

# Saintly Notes

## Hieromartyr Ignatius of Antioch (December 20)

This holy man is called "the God-bearer" because he constantly bore the name of the Living God in his heart and on his lips. According to tradition, he was thus named because he was held in the arms of God Incarnate, Jesus Christ. On a day when the Lord was teaching His disciples humility, He took a child and placed him among them, saying: *Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven* (Matthew 18:4). This child was Ignatius.

Later, Ignatius was a disciple of St. John the Theologian, together with Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna. As Bishop of Antioch, Ignatius governed the Church of God as a good shepherd and was the first to introduce antiphonal chanting in the Church, in which two choirs alternate the chanting. This manner of chanting was revealed to St. Ignatius by the angels in heaven.

When Emperor Trajan was passing through Antioch on his way to do battle with the Persians, he heard of Ignatius, summoned him and counseled him to offer sacrifice to the idols. If Ignatius would do so, Trajan would bestow upon him the rank of senator. As the counsels and threats of the emperor were in vain, St. Ignatius was shackled in irons and sent to Rome in the company of ten merciless soldiers, to be thrown to the wild beasts. Ignatius rejoiced in suffering for his Lord, only praying to God that the wild beasts would become the tomb for his body and that no one would prevent him from this death.

After a long and difficult journey from Asia through Thrace, Macedonia and Epirus, Ignatius arrived in Rome, where he was thrown to the lions in the circus. The lions tore him to pieces and devoured him, leaving only several of the larger bones and his heart. This glorious lover of the Lord Christ suffered in the year 106 in Rome at the time of the Christ-hating Emperor Trajan. Ignatius has appeared many times from the other world and worked miracles, even to this day helping all who call upon him for help.

(*The Prologue from Ochrid*, Birmingham, 1985, Lazarica Press)

## Sunday before the Nativity of Christ

December 20, 2009



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

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

December 20, 2009

## The Saints Whom We Remember

Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-bearer, bishop of Antioch;  
New-martyr John of Thasos; Daniel II of Serbia

## This Week's Schedule

**Today:** 8:00a Orthros; 9:00a Church School; 10:00a Divine Liturgy  
**Monday:** Church Office Closed  
**Wednesday:** 9:15a Third Hour Prayers; 6:30p Vespers  
**Thursday:** 9:00a Royal Hours of the Nativity; 10:00a Eve. Div. Liturgy  
**Friday:** 8:00a Nativity Orthros; 9:00a Divine Liturgy for the Nativity or Our Lord Jesus Christ  
**Saturday:** 5:30p Great Vespers  
**Sunday:** 9:00a Orthros; 10:00a Divine Liturgy

## Third Antiphon

### Troparion of the Resurrection—Tone 3

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and became the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

## Entrance Hymn

Come, let us worship . . . Alleluia.

## Troparion

### for the Resurrection—Tone 3

See above.

## Troparion

### of the Forefeast of the Nativity—Tone 4

Be thou ready, O Bethlehem; for Eden hath been opened for all. Prepare, O Ephratha; for the Tree of life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the Virgin; for her belly did appear as a noetic paradise in which is planted the divine Plant, whereof eating we shall live and not die as Adam. Verily, Christ shall be born, raising the likeness that fell of old.

## Troparion

### of Sunday before Nativity—Tone 2

Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, have mercy upon us.

## Troparion

### of 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

### of Preparation for Christ's Nativity— Tone 3

The Virgin cometh today to the cave to give birth, ineffably to bring forth the Word eternal. Therefore, rejoice, O earth, at the message; with the angels and shepherds give glory to Him who shall appear by His own will as a young child, He who is from eternity God.

## The Trisagion

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal . . .

## Scripture

### for today and next Sunday

Today: (See insert)

Next Sunday:

*Epistle:* Acts 6:8—7:5, 47—60

*Gospel:* Matt. 2:13—23

## Megalynarion—Tone 8

It is truly meet and right . . .

## Communion Hymn

### Tone 8

Praise the Lord . . . Alleluia.

## Post-Communion Hymn

We have seen the true light . . .

## Parish Notes

### Altar Servers Today

Matthew Wynne, Del Dillard, Noah Keim,  
Micah Keim, Johannes Kibret, Nicholas  
Kliwer, Roger Jones.

## Special Attention

- **Estimated Giving Forms.**  
This Sunday, we will be distributing Estimated Giving Forms (just in case you did not get one) and providing a special collection plate for you to submit them at the back of the Nave following the Divine Liturgy.
- **Dear Parishners.** On behalf of the St. Thekla Ladies of All Saints, we extend our deepest thanks and appreciation to you, for your support and help in making this year's Baklawa project a huge success. The best ever!! Our thanks to all who donated, baked, sold, and bought this delicious pastry.  
It is also such a delight for me to work with such a great group of ladies who just came in and got the job done.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
We didn't have a contest this year, but we will present a token of our appreciation to the gentleman and lady who sold the most Baklawa. today after the Liturgy. Also results of the Baklawa project. God's Blessing to All and Merry Christmas  
*Mary Elizabeth*
- **Christmas Day Service.** The Divine Liturgy for the Nativity will be celebrated at 9:00am on Christmas Day, preceded by the Nativity Orthros at 8:00am. As in years past, our Church School students will be presenting a Christmas Message following the service. Please plan to attend this service as well as all the special services this week.
- **Please Note the Epiphany House Blessing Sign-Up Sheets on the Wall Opposite the Doors to the Parish Hall.**
- **New Temple Construction Update.** On our church website [www.allsaintsnc.org](http://www.allsaintsnc.org) you will find information about our building project and the most current timetable for completion. Photos are also viewable.
- **The Sacrament of Confession.** Please note that the sacrament of confession is available at All Saints by appointment only. Please call the church office or email Fr. Nicholas at [orthorider.nras@gmail.com](mailto:orthorider.nras@gmail.com).

## 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: Heb. 11:9–10, 32–40 (RSV)

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had

foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

### †Gospel: Matt. 1:1–25 (RSV)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

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And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, Who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ were fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, a virgin shall

conceive and bear a son, and His Name shall be called Emmanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called His Name Jesus.

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**A Word  
from Our Fathers**

“The baptismal covenant is renewed in the sacrament of confession. In confession we turn to the Church, bringing with us all our filthiness, our failures, and all our shortcomings; we lay ourselves bare before the Church in all humility, and She freely grants us that which we could never have acquired of ourselves, that which we could never have attained. . . . In the sacrament of confession, we receive the grace of Christ in the fellowship of His saints.”

*(Archimandrite Zacharias: The Hidden Man of the Heart)*

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