

**Українська Католицька  
Церква Св.Родини**

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**Holy Family Ukrainian  
Catholic Church**

225 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Lindenhurst, NY 11757

**Pastor:** Fr. Olvian Nicolae Popovici

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**Parish Center:** (631) 225 - 1203

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**Trustees:** Silvia Smith (516) 712 - 5526

Nadiya Moskalyuk (631) 579-1519

**Choir Director:** Iryna Popovych 943-3348

Nataliya Popovici – **English cantor**

**Advisor:** Gloria Tolopka (631) 667-6483

**Web Page:** [www.holyfamilyucc.com](http://www.holyfamilyucc.com)

**Sunday Divine Liturgies:** 9:00 am - English / 10:15 am - Ukrainian

**Weekday Divine Liturgies:** 8:00 am or 9:00 am or 7:00 pm

**Holy Days Liturgy:** 9:00 am or Previous Day at 7:00 pm

**No. 49/17**

**CHURCH BULLETIN – ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК**

**December 17, 2017 / Грудень 17, 2017**

**DIVINE LITURGIES SCHEDULE:**

**December 17, 2017, 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Forefathers.** *The Holy Prophet Daniel.*

**Tone 3: Epistle:** Colossians 3:4 – 11. / **Gospel:** Luke 14:16 – 24.

**9:00 am – Pro Populo - English.**

**10:15 am –** (✙ John, ✙ Helen, ✙ Barbara, ✙ Michael, /**Panakhya/**  
req. Samilo Family) - **Ukrainian.**

**Sanctuary Candle:** This week Sanctuary Candle is lit in  
Memory of ✙Olga Maligowka, req. Eluk Family

**Monday, December 18, 2017 –** *Sebastian and others Martyrs.*

**9:00 a.m. –** (Bination Liturgy) – God's Blessing upon Sandy Motekew,  
req. Family

**7:00 p.m. –** 40<sup>th</sup> day for ✙William Fesolowich/**Panakhya/**, req. Family

**Tuesday, December 19, 2017 –** *Boniface Martyr.*

**9:00 a.m. – Pro Populo – Ukrainian.**

**7:00 p.m. –** God's Blessing upon Halyna Kaplun & Family and  
Nataliya Ivashko & Famiy, req. Family

**Wednesday, December 20, 2017 –** *Ignatius Bishop Martyr.*

**9:00 a.m. –** Special Intention, req. Mendyuk Family

**8:00 p.m. - Bible Study (Reading, Explanation, etc) – Ukr.**

**Thursday, December 21, 2017 –** *Juliana Martyr.*

**9:00 a.m. –** Special Intention, req. Mendyuk Family

**Friday, December 22, 2017 –** *Anastasia Great Martyr.*

**9:00 a.m. – Pro Populo – Ukrainian.**

**7:00 p.m. –** Good health for Gloria Tolopka, req. Apostleship of Prayer

**Saturday before Christmas, December 23, 2017 –** *Haggai Prophet.*

**9:00 a.m. –** ✙ Olga Hrycak /**Panakhya/**, req. Nataliya Popovici

**6:00 p.m. – Vespers (Вечірня)**

**7:00 p.m. –** (Bination Liturgy) - God's Blessing upon Svitlana Tulba,  
req. Rosary Society

**December 24, 2017, Sunday before Christmas.** *Ten Holy Martyrs of Crete.*

**9:00 am – Pro Populo - English.**

**10:15 am –** (God's Blessing upon Mychaylo Moskalyuk & Family,  
req. Nadiya Moskalyuk) - **Ukrainian.**

**Confessions:** Can be heard by appointment daily and on Sundays before or  
after the Divine Liturgy.

**Baptism and Chrismation:** By appointment. Sponsors must be practicing  
Catholics.

**Marriage:** Please contact the Pastor at least six (6) months in advance.

*Attendance at pre - Cana is required.*

**Ukrainian Culture School** will be held **Every Saturday from 9:15 am until  
1:35 p.m.** For more information please call the Rectory or contact the Director,  
Mr. Roman Vaskiv at (631) 225 -1203 or visit our Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/HFUkrainianSchool>.

**Ukrainian Cultural Dances** for children ages 5 to 12 are provided by Mr.

Gregory Momot and Khrystyna Momot of Paramus, NJ, every Saturday, by groups:  
ages (5 – 9) 1:40 p.m. – 2:25 p.m.; ages (10 – 14) 2:25 p.m. – 3:55p.m.; ages (15 –  
19) 3:55 p.m. – 5:25 p.m.

**Religious Education:** Classes for religious education will resume on  
September 18, 2017 and will be held every Monday from 5:00 p.m. until 5:55  
p.m./6:00 p.m. – 6:55 p.m. Please contact the rectory for further information.

**Ministry to the Sick:** Rev. Popovici will make visits to the sick on the first Friday of  
the month. It is the responsibility of an immediate family member to kindly notify  
Rev. Popovici at the Rectory office about any sick or aged individual who is  
hospitalized or confined at home or in a nursing home, and he will gladly visit and  
administer the sacraments. In case of emergencies please call any time.

**Pray the Rosary:** The Apostleship of Prayer requests members and parishioners  
pray the Rosary on the **First Sunday** of each month, beginning 20 minutes before  
Divine Liturgy. The Rosary Society requests members and parishioners pray the  
Rosary on the **Third Sunday** of the Month beginning at 10:00 a.m. before Ukrainian  
Divine Liturgy.

**Mothers in Prayer:** Next prayer group will be held on **January 5, 2018 at 8:00  
p.m.**

**St. Joseph's Men's Prayer:** group will be held every Thursday at 8:00 p.m.

**Rectory Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Saturday: 10:00  
am – 2:00 pm;** Evenings by appointment. **Attention: Monday** is a free day for the  
priest. In case of an emergency, please call at any time.

**Divine Liturgy:** Dear Parishioners! Remember your faith; please come every  
Sunday and Holy Days to Church.

**Divine Liturgy for Children:** Special Divine Liturgy (English/Ukrainian language)  
for family/children will be held today **Sunday, January 14, 2018 at 12:00 Noon.** All  
parents are requested to bring their children to church to celebrate the Holy Divine  
Liturgy.

**Sunday Bulletin Deadline:** Notices should be phoned in or brought to the Parish  
Office **NO LATER** than 12:00 noon on the Friday prior to the Sunday of publication.

**Bequests:** In making out your will, kindly remember your church. Holy Family  
Ukrainian Catholic Church of Lindenhurst, N.Y. is our legal title.

**New Parishioners:** Welcome to Holy Family Church! To all who are tired and need  
rest, to all who mourn and need comfort, to all who are friendless and need  
friendship, to all who are discouraged and need hope, to all who are hopeless and  
need sheltering love, to all who sin and need a Savior, this Church opens wide its  
doors in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Please stop by the Rectory to introduce  
yourselves and register. We look forward to meeting you.

**Change in address or telephone?** Parishioners, kindly provide the rectory with  
your new address and telephone numbers as soon as possible.

**Parishioners and guests: after each Divine Liturgy, coffee, rolls, & cakes are  
served in the Parish Center for a donation of \$3.00 per person.**

**Sunday Collection – December 10, 2017. Sale of cakes - \$630.00**

*"Give to the Most High as He has given to you, generously, for the Lord is one who always repays, and He will give back to you sevenfold." (Sir. 35: 9 – 10).*

Candles: \$130, Tetrapod: \$3, Donation: \$100, Immac. Concept. : \$50, Christmas: \$25, Church Debt: \$15, Flowers: \$5, Pyrohy: \$100, Coffee: \$110.00, St. Nicholas: \$300,  
**Pledge: \$320.00, Sunday Offering: \$783.00, Total - \$2,476.00.**

**Dear Parishioners:** *Sincere thanks for the offerings made on Sunday, December 10, 2017. May God bless you all for your generosity.*

**Our Prayer:** *Please remember all those parishioners who are ill or elderly within your families. They are part of our parish and need to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacraments of Confession and Communion. To schedule a visit by the priest, please call the rectory for an appointment.*

**Attention: To all who celebrate their birthday** during the months of **December**, our best wishes and many happy healthy years! Mnohaya Lita and God's Blessing.

### **Our Church News:**

**1. Parishioner** † **Olga Hrycak** has recently fallen asleep in the Lord. We extend our sympathy and regards to the Fallon family. May her soul rest in peace and everlasting be her memory.

**2. We extend our sincere sympathy** to Mrs. Halyna Hamkalo and her family for the loss of her father † Stepan Horin, a resident of Ukraine, who has recently fallen asleep in the Lord. May his soul rest in peace and everlasting be his memory.

### **3. Upcoming events:**

**A. December collections:** The next free will donations will be collected today Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> after both Divine Liturgies.

**B. NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE, "ZABAVA" – 2017/2018**

**Sponsored by Our Parish, Sunday, December 31, 2017 starts at 9:00 p.m. Live music provided by band "Zemlyaky". More information is attached to our Church bulletin.**

### **4. We wish to express our sincere thanks to:**

**A.** the ladies of our parish who did it a great job baking for our fundraiser. Through their diligent work many cakes were baked and donated for sale this past Sunday. The following ladies were instrumental in making our sale a success: Mrs. Nataliya Demchyshyn, Mrs. Nataliya Popovici, Mrs. Halyna Mir, Mrs. Svitlana Dovha, Mrs. Oksana Grynyk, Mrs. Nadiya Sabadylo, Ms. Elena Popovici, Mrs. Olha Mysak, Mrs. Iryna Gereta, Mrs. Olena Yakubovska, Ms. Sandy Motekew, and Mrs. Nancy Baransky (who also donated many ingredients for the cakes (20 lb each of poppyseeds, cream, and prunes lekvar, 50 lb flour and 20 dozen eggs) and she baked rolls this past Tuesday. Thus far, \$630 has been raised.

**B.** our parishioners especially: Mr. Sergey Shelestov, Mrs. Nataliya Popovici, Mrs. Iryna Gereta, Ms. Sandy Motekew and Ms. Elena Popovici who prepared and served the buffet at our St. Nicholas Party (Gregorian calendar) last Sunday. Everyone had a wonderful time. The net profit realized was \$300.00 which will be used toward parish expenses.

**C.** M/M John & Olga Donalds, M/M Slawomir & Helen Samilo, Ms. Elena Popovici, Mrs. Oksana Vladychak, Mr. Ihor Warywoda and Mr. Sergey Shelestov, who recently volunteered to perform needed work either in the church, in the kitchen or in the parish center.

**D.** I would like to express my sincere and heartfelt thanks to the following brave gentlemen of our parish who, this past week, made themselves available to help transport our new double oven from the store to the parish center kitchen (each oven weighs 600 lbs!) and other needed kitchen repairs: Mr. Mykhaylo Abramchuk, Mr. Roman Blyshchak, Mr. Ihor Hyzhko, Mr. Volodymyr Gereta, Mr. Martin Smith, Mr. Bogdan Shafranski, Mr. Andriy Demko, Mr. Zenoviy Balaban, Mr. Ihor Mysak, Mr. Ihor Warywoda. Through their work, our parish has saved much in the way of extra expenses.

**E.** An Anonymous donor who has donated \$4,500 for the purchase of nine new icons for our church which depict the life of our Lord and the Theotokos and which will be completed by the iconographer in 2018.

**F.** M/M Slawomir & Helen Samilo for preparing and changing all of the altar cloths for the feast of the Nativity this past week and who supplied the parish with lighters for all candle lighting during church services this year. **May God bless all those who volunteered or made donations and may He reward you with His choicest Blessings.**

**5.** We have for sale pyrohy with potatoes, kapusta/mushrooms and holubtsi (stuffed cabbage with meat) – \$6.00 per dozen/package. All proceeds go to our church. This is a fund raiser.

**6. Christmas Decorations/Flowers:** Each of us likes to decorate our homes with Christmas decorations. To beautify our Church for Christmas, we rely on your donations to purchase flowers and greenery. In your boxed donation envelopes is a "Christmas Flower" donation envelope. Please use this envelope to make your donation. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

**7.** The 2018 boxed donation envelopes and Liturgical Year Calendars are available for pick-up in the church vestibule. **Don't forget to take yours.**

**8. In case of an emergency,** at any time, whenever someone is in the hospital, seriously ill, or confined at home, please notify the parish office if it is the wish of the sick person or of his/her family that I should visit or administer the Holy Sacraments. I cannot visit a person who is ill without a request from the person or from their immediate family.

**Christmas Donation: Dear Parishioners!** We appreciate your generous donations to support and beautify our Church. As we share gifts with our families, we should plan a special gift for our Church during Advent (Philip's Fast). May God bless, protect and keep you in good health during this time and the New Year.

**Dear Parishioners: In light of world events, let us pray more every day for God's forgiveness and mercy and for His guidance.**

**Prophet Haggai** - Commemorated on December 16. The Holy Prophet Haggai was the tenth of the Twelve Minor Prophets. He was of the Tribe of Levi and he prophesied during the times of the Persian emperor Darius Hystaspis (prior to 500 B.C.). Upon the return of the Jews from their captivity, he persuaded the people to build the Second Temple at Jerusalem, and he proclaimed that the Messiah would appear in this Temple in the last times. It is believed that Haggai was buried with the priests at Jerusalem, since he was descended from Aaron. The book of Haggai contains four prophetic messages, all delivered in about four months:

**1.** The first message was to Zerubbabel: a call to rebuild the temple (Haggai 1:1-15). The time had come to rebuild the temple (1:1-8). Failure in the past to do this had led to the withdrawal of God's blessings (1:9-11). The people responded to Haggai and the work on the temple resumed (1:12-15).

**2.** The second message was to Zerubbabel, Joshua and the remnant of the people (2:1-9). Solomon's temple seemed much more glorious than this second temple (2:1-3). But God encouraged the leaders (2:4-5). God gave promises of future greatness (2:6-9).

**3.** The third message was a conversation between God, Haggai and the priests (2:10-19). The people were defiled and their sins were condemned (2:10-14). God gave a promise of purification and blessings (2:15-19).

**4.** The fourth message was to Zerubbabel (2:20-23). The Messiah will return to rule over all kingdoms (2:20-22). God gave divine promises to Zerubbabel (2:23).

**For consideration:** The people were excusing themselves for not finishing God's house by saying "the time has not come, the time that the LORD's house should be built" (Haggai 1:2). God made it clear through the prophet Haggai that the time had indeed come.

### St. Spyridon the Wonderworker and Bishop of Tremithus - Commemorated on December 12.



**Saint Spyridon of Tremithus** was born towards the end of the third century on the island of Cyprus. He was a shepherd, and had a wife and children. He used all his substance for the needs of his neighbors and the homeless, for which the Lord rewarded him with a gift of wonderworking. He healed those who were incurably sick, and cast out demons. After the death of his wife, during the reign of Constantine the Great (306-337), he was made Bishop of Tremithus, Cyprus. As a bishop, the saint did not alter his manner of life, but combined pastoral service with deeds of charity. According to the witness of Church historians, Saint Spyridon participated in the sessions of the First Ecumenical Council in the year 325. At the Council, the saint entered into a dispute with a Greek philosopher who was defending the Arian heresy. The power of Saint Spyridon's plain, direct speech showed everyone the importance of human wisdom before God's Wisdom: "Listen, philosopher, to what I tell you. There is one God Who created man from dust. He has ordered all things, both visible and invisible, by His Word and His Spirit. The Word is the Son of God, Who came down upon the earth on account of our sins. He was born of a Virgin, He lived among men, and suffered and died for our salvation, and then He arose from the dead, and He has resurrected the human race with Him. We believe that He is one in essence (consubstantial) with the Father, and equal to Him in authority and honor. We believe this without any sly rationalizations, for it is impossible to grasp this mystery by human reason." As a result of their discussion, the opponent of Christianity became the saint's zealous defender and later received holy Baptism. After his conversation with Saint Spyridon, the philosopher turned to his companions and said, "Listen! Until now my rivals have presented their arguments, and I was able to refute their proofs with other proofs. But instead of proofs from reason, the words of this Elder are filled with some sort of special power, and no one can refute them, since it is impossible for man to oppose God. If any of you thinks as I do now, let him believe in Christ and join me in following this man, for God Himself speaks through his lips." At this Council, Saint Spyridon displayed the unity of the Holy Trinity in a remarkable way. He took a brick in his hand and squeezed it. At that instant fire shot up from it, water dripped on the ground, and only dust remained in the hands of the wonderworker. "There was only one brick," Saint Spyridon said, "but it was composed of three elements. In the Holy Trinity there are three Persons, but only one God." The saint cared for his flock with great love. Through his prayers, drought was replaced by abundant rains, and incessant rains were replaced by fair weather. Through his prayers the sick were healed and demons cast out. A woman once came up to him with a dead child in her arms, imploring the intercession of the saint. He prayed, and the infant was restored to life. The mother, overcome with joy, collapsed lifeless. Through the prayers of the saint of God, the mother was

restored to life. Another time, hastening to save his friend, who had been falsely accused and sentenced to death, the saint was hindered on his way by the unanticipated flooding of a stream. The saint commanded the water: "Halt! For the Lord of all the world commands that you permit me to cross so that a man may be saved." The will of the saint was fulfilled, and he crossed over happily to the other shore. The judge, apprised of the miracle that had occurred, received Saint Spyridon with esteem and set his friend free. Similar instances are known from the life of the saint. Once, he went into an empty church, and ordered that the lampadas and candles be lit, and then he began the service. When he said, "Peace be unto all," both he and the deacon heard from above the resounding of "a great multitude of voices saying, 'And with thy spirit.'" This choir was majestic and more sweetly melodious than any human choir. To each petition of the litanies, the invisible choir sang, "Lord, have mercy." Attracted by the church singing, the people who lived nearby hastened towards it. As they got closer and closer to the church, the wondrous singing filled their ears and gladdened their hearts. But when they entered into the church, they saw no one but the bishop and several church servers, and they no longer heard the singing which had greatly astonished them." Saint Simeon Metaphrastes (November 9), the author of his Life, likened Saint Spyridon to the Patriarch Abraham in his hospitality. Sozomen, in his CHURCH HISTORY, offers an amazing example from the life of the saint of how he received strangers. One time, at the start of the Forty-day Fast, a stranger knocked at his door. Seeing that the traveller was very exhausted, Saint Spyridon said to his daughter, "Wash the feet of this man, so he may recline to dine." But since it was Lent there were none of the necessary provisions, for the saint "partook of food only on certain days, and on other days he went without food." His daughter replied that there was no bread or flour in the house. Then Saint Spyridon, apologizing to his guest, ordered his daughter to cook a salted ham from their larder. After seating the stranger at table, he began to eat, urging that man to do the same. When the latter refused, calling himself a Christian, the saint rejoined, "It is not proper to refuse this, for the Word of God proclaims, 'Unto the pure all things are pure' (Titus 1:15). Another historical detail reported by Sozomen, was characteristic of the saint. It was his custom to distribute one part of the gathered harvest to the destitute, and another portion to those having need while in debt. He did not take a portion for himself, but simply showed them the entrance to his store room, where each could take as much as was needed, and could later pay it back in the same way, without records or accountings. There is also the tale by Socrates Scholasticus about how robbers planned to steal the sheep of Saint Spyridon. They broke into the sheepfold at night, but here they found themselves all tied up by some invisible power. When morning came the saint went to his flock, and seeing the tied-up robbers, he prayed and released them. For a long while he advised them to leave their path of iniquity and earn their livelihood by respectable work. Then he made them a gift of a sheep and sending them off, the saint said kindly, "Take this for your trouble, so that you did not spend a sleepless night in vain." Through a word of the saint the dead were awakened, the elements of nature tamed, and the idols smashed. At one point, a Council had been convened at Alexandria by the Patriarch to discuss what to do about the idols and pagan temples there. Through the prayers of the Fathers of the Council all the idols fell down except one, which was very much revered. It was revealed to the Patriarch in a vision that this idol had to be shattered by Saint Spyridon of Tremithus. Invited by the Council, the saint set sail on a ship, and at the moment the ship touched shore and

the saint stepped out on land, the idol in Alexandria with all its offerings turned to dust, which then was reported to the Patriarch and all the bishops. Saint Spyridon lived his earthly life in righteousness and sanctity, and prayerfully surrendered his soul to the Lord. His relics repose on the island of Corfu (Kerkyra), in a church named after him (His right hand, however, is located in Rome). His memory is also celebrated on Cheesefare Saturday.

**Prayer to St. Spyridon of Trimythus: *O most blessed hierarch Spyridon, thou great Saint of Christ and glorious wonder-worker! Standing in heaven before the throne of God with choirs of Angels, look down with a compassionate eye upon the people gathered here (names may be added) and asking thy powerful help. Entreat the merciful kindness of God Who loveth mankind, that He judge us not according to our iniquities, but rather act towards us according to His mercy. Ask for us of Christ our God, a peaceful and serene life, health of soul and body, a fruitful earth, and in all things abundance and prosperity; that we turn not unto evil the good things bestowed upon us by our generous God, but rather unto His glory and the praise of thine intercession. Deliver us, who with unswerving faith approach God, from all ills, whether spiritual or physical; from all discouragements and diabolical snares. Be a consoler unto those in sorrow, a healer of the infirm, a helper of those in troubles, a coverer of the naked, a defender of widows, a protector of orphans, a nourisher of infants, a strengthener of the aged, a guide unto travellers, a compass to those that sail, and pray for all that seek thy mighty intercession, that they may receive all that is profitable unto their salvation: so that, taught and kept by thy prayers, we may attain eternal rest and together with thee glorify God, Who is One in the Holy Trinity, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.***

#### **Prophet Daniel - Commemorated on December 17**

The Holy Prophet Daniel is the fourth of the major prophets. In the years following 600 B.C. Jerusalem was conquered by the Babylonians, the Temple built by Solomon was destroyed, and many of the Israelite people were led away into captivity. Among the captives were also the illustrious youths Daniel, Ananias, Azarias and Misael. King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon ordered that they be instructed in the Chaldean language and wisdom, and dressed them in finery. Handsome children of princely lineage were often chosen to serve as pages in the palace. For three years, they would be fed from food from the king's table. After this they would be allowed to stand before his throne. Daniel was renamed Baltasar, Ananias was called Shadrach, Misael was called Mishach, and Azarias was known as Abednego. But cleaving to their faith, they disdained the extravagance of court, refusing to defile themselves by eating from the king's table and drinking his wine. Instead, they lived on vegetables and water. The Lord granted them wisdom, and to Daniel the gift of insight and the interpretation of dreams. The holy Prophet Daniel preserved his faith in the one God and trusted in His almighty help. He surpassed all the Chaldean astrologers and sorcerers in his wisdom, and was made a confidant to King Nebuchadnezzar. Once, Nebuchadnezzar had a strange dream which terrified him (Daniel 2:1-6). He summoned magicians, sorcerers, and Chaldeans before him to interpret the dream. When they asked him what he had dreamt, the king refused to tell them. He said, "If you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you shall be torn limb from limb, and your houses shall be laid in ruins." The Babylonian wise men protested that no magician or sorcerer could be expected

to do this. Only the gods could reveal the dream and its meaning, they told him. The king ordered all the wise men of Babylon to be executed. When they sought Daniel and his companions to put them to death, Daniel asked that the king's sentence not be carried out. He said that he could tell the king what he dreamt, for it had been revealed to him in a vision. Daniel was brought before the king and was able to reveal not only the content of the dream, but also its prophetic significance. After this, the king elevated Daniel to be ruler of the whole province of Babylon, and the chief of all the wise men. During these times King Nebuchadnezzar ordered a huge statue to be made in his likeness. It was decreed that when people heard the sound of trumpets and other instruments, they should fall down and worship the golden idol. Because they refused to do this, the three holy youths Ananias, Azarias and Misael were cast into a fiery furnace. The flames shot out over the furnace forty-nine cubits, felling the Chaldeans standing about, but the holy youths walked in the midst of the flames, offering prayer and psalmody to the Lord (Daniel 3:26-90). The Angel of the Lord appeared in the furnace and cooled the flames, and the young men remained unharmed. This "Angel of Great Counsel," as he is called in iconography, is identified with the Son of God (Daniel 3:25, Isaiah 9:6). In the first Canon for the Nativity of the Lord (Ode 5), the Church sings: "Thou hast sent us Thine Angel of Great Counsel." The emperor, upon seeing this, commanded them to come out, and was converted to the true God. Under King Baltasar, Daniel interpreted a mysterious inscription ("Mane, Thekel, Phares"), which had appeared on the wall of the palace during a banquet (Daniel 5:1-31), foretelling the downfall of the Babylonian kingdom. Under the Persian emperor Darius, Daniel was slandered by his enemies, and was thrown into a den with hungry lions, but they did not touch him, and he was not harmed. The emperor Darius then rejoiced over Daniel and ordered people throughout his realm to worship the God of Daniel, "since He is the living and eternal God, and His Kingdom shall not be destroyed, and His dominion is forever" (Daniel 6:26). The holy Prophet Daniel grieved deeply for his people, who then were undergoing righteous chastisement for a multitude of sins and offenses, for transgressing the laws of God, resulting in the grievous Babylonian captivity and the destruction of Jerusalem: "My God, incline Thine ear and hearken; open Thine eyes and look upon our desolation and that of Thy city, in which Thy Name is spoken; for we do not make our supplication before Thee because of our own righteousness, but because of Thy great mercy" (Dan 9:18). Because of Daniel's righteous life and his prayers for the people's iniquity, the destiny of the nation of Israel and the fate of all the world was revealed to the holy prophet. While interpreting the dream of King Nebuchadnezzar, the holy, glorious Prophet Daniel spoke of a great and final kingdom, the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ (Dan 2:44). The prophetic vision about the seventy weeks (Dan 9:24-27) speaks about the signs of the First and the Second Comings of the Lord Jesus Christ, and is connected with those events (Daniel 12:1-12). Daniel interceded for his people before King Cyrus, who esteemed him highly, and who decreed freedom for the Israelite people. Daniel himself and his fellows Ananias, Azarias and Misael, all survived into old age, but died in captivity. According to the testimony of Saint Cyril of Alexandria (June 9), Ananias, Azarias and Misael were beheaded on orders of the Persian emperor Chambyzes. Daniel and the three holy youths are also commemorated on the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers, and on the Sunday of the Holy Fathers (Sunday before the Nativity).