Announcements

- **Welcome Guests and Visitors.** You are invited to join us for lunch after the service. We would love to greet you and answer any questions. We especially greet Dr. Peter Bouteneff who led our Advent Retreat yesterday and preached this morning.
- **Children's Church School:** In addition to the pre-liturgy program, our special monthly classes for K-8 will be held after the meal today.
- **We offer our fervent prayers for the newly ordained Deacon Gregory** Hanson, his wife Denean, and their whole family. Deacon Gregory will be attached to St. Innocent Church, Pleasanton, CA, though we hope to see him again soon here at Holy Trinity Cathedral.
- **Preparing your pledge**. It is the time of year when we prayerfully make our annual pledge, offering our "first fruits" to God. "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7). You can pick up a pledge card at church or fill out your pledge online at our web site, holy-trinity.org.
- **Let us go to meet Him!** The divine services leading up to and including the Nativity of Christ and Theophany are true *gifts* to us and for us. Please open your heart to these gifts and experience them. May God grant us the experience of the calming and cleansing silence found in the approach to the spiritual Cave in Bethlehem during this *Winter Pascha*!

This Week at Holy Trinity

Wed. Dec. 18: 6:00 pm Vespers followed by choir rehearsal.
Parking available this evening at St. Brigid's

Thu. Dec. 19: 7:00 pm Online Bible Study with Fr. James

Fri. Dec. 20: 6:00 pm Forefeast of the Nativity Vespers & Compline
Parking available this evening at St. Brigid's

Sat. Dec. 21: 6:00 pm Vigil and Confessions
Parking available this evening at St. Brigid's

Sun. Dec. 22: **Sunday Before the Nativity of Christ**
Before Liturgy: Choir Rehearsal; Church School; Hours
9:30 am Divine Liturgy followed by fellowship hour and Church School (High School & Young Adults)
Parking available Sunday morning at St. Brigid's

Contact Fr. Kirill

Question? Want to talk? Or be on our email list?
FrKirill@holy-trinity.org • 415-673-8565

Holy Trinity Cathedral

Sunday, December 15, 2024

Most Reverend Benjamin,
Archbishop of San Francisco and the West

Very Reverend Dr. Kirill Sokolov, Dean
Reverend Andrew Smith, Associate Priest

1520 Green Street
San Francisco, California
holy-trinity.org

Orthodox Church in America
Diocese of the West

We are delighted to be together with you in worshiping the Holy Trinity.
Welcome!

Today's Epistle **25th Sunday after Pentecost**
Colossians 3:4-11 **Sunday of the Forebears of Christ**
Today's Gospel **Tone 8**
Luke 14:16-24

Today's Epistle Reading

Colossians 3:4-11

Brethren: When Christ our life shall appear, then you shall also appear with Him in glory. Therefore mortify your members which are upon the earth: immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the children of disobedience. And you yourselves once walked in them when they were your life. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, abusive language and filthy talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Here there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Today's Gospel Reading

Luke 14:16-24

The Lord said this parable: "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.' "

This Sunday's Commemoration

The Sunday that falls between December 11-17 is known as the *Sunday of the Holy Forebears* (or "the Holy Forefathers"). These are the ancestors of Christ according to the flesh, who lived before the Law and under the Law, especially the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, "In thy seed shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 12:3, 22:18). On this Sunday the Epistle reading comes from St. Paul's letter to the Colossians (3:4–11) which begins with the incredible sentence: *When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.* We look toward the Glorious Appearing of the Lord when He comes in glory. St. Paul told the Colossians to prepare to encounter Christ by putting their sins to death, for they are all forms of idolatry that exclude us from the holy joy of the Kingdom. The Gospel reading for this Sunday is always from Luke 14: 16–24, the Parable of the "Great Supper" which tells of those who are invited refusing to come, so *the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled...'* All are invited, but many are distracted, if not by duties (in the Parable there are the decent enough excuses of marriage, oxen and property) then by the things that St Paul lists in Colossians. Christmas, of course, is a banquet, a great feast; a celebration of our salvation in the God-Man Jesus Christ, Who in Himself united humanity with divinity, Who brings us from mortality to immortality. Here is a wake-up call for faith—a warning to not let anything come between us and Christ.

Many Years!

Namedays on Forefathers Sunday
Rebecca Jorgenson
Sarah Disney
Bruce Joseph Oberon-Levoff
Enrique Elijah Gavidia

Namedays on Dec. 17
Daniel Jay Berry
Quinn Danielle Sundberg Kolaya

Birthdays
Daniel Jay Berry (Dec 9)
Belen (Tatiana) Pickering (Dec 18)
Irina Angelina Walker (Dec 18)
Michael Jorgenson (Dec 21)

Thank you!

Welcome guests and visitors! Please join us for coffee and lunch after the Divine Liturgy. We look forward to saying hello.

Our gratitude to Katherine for organizing today's meal and to all those who offered hospitality at yesterday's Advent Retreat!

Reconciliation

Please plan on making your Sacramental Confession during this fasting period. Confession is a true *gift* from our Lord Jesus Christ!