became overly jealous of Daniel, who occupied an important position. They found a way to trap him. They got the king to decree that anyone who made a request to any god or man, other than the king, was to be thrown into a den of lions. Thus the king was deemed divine. Daniel knelt as usual praying three times a day by his window open towards Jerusalem. There the enemy princes found him praying to God, and reported him to Darius. The ruler was troubled, but consigned Daniel to the lion's den. Our Lord saved him and Daniel was restored to position and favor of the king. His spiritual strength had protected this man of God.



ST. RAPHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the South

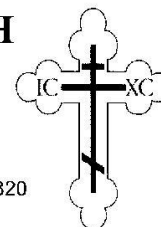
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Fr. Sergious Gerken, Parish Priest

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Please Visit: **[www: straphaelchurch.org](http://www.straphaelchurch.org)** Church: 352-201-1320

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SUNDAY, DEC. 12, 2021 - 25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 8.

Sunday of the Forefathers. St. Spyridon the Wonderworker (ca. 348).

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK		Please join us after Divine Liturgy for a Coffee Fellowship in Myrrhbearers Hall Confessions - Ask Fr. Sergious for a time	DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS Mon: Solomon 3:1-9; 4:7-15; 5:15-6:3, Matthew 11:27-30, Galatians 5:22-6:2, Luke 6:17-23, 1 Timothy 1:1-7, Mark 8:11-21 Tue: 1 Timothy 1:8-14, Mark 8:22-26 Wed: 1 Timothy 1:18-20; 2:8-15, Mark 8:30-34 Thu: 1 Timothy 3:1-13, Mark 9:10-16 Fri: 1 Timothy 4:4-8; 16, Mark 9:33-41 Sat: Galatians 3:8-12, Luke 13:18-29; 14:1-11
Sat: Great Vespers	4:00 PM		
Sun: Reading of The Hours	9:45 AM		
Divine Liturgy	10:00 AM		
Mon: Divine Liturgy	9:00 AM		
St. Herman of Alaska			
Thu.: Akathist to St. Herman	4:00 PM		

+EPISTLE+ (Colossians 3:4-11) Brethren: 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.

Holy Myrrhbearer Meeting today in the Library after Coffee Fellowship

Choir Practice Sunday at 9 AM and Monday after St. Herman Divine Liturgy.

+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.'"

The Holy Myrrhbearers

Annual No-Bake Bake Sale ends today!

The concept is that bakers can donate what they would have spent on ingredients, parishioners can donate what they would have spent at the bake sale. All contributors will be included in the last weekly drawing.

THE GIFTS - DEC. 5		VIGIL CANDLES - DEC. 5
<p>Attendance 31</p> <p>Regular Offerings 1120</p> <p>Candles 61</p> <p>Charity - Family 150</p> <p>Resource Center</p>		<p><u>Nancy Kinley</u> - Health of Bill, Julianna & Fam., Andrew & Fam., Macey, Mary Ann H., Patricia, Joel, Judy, Patty, Pat & Nick.</p> <p><u>Zina Juskin</u> - Memory of husband Vladimir.</p> <p><u>Fr. Sergious</u> - Thankfulness to the Lord.</p>
<p><i>We sincerely thank and bless Charles and Lou Ellen Davis for their ongoing generous donations.</i></p>		<p><u>Nick Borick</u> - Olga, Mary Ann H., Ryan, Beverly, Eva, Nick & Pat.</p>