

Word for the Day

On Reading Scripture

I exhort you, and I will not cease to exhort you to pay heed not only to what is said here, but when you are home also you should occupy yourselves attentively with the reading of Holy Scripture. Let no one say to me such cold words-worthy of judgment---as these: 'I am occupied with a trial, I have obligations in the city, I have a wife, I have to feed my children, and it is not my duty to read the Scripture but the duty of those who have renounced everything.' What are you saying?! It is not your duty to read Scripture because you are distracted by innumerable cares?

On the contrary, it is your duty more than those others, more than the monks; they do not have such need of help as do you who live in the midst of such cares. You need treatment all the more, because you are constantly under such blows and are wounded so often. The reading of Scripture is a great defense against sin. Ignorance of the Scripture is a great misfortune, a great abyss. Not to know anything from the word of God is a disaster. This is what has given rise to heresies, to immorality; it has turned everything upside down.

St. John Chrysostom

from Zephaniah 3:14-20 (ESV)

Israel's Joy and Restoration

- 14 Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!
- 15 The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.
- 16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.
- 17 The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.
- 18 I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach.
- 19 Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.
- 20 At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the Lord.

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish Of The New England Diocese ✙ Orthodox Church In America

December 03, 2017

26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 1. Prophet Zephaniah (Sophonias—635-605 B.C.). Ven. Savva (Sabbas), Abbot of Zvenigorod, disciple of Ven. Sergius of Rádonezh (1406). St. Theodulus, Eparch of Constantinople (ca. 440). Ven. John the Silent of St. Sabbas' Monastery (558). Hieromartyr Theodore, Archbishop of Alexandria (606). Monk Martyr Cosmas of St. Anne's Skete (Mt. Athos).



Prophet Zephaniah

Divine Services

Wed. December 6Reader's Vespers6:30 p.m.
 Sat. December 9.....Reader's Vespers5:00 p.m.
 Sun December 10.....Divine Liturgy9:30 a.m.
(Hours Begin at 9:00 a.m.)

Today's Readings

Epistle: Ephesians 5:9-19
Gospel: Luke 18:18-27

Next Week's Readings

Ephesians 6:10-17
 Luke 17:12-19

For Next Week, Dec. 10

Hours and Thanksgiving PrayersBarbara Parhizgar
 Epistle:Lisa Goudey
 Coffee Hour:Irina Trioufanova

In Memory of: Matushka Marie Kreta (Oct. 23), Archpriest Wsewolod Drobot (Nov. 8)

For the health and well-being of: Archpriest Joseph and Matushka Julia, Abdullah, David, Tony, Stanislav, Leonard, Timothy, Helen, Fenaeda, Raya, Dennis, Svetlana, Konstantin, Vladislav, Nancy, Maria, Al, Michael, Ludmila, Nick, Koren, Katya, Alexandra, Irina, Gregory, Theodore, Helen, Edie, and Ismene.

December Birthdays

Olga Andrienko (Dec. 06), Lisa Goudey (Dec. 11), Danton Papurkov (Dec. 13)

Announcements

December Charity is Hospice Care in the Berkshires: This organization has operated in the Berkshire for 35 years and provides support and care for those living with live-limiting illnesses, quality medical care and family caretakers.

The Giving Tree!: You have noticed our beautiful Nativity Tree in front near the Confession stand. This year we are calling it the "Giving Tree". There is a large basket near the tree for anyone to bring "warm" gifts for adults. These might include: **knit hats, gloves, mittens, socks, slipper socks, scarves, etc.** We will give these gifts to the residents at Barton's Crossing. Please do not wrap the items you bring so that the staff can distribute them to individuals based on need. In addition to your basket gifts, the December Charity collection will be used to buy much needed toiletries, like we did last winter. Thank you!



The Giving Tree

Snow Phone Tree: Please ask Irene for a copy of the Phone Tree if you didn't get one lasts week.

Upcoming Events

The December Calendar: Remember to pick up a December calendar on your way out. Fr. John, who is arriving with Mat. Brenda on Dec. 14 and will serve his first St. Nicholas Liturgy on **December 17**, has sent us a very full Nativity service schedule! There are services every day beginning December 15. We hope you will try to participate in as many of these beautiful services as possible so that we may welcome the Birth of Christ with joy and glory. We will also add the Nativity services schedule to our website.

Upcoming Nativity Events in addition to Nativity Services:

- **Sun. Dec 10: Christmas Caroling** for Sunday School and others.
- **Sun. Dec. 17: Cookie Swap**, after Coffee Hour
- **Sun. Dec. 24: Holy Supper:** look for a sign up sheet as we did last year when we celebrated this old Slavic tradition of a Lenten Meal. We will soon post a sign-up sheet for food dishes to share.

Collections

Last Week's Collection.....	\$937
2017 Budget	\$96,142
Progress Towards Budget...	\$75,805