

Saintly Notes

St. Sylvester, Bishop of Rome (January 2)

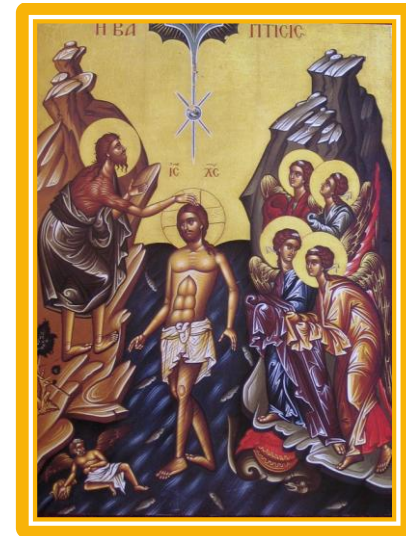
Sylvester was born in Rome and from his early youth was learned in worldly wisdom and in the Faith of Christ. He always conducted his life according to the Gospel commandments. He benefited much from the instruction of Timothy the priest whose death for the Faith Sylvester himself witnessed and, observing the example of the heroic sacrifice of his teacher, was imbued with such a spirit throughout his entire life.

At age thirty, he became the Bishop of Rome. He amended the customs of Christians. For example, he dispensed the fast on Saturdays, which was practiced by many Christians up to that time, and ordered that fasting be observed only on Holy and Great Saturday as well as on those Saturdays that fall within the fasting seasons.

By his prayers and miracles Sylvester assisted in bringing Emperor Constantine and his mother Helena into the True Faith. They were later baptized. He participated with the Empress Helena in finding the Honorable Cross. He governed the Church of God for twenty years. His earthly life ended honorably and he was translated into the heavenly Kingdom.

(The Prologue from Ochrid)

Glory Be to God for All Things



Sunday Before Theophany

All Saints Orthodox Church, Raleigh NC
(www.allsaintsnc.org)
919-859-1332

The V. Rev. Nicholas R. A. Sorensen, Archpriest
The Rev. David Keim, Deacon

January 2, 2011

The Saints Whom We Remember

St. Sylvester, Bishop of Rome; Repose of the St. Seraphim of Sarov;
Righteous Juliana

This Week's Schedule

Today: 9:00a Orthros; 10:00a Typika with distribution of the Holy Gifts
(Communion)
Mon: Church Office Closed
Tuesday: 10:00a Akathist for Our Children
Wednesday: 9:15a Third Hour Prayer; 6:30p Eve. Div. Liturgy for Theophany;
8:00p Pot Luck
Saturday: 1:00p Baptism; 6:30a Great Vespers
Sunday: 8:00a Orthros; 9:00a Church School; 10:00a Divine Liturgy

First Antiphon

Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Second Antiphon

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, *Who art risen from the dead*; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

Third Antiphon

Resurrection Troparion (Tone 7)

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying, Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

Little Entrance

† *Entrance Hymn:* "Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ . . . Alleluia."

† *Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 7):* See above.

† *Troparion for the Forefeast of Theophany (Tone 4):* Make ready, O Zebulon, and prepare, O Nephtali, and thou, River Jordan, cease thy flow and receive with joy the Master coming to be baptized. And thou, Adam, rejoice with the first mother, and hide not your selves as ye did of old in paradise; for having seen thee naked, He appeared to clothe thee with the first robe. Yea, Christ hath appeared desiring to renew the whole creation.

† *Troparion for All Saints (Tone 4):* As with fine porphyry and royal purple Thy Church has been adorned

with Thy martyr's blood shed throughout all the world. She cries to Thee, O Christ God, send down Thy bounties on Thy people, grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls.

† *Kontakion for the Forefeast of Theophany (Tone 4):* Today hath the Lord appeared in the courses of the Jordan, crying to John and saying, Be not dismayed at my Baptism; for I have verily come to save Adam, the first to be created.

The Trisagion

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal . . .

Scripture

for today and next Sunday

Today: (See insert)

Next Sunday:

Epistle: Eph. 4:7-13
Gospel: Matt. 4:12-17

Agalynarion

(Tone 8)

It is truly meet and right to bless thee . . .

Communion Hymn

(Tone 8)

Praise ye the Lord from the heavens;
praise Him in the highest. Alleluia.

Post-Communion

Hymn

We have seen the true light . . .

Parish Notes

Altar Servers Today

William Christopoulos, Christopher Wingenbach, Ilya Moundous, Gabriel Pope, Nicholas Kliewer.

Special Attention

- **Annual Voters' Meeting.** Today at 12:00noon. All voters please attend this one hour meeting to be held in the nave.
- **Epiphany House Blessings.** If you want to have your house blessed this year, please sign up for a day and time when Fr. Nicholas will be in your area. The sign-up sheets are posted on the wall outside the parish hall.
- **Proper Reception of Christ's Body and Blood.** Just a reminder that only Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves with fasting (if physically and medically able—from 12 midnight until receiving communion) and with a recent confession (this must be determined between you and your spiritual father) may receive the Body and Blood of Christ from the chalice. Also it is our practice that no one should receive communion if they come into the Divine Liturgy after the reading of the Gospel.
- **We Have Signed the Contract with the Iconographer John Filipakis to begin the first phase of our new Temple Iconography.** This will include the dome and apse icons and five large icons on the iconostasis. According to Mr. Fillipakis these icons might be completed by Pascha of this year or shortly thereafter. Glory be to God for all things!
- **Thank You!** Khr. Barbara and I want to thank all of you for the many expressions of love you have showered upon us this past year. The faithful members of All Saints are indeed our beloved family. You know what that means—you are all honorary Danes! Seriously, we thank God for all of you and pray that our good God will bless you with a peaceful and joyful 2011.

Fr. Nicholas & Khr. Barbara

Today's Epistle and Gospel Readings

Prokeimenon:

Blessed are Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers.

For Thou art justified in all that Thou hast done for us.

†**Epistle: 2 Tim. 4:5–8 (RSV)**

Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

†**Gospel: Mark 1:1–8 (RSV)**

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and

all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the strap of Whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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**A Word
from Our Fathers**

“Do not look only for delight from prayer; do not become despondent when you do not feel joy. Sometimes you stand and stand in church, and it seems that you do not have a heart within you, but a piece of wood, rough and coarse. And so what?

For the piece of wood, thank You, Lord! It means that that is how it should be. By experiencing sweet delights, a soul can become puffed up, but such a condition of ‘stony insensibility’ humbles it.”

(St. Barsanuphius of Optina)

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