



## Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Church

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**Sunday, December 6, 2020. 26th Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 1. \*THE HOLY NATIVITY FAST\*** We continue to refrain from eating meat and dairy products until the feast of our Lord's Nativity, December 25. Today we commemorate the Holy Hierarch Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia Today's Scripture: Ephesians 5:9-19 Luke 17:12-19

**WELCOME!** Whether you are searching for a new Church or visiting, or if you are returning home again after an absence, we are glad you are with us today. If you have a prayer request, are looking for more information about the Orthodox Faith, would like to join the parish, or would like to speak with Father Michael, we invite you to fill out a visitor's card and drop it into the offering basket, as your offering to us today; and to contact Father Michael at his email address above. We want to get to know you! Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox community strives to glorify God through Orthodox worship, sincere love and care for one another, and service to those in need around us.

### Divine Services for This Week

Tue	Dec 8	Venerable Patapius of Thebes	Matins/Confessions	9:00 am	Singing Practice
				7:00pm	
Wed	Dec 9	Conception of the Holy Theotokos	Hours and Liturgy	8:40 am	
Sat	Dec 12	Great Vespers and Confessions	6:00 pm		
Sun	Dec 13	Sunday of the Holy Forefathers of Christ.	Hours and Liturgy	9:40 am	

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

#### --Confessions:

During the Nativity Fast, it is customary to make a good sacramental individual confession in preparation for the Lord's Nativity. With all the other things that are part of the joyful anticipation of Christ's birth, we cannot put aside the care of our souls. The most beautiful gift we can offer the new born Savior is good and pure hearts, making a manger within ourselves for Him to rest.

#### --Christmas Season Charity:

Patients at Torrance Hospital are in great need of personal care items and toiletries (socks, tissues, toothpastes, toothbrushes, deodorants, etc.) Father has received a request that our parish community might help with these needs. Please bring items to the church hall and place them in the designated bins. God will Repay!

#### --Nativity Flowers:

Poinsettias have been delivered by Zanarini's Florist to decorate our temple for the great Winter Feasts. Please consider making an offering, perhaps in memory of a loved one, to help with costs. Thanks to those who have contributed!

## **--Calendars:**

The Vestal wall calendars, sponsored by the Graziano Funeral Home are now available in the church hall. Also available at the bookstore are the beautiful wall calendars printed by Saint Tikhon's Monastery. They can be purchased for \$10.00. The quantities are limited, however, additional copies can be ordered. Thanks to the Graziano family for their continued support.

## **A New Icon!**

At the end of today's Liturgy, Father Michael blessed a new icon of our heavenly patrons, the Equal-to-the-Apostles Saints Cyril and Methodius. The icon is offered by a generous member of our community, who wishes to remain silent concerning this gift. The icon was written by Olga Fought, a local iconographer who is from the Ukraine. It is fitting that we bless this new icon of the Apostles to the Slavic peoples as our parish rededicates itself to zeal for the Faith, renewal and a missionary vision. With confidence, and through the prayers of the Holy Cyril and Methodius and the Holy Hierarch Nicholas, God will help us!

## **Life in the Church**

The Church is nothing but a divine workshop in which the human perception and consciousness of personal immortality and infinity are constantly rejuvenated, refreshed and strengthened. Does not prayer make the soul endless by linking it to God? Do not practices such as mercy, kindness meekness or fasting make a person immortal, raising both his heart and soul into the eternal kingdom of Christ's Truth? Let us not deceive ourselves: every prayer and every Gospel virtue gradually conquers death in us, while all together they establish victory over death and brings us to eternal life.

An Orthodox Christian never belongs to himself, but to all the saints, and through them the most Holy Spirit. The Orthodox Christian says to himself: my spirit is nothing if it is not filled and perfected by the Holy Spirit. To not conform to the spirit of the times, but to adapt to the God-man, Christ is the only true mission of the Apostolic and Orthodox Church in the world. Its true mission, and the mission of Her members, is to transform the spirit of the times to Christ's eternity and Christ's God-manhood.

The Orthodox Church brings everything in Christianity, the doctrine, the truth, the goodness and life itself, to the life-giving personality of the God-man. The image of Christ as the incarnate God is the highest value of the Church and also Her greatest treasure, radiating all the other values, coming from Him like rays of the Sun.

In our earthly world, the reality is obvious: we are only human as much as we are willing to let God in ourselves. The less God there is in man, the less human he is.

----St Justin Popovich