

DECEMBER 1

HOLY PROPHET NAHUM  
ST PHILARET THE MERCIFUL OF CONSTANTINOPLE

Troparion of the Prophet Nahum Tone 3

O Prophet Nahum, thou didst shine forth in the Law/ and proclaim  
the consolation of grace from of old in the Spirit./ Even so, by  
appearing unto men./ God the Word gladdened mortal nature./  
Intercede with the compassionate Trinity to grant us His great  
mercy.

Troparion of St Philaret Tone 3

From the wealth of God-like faith/ thou didst distribute thy riches to  
the poor, O Philaret;/ thy life was adorned with compassion/ and  
thou didst glorify the Giver of Mercy./ Beseech Him to have  
compassion and to be merciful to those who praise thee.

Kontakion of the Prophet Nahum Tone 4

Illumined by the Spirit, thy pure heart was a vessel of illustrious  
prophecy./ For thou seest the far-off things as though they were  
present, O Prophet Nahum./ Wherefore we venerate thee.

*Kontakion of St Philaret Tone 3*

Thou didst possess the spirit of Job in temptations,/ and  
compassionately distribute thy wealth to the poor./ Thou wast a  
living fountain of almsgiving/ and by thy manner of life thou dost  
gladden those who cry:/ O Philaret servant of Christ, rejoice.

DECEMBER 2

HOLY PROPHET HABBAKUK

Troparion Tone 4

Of old thou didst describe the Virgin Mother of God as a mountain/  
from which the God of all would shine forth in the flesh for our  
sake./ Hence we honour thee as a God-proclaiming prophet/ and  
beseech thee to make us partakers of grace by thy intercessions,/ O  
glorious Habbakuk.

Kontakion Tone 2

O God-proclaiming Habbakuk,/ thou didst discern the disciples as  
horses trampling the seas of ignorance/ and submerging error by  
their doctrine of piety./ Wherefore we praise thee as a true prophet/  
and beseech thee to intercede for our souls.

DECEMBER 31

LEAVETAKING OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR  
LORD

Troparion of the Feast Tone 4

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,/ has shone to the world as the light  
of wisdom./ For by it those who worshiped the stars/ were taught by  
a star to adore Thee,/ the Sun of Righteousness,/ and to know Thee,  
the Orient from on high./ O Lord, glory to Thee.

Kontakion of the Feast Tone 3

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,/ and the earth  
offers a cave to the Unapproachable One./ Angels with Shepherds  
glorify Him,/ the wise men journey with the star;/ since for our sake  
the eternal God was born as a little child.

DECEMBER 30

HOLY MARTYRS ANYSIA AND MELANIA

Troparion of the Feast Tone 4

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,/ has shone to the world as the light of wisdom./ For by it those who worshipped the stars/ were taught by a star to adore Thee,/ the Sun of Righteousness,/ and to know Thee, the Orient from on high./ O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion of Ss Anysia and Melania Tone 4

Thou didst tread to the end the path of virtue and wast betrothed to God the Word,/ and didst rejoice in the contest, O Anysia./ Thou didst shine with the light of dispassion, Melania,/ and shed rays of virtue on the world./ And now we ask you both to beseech Christ the Lord that He will be gracious to us.

Kontakion of the Feast Tone 3

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,/ and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One./ Angels with Shepherds glorify Him,/ the wise men journey with the star;/ since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little child.

Kontakion of Ss Anysia and Melania Tone 3

Like a lamp of two lights you illumine Christ's Church/ with a mystical radiance./ Thou didst bring forth fruit an hundredfold/ in thy martyr's contest, O Anysia;/ and thou didst shine in asceticism, O Melania./ You were found worthy of the incorruptible life of the Blessed.

DECEMBER 3

HOLY PROPHET ZEPHANIAH

ST SABBAS OF SVENIGOROD, DISCIPLE OF ST SERGIUS

Troparion of the Prophet Zephaniah Tone 1

Thou didst comprehend from of old the things that would come to pass,/ thou didst clearly foretell our eternal redemption/ and proclaim Christ as the King of Sion./ O Prophet Zephaniah, having been delivered from the curse by Him we cry out to thee:/ Glory to Him Who has glorified thee; glory to Him Who has crowned thee;/ glory to Him Who through thee grants forgiveness to all.

Troparion of St Sabbas of Zvenigorod Tone 8

Righteous Father Sabbas, thou didst shine as a scion of the wilderness,/ and from thy youth thou didst desire a life of purity./ Thou didst follow thy spiritual father and seek heaven through his teaching,/ and wast a most wise shepherd of thy flock./ Wherefore Christ has glorified thee as a shining lamp./ O our Father Sabbas, pray that our souls may be saved.

Kontakion of the Prophet Zephaniah Tone 3

Vessel of prophetic wisdom,/ from of old thou didst proclaim God's self-emptying/ and didst cry: Be glad, O Sion blessed city/ as thou didst greet Christ as a King upon a colt./ Beseech Him, O Zephaniah, for those who with faith call thee blessed.

Kontakion of St Sabbas of Zvenigorod Tone 2

Thou didst subdue the flesh by abstinence/ in thy love for the Lord, Father Sabbas,/ and didst appear as an unwaning lamp of the divine Light./ With rays of miracles thou dost enlighten all/ who venerate thy relics.

DECEMBER 4

GREAT MARTYR BARBARA  
ST JOHN OF DAMASCUS

Troparion of Great Martyr Barbara Tone 4

Let us praise holy Barbara who has broken the snares of the enemy./  
By the help of the weapon of the Cross/ she has escaped as a bird  
and flown Godwards.

Troparion of St John of Damascus Tone 3

Thou wast a holy instrument/ and a tuneful harp of godliness./ Thy  
teachings shone forth to the ends of the world,/ O righteous John,/  
entreat Christ our God to grant us His great mercy.

Kontakion of Great Martyr Barbara Tone 4

Great Martyr Barbara, thou didst follow Him Who is praised in  
Trinity,/ having abandoned the idols' shrines./ Thou didst strive in  
the midst of the arena, not shrinking from the tyrants' threats./ Thou  
didst cry out in a strong voice:/ I worship the Trinity, the One  
Divinity.

Kontakion of St John of Damascus Tone 4

Let us praise the illustrious hymnographer John,/ teacher of the  
Church and champion against her enemies./ For armed with the  
weapon of the Lord's Cross,/ he has banished the errors of heresy./  
He fervently intercedes with God Who grants forgiveness to all.

DECEMBER 29

THE HOLY INFANTS KILLED FOR CHRIST'S SAKE IN  
BETHLEHEM

Troparion of the Feast Tone 4

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,/ has shone to the world as the light  
of wisdom./ For by it those who worshipped the stars/ were taught  
by a star to adore Thee,/ the Sun of Righteousness,/ and to know  
Thee, the Orient from on high./ O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion of the Holy Innocents Tone 1

As acceptable victims and freshly picked flowers,/ as divine first  
fruits and newborn lambs,/ you were offered to Christ Who was born  
as a Child, /O most pure children./ You mocked Herod's  
wickedness:/ now we beseech you, unceasingly pray for our souls.

Kontakion of the Feast Tone 3

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,/ and the earth  
offers a cave to the Unapproachable One./ Angels with Shepherds  
glorify Him,/ the wise men journey with the star;/ since for our sake  
the eternal God was born as a little child.

Kontakion of the Holy Innocents Tone 6

The King was born in Bethlehem./ The Magi came from the East  
with gifts./ They had been guided by a star./ But angry Herod  
mowed the children like wheat, lamenting that his power was  
destroyed.

Another Kontakion of the Holy Innocents Tone 4

A star sent the Magi to the newly born Child,/ and Herod sent his  
army in vain./ He was wanting to murder Him Who lay in the  
manger as an infant.

DECEMBER 28

THE 20,000 HOLY MARTYRS BURNED AT NICOMEDIA  
SS ROMULUS AND CONINDRUS

Troparion of the Feast Tone 4

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,/ has shone to the world as the light  
of wisdom./ For by it those who worshipped the stars/ were taught  
by a star to adore Thee,/ the Sun of Righteousness,/ and to know  
Thee, the Orient from on high./ O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion of the 20,000 Holy Martyrs Tone 3

As a divine array, a holy city,/ a chosen people of the Lord,/  
refreshed by His love you endured contest by fire,/ O Twenty  
thousand Martyrs./ We beseech you, entreat the Compassionate God  
to grant us His great mercy.

Troparion of Ss Romulus and Conindrus Tone 4

By your holy preaching, Romulus and Conindrus,/ the Holy Name of  
Jesus was first heard in the Isle of Man./ As Heaven rejoices at the  
extension of the Orthodox Faith,/ pray, most holy fathers, that we  
may use our lives in Christ's service/ for the salvation of our souls.

Kontakion of the Feast Tone 3

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,/ and the earth  
offers a cave to the Unapproachable One./ Angels with Shepherds  
glorify Him,/ the wise men journey with the star;/ since for our sake  
the eternal God was born as a little child.

Kontakion of the 20,000 Holy Martyrs Tone 2

Strong in the Faith, the Twenty-thousand holy Martyrs accepted  
suffering by fire./ They cried to Him Who was born of the Virgin:/  
Accept our offerings like the gifts of the Magi./ Gold and myrrh and  
frankincense.

DECEMBER 5

OUR HOLY AND GODBEARING FATHER SABBAS THE  
SANCTIFIED  
ST CAWRDAF

Troparion of St Sabbas the Sanctified Tone 1

Sanctified from youth, O righteous Sabbas,/ thou wast a summit of  
righteousness equal to the Angels./ Thou didst lead a heavenly life,  
and guide thy flock to godliness by word and deed./ And they cry to  
thee with faith:/ Glory to Him Who has strengthened thee; glory to  
Him Who has crowned thee;/ glory to Him Who through thee works  
healings for all.

Troparion of St Cawrdaf Tone 8

O Father Cawrdaf, spurning the transitory glory of temporal power,/  
thou didst flee from the world to serve God in monastic seclusion./  
Wherefore, O righteous one, pray that we, following thy example by  
serving God rather than self,/ may be found worthy of eternal  
salvation.

Kontakion of St Sabbas the Sanctified Tone 8

Thou wast offered to God from childhood as a blameless sacrifice,/  
as one dedicated to Him before birth, O blessed Sabbas,/ thou  
adornment of the righteous and blessed dweller in the desert./  
Wherefore I cry to thee: Rejoice.

DECEMBER 6

OUR FATHER AMONG THE SAINTS NICHOLAS THE  
WONDERWORKER ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCIA

Troparion Tone 4

The truth of things revealed thee to thy flock as a rule of faith,/ a  
model of meekness, and a teacher of temperance./ Therefore thou  
hast won the heights by humility,/ riches by poverty./ Holy Father  
Nicholas, intercede with Christ our God that our souls may be saved.

Kontakion Tone 3

Thou wast a faithful minister of God in Myra,/ O Saint Nicholas./  
For having fulfilled the Gospel of Christ,/ thou didst die for the  
people and save the innocent./ Therefore thou wast sanctified as a  
great initiator of the grace of God.

DECEMBER 27

ST STEPHEN THE FIRST MARTYR AND PROTODEACON  
ST THEODORE THE BRANDED

Troparion of the Feast Tone 4

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,/ has shone to the world as the light  
of wisdom./ For by it those who worshipped the stars/ were taught  
by a star to adore Thee,/ the Sun of Righteousness,/ and to know  
Thee, the Orient from on high./ O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion of St Stephen Tone 4

Thou art crowned with a royal diadem/ for contests endured in  
Christ's name, O First and holy Martyr;/ thou didst put to shame thy  
persecutors/ and see thy Saviour at the right hand of the Father./  
Ever pray to Him for our souls.

Troparion of St Theodore the Branded Tone 3

Signed with holy wounds, thou wast offered as a living gift/ to the  
Giver of life./ For adorned with the gifts of thy holy struggle,/ thou  
didst shine as a noble confessor./ Holy Father Theodore, intercede  
with Christ our God to grant us His great mercy.

Kontakion of the Feast Tone 3

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,/ and the earth  
offers a cave to the Unapproachable One./ Angels with Shepherds  
glorify Him,/ the wise men journey with the star;/ since for our sake  
the eternal God was born as a little child.

Kontakion of St Stephen Tone 3

Yesterday the Master came to us in the flesh,/ today His servant  
departs in the flesh;/ yesterday the King was born in the flesh;/ today  
His servant is stoned to death for His sake./ Hence the divine and  
first Martyr Stephen is made perfect.

Kontakion of St Theodore the Branded Tone 3

Father Theodore, thou didst venerate the icon of Christ/ and undergo  
persecutions, hardships and afflictions./ Thou hast become a strong  
pillar of Orthodoxy;/ initiator in things sacred, we honour thee.

DECEMBER 26

SYNAXIS OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD  
ST TATHAI

Troparion of the Feast Tone 4

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,/ has shone to the world as the light of wisdom./ For by it those who worshipped the stars/ were taught by a star to adore Thee,/ the Sun of Righteousness,/ and to know Thee, the Orient from on high./ O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion of St Tathai Tone 8

Teacher of true piety and blessed adornment of Christ's Church, O Father Tathai:/ as thou didst serve Wales with thy tireless endeavours,/ teach us, O Saint, the virtues of unshakable stability and loyalty to the true Faith,/ that at the end Christ our God will grant great mercy to our souls.

Kontakion of the Synaxis Tone 6

He that was born before the morning star of Father without mother/ is today incarnate on earth of thee without father./ A star tells the glad tidings to the Magi;/ while Angels and Shepherds praise thy seedless childbirth, O thou who art full of grace.

DECEMBER 7

OUR FATHER AMONG THE SAINTS AMBROSE, BISHOP OF MILAN  
ST ANTHONY OF SIYA  
ST NIL THE ANCHORITE OF STOLBEN ISLAND  
ST BUITHE

Troparion of St Ambrose Tone 1

O Ambrose, wonderworker and champion of the Church,/ Godbearing Hierarch:/ thou didst work miracles by thy faith and love for God;/ therefore we the earthborn glorify thee and cry out:/ Glory to Him Who has glorified thee; glory to Him Who has crowned thee;/ glory to Him Who through thee works healings for all.

Troparion of St Anthony of Siya Tone 1

O Anthony, thou didst renounce the world in fervour of spirit,/ and seek the one God with thy whole heart./ Thou didst retreat to a far wilderness near waters,/ in tears and labours living the angelic life./ Thou didst gather a multitude of monks in thy wisdom;/ visit them and cease not to entreat the Holy Trinity to deliver us from every evil and to save our souls.

Troparion of St Nil of Stolben Tone 4

Thou didst appear as a bright light on the island of Lake Seliger./ Thou didst take Christ's Cross on thy shoulder from thy youth/ and follow Him zealously, O Father Nil./ By thy purity thou didst approach the divine likeness/ and wast enriched with the gift of miracles./ We run to thy relics and cry with compunction:/ Entreat Christ our God that He may save our souls.

Troparion of St Buithe Tone 8

Great wonderworker and ascetic, O Father Buithe,/ who by the power of thy prayers didst restore the slain to life,/ intercede with Christ our God that He will grant us life eternal in the realms of the blessed.

Kontakion of St Ambrose Tone 3

Thou didst shine with divine doctrine/ and blacken the error of Arius;/ working miracles in the power of the Spirit/ thou didst heal various passions./ O Ambrose, shepherd and teacher, pray to Christ our God to grant us His great mercy.

Kontakion of St Anthony of Siya Tone 8

From thy youth thou didst exhaust thy flesh by fasting and prayers, and take up thy cross and follow Christ./ Thou didst complete thy journey to heaven with joy, and dost stand with the Saints before the Trinity./ Now visiting thy flock remember those who honour thee, that all may cry with thanksgiving;/ Rejoice, O wise and righteous Anthony, guide of desert-dwellers.

Kontakion of St Nil of Stolben Tone 8

Thou didst leave thy fatherland and dwell in the wilderness upon the island of Lake Seliger./ Thou didst live in hardship and amaze men by thy virtues, and receive Christ's gift of working miracles./ Remember us who honour thy memory, that we may cry to thee: Rejoice, O Father Nil.

DECEMBER 8

ST PATAPIUS THE RIGHTEOUS

Troparion Tone 3

Thou didst follow the divine call from thy youth/ and illumine the world with the gifts of thy holy labours./ Thou wast made glorious with the grace of dispassion/ and dost heal various passions./ O Patapius, righteous Father, pray to Christ our God to grant us His great mercy.

Kontakion Tone 3

The people find thy temple a place of healing/ and flock to it eagerly, O Patapius./ They ask for the healing of their diseases/ and the forgiveness of their sins./ For thou art a protector of all in need.

DECEMBER 25

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND GOD AND SAVIOUR  
JESUS CHRIST

Troparion Tone 4

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,/ has shone to the world as the light of wisdom./ For by it those who worshipped the stars/ were taught by a star to adore Thee,/ the Sun of Righteousness,/ and to know Thee, the Orient from on high./ O Lord, glory to Thee.

Kontakion Tone 3

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,/ and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One./ Angels with Shepherds glorify Him,/ the wise men journey with the star;/ since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little child.

DECEMBER 24

EVE OF THE HOLY NATIVITY  
ST EUGENIA THE RIGHTEOUS VIRGIN MARTYR  
ST CARAN

Troparion for the Eve of the Nativity Tone 4

When Mary conceived seedlessly/ she was registered in Bethlehem with the elder Joseph as being of the seed of David./ The time for birth came and there was no room in the inn;/ the cave proved a fair palace for the Queen./ Christ is born to raise up the image that of old had fallen.

Troparion of St Eugenia Tone 3

In thy praise inspired by the Holy Spirit,/ thou didst receive the light of divine knowledge,/ O Eugenia, glorious Virgin of Christ./ And radiant among the choir of the righteous,/ thou didst triumph over the enemy in thy contest./ O glorious Martyr, entreat Christ our God to grant us His great mercy.

Troparion for St Caran Tone 4

Jewel of the northern kingdom/ and most virtuous hierarch, O Father Caran,/ thou didst remind us that we are all missionaries and husbandmen in Christ's vineyard./ Therefore, O Saint, pray for us all that we may shine as beacons of Orthodoxy/ guiding many souls to salvation.

Kontakion for the Eve Tone 3

Today the Virgin is coming to the cave/ to give birth to the eternal Word./ Rejoice at the message, O earth;/ with the Angels and Shepherds give glory/ to Him Who was willing to be seen as a Child/ while remaining God throughout all ages.

Kontakion of St Eugenia Tone 4

Thou didst flee the passing glory of the world,/ drawn by longing for Christ./ O holy Martyr./ Thou didst preserve thy noble soul unblemished:/ we praise thee, righteous Eugenia.

DECEMBER 9

CONCEPTION OF ST ANNA, THE MOTHER OF THE MOTHER OF GOD  
ST BUDOC

Troparion of St Anna Tone 4

Today the bonds of barrenness are loosed;/ for God listened to Joachim and Anna./ He promised them - although it was beyond hope -/ that they should bear a divine child./ From this child was born incarnate the Infinite God,/ Who told the Angel to cry to her:/ Rejoice, full of grace; the Lord is with thee.

Troparion of St Budoc Tone 4

Thou wast miraculously preserved from the ocean's fury/ and being sustained by the hand of God,/ thou didst devote thyself to His service, O Hierarch Budoc./ Being showered with both temporal and spiritual honours both in Armagh and in Dol,/ thou didst labour to win souls for Christ,/ therefore, we implore thine aid,/ begging Christ our God that He will save our souls.

Kontakion of St Anna Tone 4

Today creation celebrates Anna's conception which was effected by God./ For she conceived the Maiden who conceived the Word/ Who is beyond all words.

DECEMBER 10

HOLY MARTYRS MENAS, HERMOGENES AND EUGRAPHUS

Troparion Tone 8

Having conquered the ragings of the flesh through abstinence/ the  
Martyrs of Christ received grace to heal the weak;/ and while living  
after death they worked miracles./ It is truly a strange wonder that  
bare bones pour forth healings!/ Glory to our God.

Kontakion Tone 1

With sacred hymns let us honour wondrous Menas,/ divine  
Hermogenes and Eugraphus;/ for they honoured the Lord and  
suffered for Him./ They attained to the bodiless choirs in heaven and  
shower miracles upon us.

DECEMBER 23

FOREFEAST OF THE HOLY NATIVITY  
THE HOLY TEN MARTYRS OF CRETE  
ST NIPHON, BISHOP OF CONSTANTIANA

Troparion of the Forefeast Tone 4

Make ready, Bethlehem, Eden has been opened to all./ Prepare  
Ephratha, for the Tree of Life has blossomed in the cave from the  
Virgin./ Her womb was a spiritual paradise whence came the Divine  
Plant. /If we eat it we shall live and not die like Adam./ Christ is  
born to raise up the image that of old had fallen.

Troparion of the Holy Ten Martyrs of Crete Tone 3

Let us honour Crete who brought forth these flowers,/ boughs of  
martyrs, pearls of Christ./ They shamed the thousandfold power of  
demons/ although only ten in number./ They were crowned as  
Christ's valiant martyrs.

Troparion of St Niphon, Bishop of Constantiana Tone 4

Thou wast chosen by God to be shepherd and herald of His Church,/  
and to teach repentance to the fallen./ By thy prayers thou didst  
reveal the demons' deceits/ and thy countenance shone like Moses'./  
O Father Niphon, pray to Christ our God for those who honour thee.

Kontakion of the Forefeast Tone 3

Today the Virgin is coming to the cave/ to give birth to the eternal  
Word./ Rejoice at the message, O earth;/ with the Angels and  
Shepherds give glory/ to Him Who was willing to be seen as a Child/  
while remaining God throughout all ages.

Kontakion of the Holy Ten Martyrs of Crete Tone 4

The holy struggle of the Martyrs shines as brightly as the morning  
star./ It has shone on Him Who was born in a cave,/ Whom the  
Virgin seedlessly conceived.

Kontakion of St Niphon of Constantiana Tone 2

Thou didst subdue the flesh by fear of God/ and didst soar to the  
heights of knowledge./ Thou didst attain to thy desire, O blessed  
Niphon./ Intercede to Christ our God for all who honour thee.

DECEMBER 22

FOREFEAST OF THE HOLY NATIVITY  
GREAT MARTYR ANASTASIA OF ROME, THE FREER FROM  
BONDS

Troparion of the Forefeast Tone 4

Make ready, Bethlehem, Eden has been opened to all./ Prepare  
Ephratha, for the Tree of Life has blossomed in the cave from the  
Virgin./ Her womb was a spiritual paradise whence came the Divine  
Plant./ If we eat it we shall live and not die like Adam./ Christ is  
born to raise up the image that of old had fallen.

Troparion of Great Martyr Anastasia Tone 5

As a martyr thou didst emulate the deeds of the martyrs,/ to whom  
thou didst minister,/ and striving didst overcome the enemy./ Thou  
art an abundant, copious source of grace/ for all who fervently come  
to thee/ O godly-minded Anastasia.

Kontakion of the Forefeast Tone 3

Today the Virgin is coming to the cave/ to give birth to the eternal  
Word./ Rejoice at the message, O earth;/ with the Angels and  
Shepherds give glory/ to Him Who was willing to be seen as a Child/  
while remaining God throughout all ages.

Kontakion of Great Martyr Anastasia Tone 2

Those in temptations and afflictions hasten to thy temple/ and are  
restored by the grace that dwells in thee,/ for thou dost ever pour  
forth healings for the world,/ O Great Martyr Anastasia.

DECEMBER 11

OUR HOLY FATHER DANIEL THE STYLITE  
ST CIAN

Troparion of St Daniel the Stylite Tone 1

O Daniel, righteous Father, thou didst become a pillar of patience,  
and excel like the forefathers:/ Job in his sufferings, Joseph in  
temptation,/ and in the flesh wast like the bodiless ones./ Intercede  
with Christ our God that He may save our souls.

Troparion of St Cian Tone 8

Renouncing thy warlike ways, O Father Cian,/ thou didst engage in  
thy fiercest fight with the powers of darkness./ Pray, we beseech  
thee, that our spiritual struggles may be pleasing to Christ our God,/  
that He will show us great mercy.

Kontakion of St Daniel the Stylite Tone 8

Thou didst ascend thy pillar and enlighten the world like a brilliantly  
shining star;/ and thou didst dispel the darkness of error, O blessed  
Father Daniel./ Therefore we pray thee, illumine the hearts of thy  
servants with the true Eternal Light.

## DECEMBER 12

OUR HOLY FATHER SPYRIDON THE WONDERWORKER, BISHOP OF  
TRYMITHUS IN CYPRUS  
ST HERMAN OF ALASKA  
ST FINNIAN OF CLONARD  
ST COLUMBA OF LEINSTER  
ST COLMAN OF GLENDALOUGH

### Troparion of St Spyridon Tone 1

Thou wast a champion of the First Council and a wonderworker,/ O Godbearing  
Father Spyridon./ Thou didst speak to one dead in the grave, and change a serpent  
to gold;/ and while thou wast chanting the holy prayers the Angels were serving  
with thee./ Glory to Him Who has glorified thee; glory to Him Who has crowned  
thee;/ glory to Him Who through thee works healings for all.

### Troparion of St Herman of Alaska Tone 4

Blessed ascetic of the northern wilds/ and intercessor for the whole world;/ teacher  
of Orthodoxy, instructor of piety,/ adornment of Alaska and gladness of America,/  
holy Father Herman, pray to Christ our God that He may save our souls.

### Troparion of St Finnian of Clonard Tone 8

Truly thou art the "Tutor of the Saints of Ireland",/ O Founder of Clonard, great  
Father Finnian./ As thou didst tirelessly teach the faith in thy native land,/ so teach  
us to follow thy example that many may come to know Christ/ and be led into the  
Way of Salvation.

### Troparion of St Columba of Leinster Tone 8

O pious Columba, as a disciple of our Father Finnian and a renowned struggler./  
thou didst shine forth in the ascetic life./ O Ireland's treasure, cease not to pray for  
those who labour,/ weeping and repenting, for the salvation of their souls.

### Troparion of St Colman of Glendalough Tone 8

Giving thy life to Christ in monastic poverty,/ thou didst teach us a God-pleasing  
set of values, O Father Colman./ Wherefore intercede with Christ our God that He  
will instill in us constancy of faith, patience in trials and freedom from  
worldliness/ that we may be found worthy of His great mercy.

### Kontakion of St Spyridon Tone 2

Thou didst lend wings to thy mind with the fire of the Spirit,/ wounded by love for  
Christ./ Thy practical work was the practice of contemplation,/ O inspired  
Spyridon./ Thou didst become a divine altar, imploring illumination for all.

### Kontakion of St Herman of Alaska Tone 8

Monk of Valaam and beloved of the Mother of God,/ new zealot of the old desert-  
dwellers in thy labours;/ armed with prayer as thy sword and shield, thou wast  
terrible to demons and pagan darkness./ O St. Herman, we cry to thee: pray to  
Christ our God that our souls may be saved.

## DECEMBER 21

FOREFEAST OF THE HOLY NATIVITY  
HOLY VIRGIN MARTYR JULIANA  
ST PETER, METROPOLITAN OF MOSCOW

### Troparion of the Forefeast Tone 4

Make ready, Bethlehem, Eden has been opened to all./ Prepare  
Ephratha, for the Tree of Life has blossomed in the cave from the  
Virgin./ Her womb was a spiritual paradise whence came the Divine  
Plant./ If we eat it we shall live and not die like Adam./ Christ is  
born to raise up the image that of old had fallen.

### Troparion of St Juliana the Virgin Martyr Tone 4

All-blameless bride and venerable trophy-bearer,/ thou art wedded to  
the Word of the Immortal Father, O glorious Juliana;/ for having  
wisely disdained thy mortal bridegroom/ thou didst strive beyond  
nature to destroy the serpent./ And now thou dost delight in the joys  
of thy Bridegroom.

### Troparion of St Peter, Metropolitan of Moscow Tone 4

The formerly fruitless land rejoices:/ Christ has revealed a light who  
shines in the world/ and heals our infirmities./ Therefore boldly  
rejoice:/ He is a Hierarch of the Most High Who was his fellow-  
worker in these things.

### Kontakion of the Forefeast Tone 2

He Who holds the earth in His hands/ is seen in Bethlehem wrapped  
in swaddling bands./ We sing before the feast to her who bore Him./  
She rejoices as a Mother as she nurses the Son of God.

### Kontakion of St Juliana the Virgin Martyr Tone 1

Thou wast a comely virgin/ and a martyr wounded by divine love./  
Thou wast taken up to the heavenly bridal chamber/ where thou dost  
pray for those who honour thee.

### Kontakion of St Peter, Metropolitan of Moscow Tone 8

We lovingly hasten to thee with praise, O champion and  
wonderworker of the land of Russia./ As thou hast boldness towards  
the Lord, save us from affliction/ that we may cry to thee: Rejoice,  
support of our city.

## DECEMBER 20

FOREFEAST OF THE HOLY NATIVITY  
HOLY HIEROMARTYR IGNATIUS THE GODBEARER, BISHOP OF  
ANTIOCH  
ST JOHN OF KRONSTADT  
ST URSICIAN

Troparion of the Forefeast Tone 4

Make ready, Bethlehem, Eden has been opened to all./ Prepare Ephratha, for the Tree of Life has blossomed in the cave from the Virgin./ Her womb was a spiritual paradise whence came the Divine Plant./ If we eat it we shall live and not die like Adam./ Christ is born to raise up the image that of old had fallen.

Troparion of St Ignatius the Godbearer Tone 3

Soaring with love for Him Who holds thee in His hands,/ thou wast shown to be a God-bearer, O Ignatius./ Thou didst finish thy course in the West/ and pitch thy dwelling in the unwaning day of the heavens./ O righteous Father, entreat Christ our God to grant us His great mercy.

Troparion of St John of Kronstadt Tone 4

O wonderworker living in Christ forever,/ with love have mercy on those in danger;/ hear thy children who call on thee with faith;/ be compassionate to those who hope for aid from thee,/ O Father John of Kronstadt, our beloved shepherd.

Troparion of St Ursician Tone 8

Thy life is a hymn of triumph, O blessed one,/ who together with the great Columban didst travel throughout Europe preaching repentance, humility and our saving Faith in Christ./ Wherefore, most righteous Ursician, intercede for us/ that we may show forth in our lives the truth of our faith, that many souls may be saved.

Kontakion of the Forefeast Tone 3

Today the Virgin is coming to the cave/ to give birth to the eternal Word./ Rejoice at the message, O earth;/ with the Angels and Shepherds give glory/ to Him Who was willing to be seen as a Child/ while remaining God throughout all ages.

Kontakion of St Ignatius the Godbearer Tone 3

The day of thy glorious struggles/ heralds the One to be born of a Virgin/ for, thirsting for His presence,/ thou didst hasten to be devoured by wild beasts./ Therefore thou wast named Godbearer, O glorious Ignatius.

Kontakion of St John of Kronstadt Tone 4

Thou wast chosen by God in infancy/ and in childhood received the gift of learning./ Thou wast called to the priesthood in a vision during sleep/ and didst become a wonderful shepherd of Christ's Church./ Pray to Christ our God/ that we may all be with thee in the Kingdom of heaven./ O Father John, namesake of grace.

## DECEMBER 13

HOLY MARTYRS EUSTRATIUS, EUGENE, AUXENTIUS,  
MARDARIUS AND ORESTES IN ARMENIA  
HOLY VIRGIN LUCY OF SICILY

Troparion of the Holy Martyrs of Armenia Tone 4

Wise Eustratius, divine Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius and Orestes,/ five members of the choir of Martyrs,/ enlighten the whole world with the torch of their contests./ O faithful, in praising them let us cry out:/ Rejoice, you five holy Martyrs of Christ.

Troparion of St Lucy of Sicily Tone 5

Adorned with the radiant robe of virginity,/ thou wast betrothed to Christ the Lifegiver,/ and didst disdain all mortal love./ Therefore thou didst bring to the Lord as a bridal gift/ the streams of thy martyr's blood./ Intercede with Him for us all, O Virgin Martyr Lucy.

Kontakion of the Holy Martyrs of Armenia Tone 2

Thou wast a shining light for those in the darkness of ignorance,/ O herald of Christ,/ and armed with the spear of faith,/ thou wast unmoved by the adversaries' audacity,/ Eustratius most eloquent of orators.

Kontakion of St Lucy of Sicily Tone 3

We honour thee, pure Virgin and trophy-bearer,/ and praise thine illustrious contest./ For thou didst desire only the beauty of Christ/ and didst disdain all things corruptible./ O Lucy, when thou wast beheaded thou didst receive incorruptible glory.

DECEMBER 14

HOLY MARTYRS THYRSUS, LEUSIUS AND CALLINICUS OF ASIA MINOR, APOLLONIUS, PHILEMON AND ARRIAN OF ALEXANDRIA  
SS FINGAR AND PHIALA

Troparion of the Holy Martyrs Tone 3

With garlands and chants let us adorn the six Martyrs,/ Thyrsus, Philemon, steadfast Apollonius, Arrian, Callinicus and glorious Leucius;/ for they destroyed the enemy/ and are pillars of godliness./ And they shine on all the world with rays of heavenly grace.

Troparion of Ss Fingar and Phiala Tone 4

Heeding Patrick's preaching you accepted Christ as God and Saviour/ earning the wrath of your pagan father, O blessed Fingar and Phiala./ Preferring the treasures of asceticism and rejecting a kingly heritage,/ together with seven bishops and a godly host,/ you were found worthy of the crown of martyrdom./ Therefore, we pray you to intercede with Christ our God for us/ that we may live only for Him and be found worthy of His great mercy.

Kontakion of the Holy Martyrs Tone 4

Let us gather today/ and praise the Church's luminaries,/ acclaiming them as the trophy-bearers of Christ our God.

DECEMBER 19

SS BONIFACE AND AGLAIS

Troparion Tone 4

Thou didst fervently follow after the Martyrs/ and confess Christ before unbelievers, O Boniface./ Thou didst give thy body to modest Aglais/ as imperishable treasure:/ healings and mercy flow from it for the world.

Kontakion Tone 4

Thou didst offer thyself as a blameless sacrifice,/ O wise crown-bearer,/ to One Who is about to be born of a Virgin for thy sake, O Boniface.

DECEMBER 18

HOLY MARTYR SEBASTIAN AND THOSE WITH HIM

Troparion Tone 1

O Sebastian, thou didst spurn the gatherings of the wicked/ and bring together the illustrious martyrs who with thee cast down the enemy./ Deemed worthy of the Divine Presence,/ thou dost gladden those who cry to thee:/ Glory to Him Who has strengthened thee; glory to Him Who has crowned thee;/ glory to Him Who through thee works healings for all.

Kontakion Tone 4

Thou didst excel in godly zeal/ and gather a band of martyrs from which thou didst shine as a star./ The arrows that wounded thy body, O Sebastian,/ pierced the hearts of the enemy./ Hence Christ has glorified thee.

DECEMBER 15

HIEROMARTYR ELEUTHERIUS, BISHOP OF ILLYRICUM,  
AND HIS MOTHER THE HOLY MARTYR ANTHIA  
ST STEPHEN THE CONFESSOR, ARCHBISHOP OF SOUROZH

Troparion of Hieromartyr Eleutherius Tone 5

Adorned with the robe of priest/ and stained with streams of blood,/ O wise and blessed Eleutherius,/ thou didst hasten to Christ thy Master,/ O overthrower of Satan./ Unceasingly pray for those who faithfully honour thy contest.

Troparion of St Stephen of Sourozh Tone 4

Solitary dweller with the Bodiless Hosts,/ thou didst take the Cross as thy weapon and stand firm against the iconoclasts and Macedonians;/ they would not worship the icon of Christ our God,/ but thou didst cut out all wicked heresies./ Then as one who had received the martyr's crown/ thou didst deliver thy city, Sourozh, from all enemies./ And now we implore you, O Stephen, that we may be delivered from temptations and eternal torments.

Kontakion of Hieromartyr Eleutherius Tone 2

We all praise and entreat thee, Hieromartyr Eleutherius,/ adornment of priests, encouragement of martyrs:/ free from danger those who lovingly celebrate thy memory;/ and pray unceasingly for us all.

Kontakion of St Stephen of Sourozh Tone 3

Strengthened by the power of the Most High God,/ thou didst overcome the iconoclasts of the royal house./ Today the glory of thy relics belong to Sourozh and to us faithful,/ and the Angelic Orders bear them triumphantly./ With songs and hymns they glorify thee, O great Saint Stephen.

DECEMBER 16

HOLY PROPHET HAGGAI  
ST MODESTUS THE SECOND, PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM

Troparion of the Prophet Haggai Tone 4

Being pure in heart, O prophet Haggai,/ thou wast an inspired  
Prophet and servant of God./ Therefore, as one that keepeth festival,/  
thou wast taken up to those who keep festival in God./ Intercede  
with Him, O herald of God, that we may all be saved.

Troparion of St Modestus the Second Tone 3

Thou didst gladden Sion with thy divine works./ Enriched with  
apostolic illumination,/ thou didst serve thy Saviour righteously./  
Holy Father Modestus,/ entreat Christ our God to grant us His great  
mercy.

Kontakion of the Prophet Haggai Tone 2

Thou didst shine forth to the ends of the world./ illumined by the  
light of the Spirit./ Thou didst foretell in figures the things that were  
to come;/ and wast illustrious in thy life, O wise Prophet Haggai.

Kontakion of St Modestus the Second Tone 4

Thou wast a righteous Hierarch, O Father,/ and didst serve Christ in  
Sion by thine angelic life./ Therefore thou art glorified, O Modestus,  
adornment of Patriarchs.

DECEMBER 17

HOLY PROPHET DANIEL  
THE THREE CHILDREN IN BABYLON  
ST DIONYSIUS OF ZANTE  
ST TYDECHO  
ST BRIACH

Troparion of the Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Children Tone 4

Great are the achievements of faith!/ In the fountain of flame, as in refreshing  
water,/ the Three Holy Children rejoiced./ And the Prophet Daniel proved a  
shepherd of lions as of sheep./ By their prayers, O Christ our God, save our souls.

Troparion of St Dionysius of Zante Tone 1

Together let us honour Dionysius the scion of Zante,/ Bishop of Aegina and  
protector of the Monastery of Strophada./ Let us cry to him sincerely:/ By thy  
prayers save those who celebrate thy memory and cry to thee:/ Glory to Christ  
Who has glorified thee; glory to Him Who has made thee wondrous;/ glory to Him  
Who has granted thee to us as an unsleeping intercessor.

Troparion of St Tydecho Tone 8

By thy labours for Christ, O Father Tydecho,/ thou didst win the crown of eternal  
glory/ and didst light the way into the Ark of Salvation./ Wherefore, O Saint,  
intercede for us that in following thee we may be found worthy of Christ's great  
mercy.

Troparion of St Briach Tone 8

O holy Briach, thou dost teach us the value of renunciation,/ for thou didst  
renounce the world to seek salvation./ Therefore we pray, that our lives may show  
forth the virtue of self denial/ and thereby attain the eternal salvation of our souls.

Kontakion of the Prophet Daniel Tone 3

When thy pure heart was purged by the Spirit,/ thou didst become a vessel of clear  
prophecy;/ for thou seest things afar off as though they were close at hand./ Thou  
didst tame the lions when thou wast cast into their den./ Therefore we honour thee,  
O blessed Prophet, glorious Daniel.

Kontakion of the Three Children in Babylon Tone 2

An image made with hands you would not worship, O thrice blessed three;/ but  
protected by the ineffable Essence you were glorified in your ordeal by fire./ From  
the midst of the devouring flames you called upon God, crying:/ Hasten, O  
compassionate One,/ in Thy mercy come to our aid,/ for if Thou wilt Thou  
canst.

Kontakion of St Dionysius of Zante Tone 3

Today the people of Zante keep festival/ with the Monastery of Strophada./ They  
invite the Isle of Aegina,/ that together they may praise their common boast of  
Dionysius.