

**Orthodox Church of the
Resurrection of Christ
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**Sunday, 24 December 2023
Divine Liturgy Sundays at 9:00 AM
Confessions 8:30 – 9:00 AM**

**Sunday of the Forefathers
Свв. Праотец**



Особенно ярко это видно в родословии Иисуса Христа, в праотцах и отцах древности, от которых по плоти произошел Христос, - все они отличались высокой и праведною жизнью.

Вот восхваляется "первый Адам, рукою Зиждителя (через создание) почтенный", всех праотец; сын его Авель, дары принесший "душою благороднейшею", "которые и принял всех Бог и Господь"; "поется в мире Сифово к Зиждителю пламенное устремление, ибо в непорочном жителстве и душевной любви Тому истинно угоди".

"Чудный Енос богомудренно положился в Духе на призывание устами, языком и сердцем Владыки всех и Бога". И Енох, "благоугодив Господу, преставился в славе, явился лучше смерти, Божий быв раб искреннейший". Бог, видя благородство и простоту нрава Ноя во всем совершенными, "соделал его главным вождем (родоначальником) второго мира". Отец верующих - Авраам, образец кротости и покорности - Исаак, пример терпения - Иаков, покорности и целомудрия - Иосиф, милосердный Вооз, преданная Руфь, мужественный Давид, премудрый Соломон, несчастный Ровоам, благочестивый Езекия,

Nativity Services

**Saturday, January 6 – 6 PM Vigil
Суббота, 6 Янв. – 6 ч.в. Бдение**

**Sunday, January 7 – 9:30 AM, Divine
Liturgy
Воскресение 7 Янв. 9:30 ч.у.
Литургия**

кающийся Манассия, праведный Иосия и многие другие ветхозаветные праведники.

Так от одного праведника к другому передавалось благочестие на земле до Христа. От таких благочестивых предков произошла Пресвятая Дева Мария, достигшая высочайшей святости и непорочности и послужившая великой тайне спасительного Боговоплощения.

К святости и высокому жребию Дева Мария была предуготована еще до Своего рождения подвигом праведной жизни предыдущих поколений ветхозаветных праведников, праотцев и отцов, ибо через них таинственно предвозвещалось явление в мир Христа, спасающего людей, "взывающа вся сущия в мире".

Чем ближе становилось время пришествия Христа, тем сильнее была вера и ожидание праведников Ветхого Завета. Три отрока, находившиеся в пламени, верою побеждают огненную стихию, думая только о Боге отцов своих. И пророк Даниил, будучи брошен в ров львиный, силою веры укрощал диких зверей. Христос явился ожиданием не только избранного народа Божия, но и "чаянием (всех) языков".

Наконец, когда "оскуде князь от (племени) Иуды, время наста прочее (уже) в неже явится языков упование (чаяние народов) Христос" - "пророческая проповедания, речения и видения - конец приша (начали осуществляться)" (*portal-slovo.ru*)



On this Sunday the Church commemorates the Holy Forefathers, i.e. the earthly ancestors of our Lord Jesus Christ, beginning with the first man, Adam, and on through Seth, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, King David, and others. These ancient people, separated from us by millennia, nevertheless have a direct and close bearing upon us, contemporary Orthodox Christians.

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 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. Those ancient people 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.

We are expected to have even greater faith. We must believe that the Lord was, and is, and will be; that He lived on earth as a man; that through His Church He remains with us constantly; and that He will again return to earth to judge mankind. But for such a faith the Lord Himself promises us eternal bliss.

But apart from faith there is something else that binds us closely with the ancient forefathers -- and that is their faithfulness to the awaited Messiah. They lived surrounded by a pagan world; a world which did not yet know Christ, but which had already rejected God. We too, dear brethren, live in a similar and even worse situation. For nineteen centuries after

the birth of Christ the world lived with Christ and the Christian culture, but in the 20th century an abrupt change took place. We now live in a post-Christian era, in a world that has once again become totally immersed in paganism.

We often hear mention of the arrival of a "new age." However, there is nothing new in this "new age" except for its more modern form. It is the same old rejection of God and even negation of God, and moreover; a complete rejection of Christ and profanation of Christ.

And so, dear brethren, against the background of this horrifying world, let us remember not only the faith of the Holy Forefathers, but also their faithfulness to Christ the Savior; and as we prepare very soon to celebrate His Nativity, let us turn away from the paganism that surrounds us, and let us witness our total devotion and loyalty to the One Who said: "Lo, I am with you until the end of time." (*Fr. Rostislav Sheniloff*)

A great... mystery of godliness has been accomplished: God has appeared in the flesh (*1 Tim. 3:16*). The Son of God Incarnate appeared on earth in a wretched den and, instead of a child's cradle, was laid in a manger. He spent His entire life on earth, not having a place to lay His head (*Matt. 8:20*). And persecuted by the constant malice of the scribes and Pharisees, He, abandoned even by His closest disciples, was given up to a shameful death, being nailed to the cross. He took on the form of a servant, and being found in the likeness of man: He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even to the point of death, even death on the cross (*Phil. 2:7,8*).

Therefore, the Nativity of Christ is the holiday of Divine humility, which teaches us all, first of all, humility, as the main Christian virtue, without which it is impossible to be saved. And only for those who humbly accept the teachings of the true Church of Christ and voluntarily take upon themselves the good yoke of obedience to it, suppressing and eradicating in every possible way manifestations of personal pride, this holiday is truly a day of great joy: the words of jubilation resonate brightly and joyfully in their hearts. (*Archbishop Averky Taushev*)