

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN 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 become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFATHERS IN TONE 2

Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and it was she who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

TROPARIAN OF THE FORTY HOLY MARTYRS TONE 1

Those noble soldiers of the Master of all let us honor, for they were united by their faith as they passed through fire and water, and being enlisted by Christ they entered to divine refreshment. Now those pious warriors stand and intercede with Christ God for those who cry out. Glory to Him that hath given you strength, Glory to Him that hath crowned you, Glory to Him that made you wondrous, Holy Forty Martyrs.

KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY

Today the Virgin cometh to the cave where she will give birth in an ineffable manner to the Word Who is before all the ages. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when thou hearest it heralded: Glorify Him, with the angels and the shepherds, Who chose to be seen as a new-born babe, the God Who is before all the ages.

THE EPISTLE

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.

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

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians. (3:4-11)

Brethren, when Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul 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 cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (14:16-24)

The Lord spoke this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Celebrating today

On December 17 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths Ananias, Azarias and Mishael; Dionysios of Zakynthos, the wonderworker; and the New Martyrs Paisios the hieromonk and his disciple Habakkuk the deacon of Belgrade.

On this day we celebrate the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers (Ancestors) .

We remember all the holy Patriarchs of the Old Testament who prefigured or foretold Christ: Adam the first Father, Enoch, Melchizedek, Abraham, the friend of God, Isaac, the fruit of the Promise, Jacob and the twelve patriarchs. We then commemorate those who lived under the Law: Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Samuel, David, and the Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel; the twelve minor prophets; Elijah, Elisha, Zachariah, and John the Baptist; and finally the Virgin Mary, the intermediary between mankind and her divine Son. Indeed, the Lord Jesus did not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to redeem humanity which bemoaned the weight of evil since Adam; to realize the promise made to Abraham; to change the Law of Fear into the Law of Love; and to give Resurrection and Life to mankind. This feast prepares us for the Nativity of Jesus Christ, placing before us the anticipation and hope for His coming among us.

By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+**Please remember in your prayers***The kidnapped Hierarchs, Metropolitan Paul, and Archbishop Yohanna.

*The servants of God, for their healing: Sonia, Wassim, Mariam, Vanda, Ghalia, Chris, Daniella, Mireille, Verginia, and Haya.

+**The Holy Bread & Coffee hour are** offered today by Mr. & Mrs. Salim and Erica Nicolas.

+ **Family Night** on Friday Jan. 26th. @ 6:30 pm. Please bring a Lenten dish of food or sweet to share.

+**Box for questions.** If you have any topic to be discussed, or a question to be answered during our family night, write & put it please in the Box.

+**The Nativity Lent began** on Wed. Nov. 15th through Sun. Dec. 24th. This fast is divided into two periods: The first is Nov. 15th. Through Dec. 19th. when the traditional fasting discipline, (no meat, poultry, eggs, And dairy) Seafood is allowed except on Wed. & Frid.

The second period from the 20th. Of Dec. through Dec. 24th. The traditional strict fasting discipline is observed, Seafood is not allowed.

+ **Bookstore Sale . A special discounts on all the Items.**

+**Your Yearly Pledge.** As the year 2017 is coming to an end, will you please try to fulfill your commitment for this year, and plan for your next year membership offering and sharing.

+**Family Christmas Card.** If you'd like to donate \$10 for the Missions of the Orthodox Church, sign this year's Christmas card application.

+**Up Coming Events.**

1. Christmas play and Carol Dec. 24th.
2. Christmas Agape Meal Dec. 25th.
3. New year Eve family dinner & Party. Dec. 31st.
4. General Assembly Meeting & Election. Jan. 21st

+**Nomination for the Parish Council is opened.** A nomination committee is formed. The nomination's forms will be taken & given to Dr. Hani Farah.

+**Guests and visitors** are always welcome at Forty Holy Martyrs church, and you are invited to join us after the liturgy for coffee and refreshment

The saints were people like all of us. Many of them came out of great sins, but by repentance they attained the Kingdom of Heaven. And everyone who comes there comes through repentance, which the merciful Lord has given us through His sufferings.

(St. Silouan the Athonite, Writings, XII.10).

THE FORTY HOLY MARTYRS ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

*V. Rev. Father
Gabriel Karam*

Office: 281-240-4845
Cell: 713-357-8871

rf_karam@hotmail.com

REGULAR SERVICES

Liturgy: Thursday
@ 6:00 pm

Great Vespers: Saturday
5:00 PM(English)

Matins/Orthros: Sunday
8:45 AM(English)

Divine Liturgy: Sunday
10:00 AM(English)

Please visit our website for
additional information.

www.40martyrs.org

 forty Holy Martyrs Sugar
Land

340 Eldridge Rd.
Sugar Land, TX 77478

Divine Liturgy

DECEMBER 17 -2017

TONE 3/ EOTHINON 6;

**SUNDAY OF FOREFATHERS
(ANCESTORS) OF CHRIST**

PROPHET DANIEL AND THE THREE HOLY
YOUTHS ANANIAS, AZARIAS AND MISHAEL;
DIONYSIOS OF ZAKYNTHOS, THE
WONDERWORKER; NEW MARTYRS PAISIOS THE
HIEROMONK
AND HIS DISCIPLE HABAKKUK THE DEACON OF
BELGRADE



The Nativity Lent

Nov.15-Dec.24

