

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

TODAY	5 pm	G Vespers for St. Nicholas
Mon. Dec. 19	9 am	Div Liturgy for St. Nicholas
Tues. Dec. 20	6:30 pm	Study: Why Dec. 25th?
Sat. Dec. 24	5 pm	Vigil for St. Herman of Alaska
Sun. Dec. 25	11 am	Divine Liturgy
Mon. Dec. 26-30	2022	<i>St. Herman Youth Camp West</i>
<i>Wed. Dec 28</i>	<i>6 pm</i>	<i>All Night Vigil</i>
<i>Thurs. Dec. 29</i>	<i>8:30 am</i>	<i>Hierarchical Divine Liturgy</i>
Fri. Dec. 30	5 pm	40 day Memorial for Michael Fulghum
Sat. Dec. 31	5 pm	Great Vespers
Sun. Jan 1	11 am	Divine Liturgy

PRAY EVERY DAY

Pray for peace and for each other

FLOCKNOTE. Did you know - you must personally sign up for the Flocknote texts and emails (see below). If you do not add your name to Flocknote, you will be removed after a month. Please add your name and phone number! Go to ASONA.flocknote.com and sign up online!

Sign up easily! Text ASONA to 84576

stay up to date via email or text alerts - Remember to add your name



SUN. DEC. 18, 2022

VENERABLE SABBAS THE SANCTIFIED

TONE 2



Prokeimenon in Tone 2 (Ps 118)

The Lord is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation.
The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.

And in the 7th Tone

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

EPISTLES: EPHESIANS 6:10-17: GALATIANS 5:22-6:2

FINALLY, MY BRETHREN, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

BRETHREN, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.+

Alleluia in Tone 2 (Ps 20)

The Lord answer you in the day of trouble!
The Name of the God of Jacob protect you!

Save the king, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call!

And in the 8th Tone

Blessed is the man that fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments.

GOSPEL: LUKE 17:12-19: MATTHEW 11:27-30

AT THAT TIME, Jesus entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner? And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

THE LORD SAID, "All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."+



DECEMBER 2022 CHRISTMAS STUDIES



Christmas is celebrated on December 25th as the birth or Nativity of Christ. This is the tradition of the Church - but why?

Was it accommodation to pagan festivals, Christianizing pagan feasts?

Was it to replace the winter solstice?

What about the snow?

Pagan evergreens/Yule log became the Christmas Tree?

Where did these ideas come from, and who was responsible?

We'll look at the real reason we celebrate on the 25th, and easily debunk detractors who's proven false ideas still permeate our popular culture. Yes, we will name names.

Bring your notebook. You'll be teaching others

Tues. Dec. 20 6:30 pm Study: Why Dec. 25th?



BENEFITTING THOSE IN THE ARIZONA FOSTER CARE SYSTEM

2022 ASONA Giving Tree!

It's that time of year again.

As most of you know, every year ASONA sponsors a Giving Tree for children and adults who are in the Arizona Foster Care system. The holidays are a terrible time for those in the system, and we want to do EVERYTHING we can do to make sure they are not forgotten.

Here's how it works:

1. Take a tag from the 'tree'.
2. Purchase the corresponding gift.
3. Bring it, new and unwrapped, to Church
4. Make sure it's in church by TODAY at the latest.

Now, don't forget this is a HARD DEADLINE. We are not in charge of this program, so everything must be collected by Dec. 18th.

Last year, someone brought a gift a week late, and was angry that it could not be delivered. We are not making the rules here, so let's make it easy on everyone. Once again, this is a HARD DEADLINE for us, and time is short. We can do NOTHING to deliver late gifts.

The Christmas Giving Tree ends TODAY. ASONA has participated in the program for years now. Help us continue this important spiritual tradition.

SAINTS ALIVE

The lives and deeds of the heroes of our faith

ST. SAVA THE SANCTIFIED

St. Sava the Sanctified was born in the fifth century at Cappadocia of pious Christian parents, John and Sophia, and his father was a military commander. Journeying to Alexandria on military matters, John and Sophia left their five-year-old son Sava in the care of an uncle. When the boy was eight years old, he entered the nearby Monastery of Saint Flavian. The gifted child quickly learned to read and became an expert on the Holy Scriptures. His parents urged Saint Sava to return to the world and enter into marriage, but all in vain.

When he was seventeen years old he was tonsured as a monk, and attained such perfection in fasting and prayer that God found him worthy of the gift of working miracles. After spending ten years at the Monastery of Saint Flavian, he went to Jerusalem, and from there to the Monastery of Saint Euthymios the Great (January 20). Saint Euthymios, however, sent the young man to Abba Theoktistos, the head of a nearby monastery with a strict cenobitic Rule. Saint Savva lived in obedience at this monastery until the age of thirty.

After the death of Elder Theoktistos, his successor blessed Savva to seclude himself in a cave. But on Saturdays, he left his hermitage and came to the Monastery, where he took part in the Divine Services and ate with the brethren. After a certain time, Saint Sava received permission not to leave his hermitage at all, and he struggled in the cave for five years.

Saint Euthymios directed the young monk's life, and seeing his spiritual maturity, he began to take him to the Rouba wilderness with him. They left on January 14, and remained there until Palm Sunday. Saint Euthymios called Saint Sava a Child-Elder, and encouraged him to grow in the monastic virtues.

When Saint Euthymios fell asleep in the Lord (+ 473), Saint Sava withdrew from the Lavra and moved to a cave near the monastery of Saint Gerasimos of Jordan (March 4). After several years, disciples began to

gather around Saint Sava. As the number of monks increased, a Lavra sprang up. Guided by a pillar of fire which appeared before him as he was walking, Saint Sava found a spacious cave in the form of a church.

The holy Elder founded several more monasteries. Many miracles took place through his prayers: at the Lavra, a spring of water welled up, during a time of drought there was abundant rain, and the sick and those possessed by demons were also healed. Saint Sava composed the first monastic Rule of Church Services, the "*Jerusalem Typikon*," followed by all the Palestinian monasteries. The Saint surrendered his soul to God in the year 532.

Saint Sava is depicted holding a scroll which reads: "He who loves God disdains corruptible things, and prefers the knowledge of Him."

Holy Father Sava, pray unto God for us!

Glory to God for All Things!

