

All the great Fathers and Mothers and Prophets of the Old Testament, starting with Adam, Abraham, the Righteous Sarah, Isaac and Jacob, including Holy Prophet Elias and Daniel, and concluding with Holy Prophet Zechariah (Zachary), Joachim and Anna, Holy Prophet and Forerunner John the Baptist and The Theotokos. They 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" (Genesis 12:3, 22:18).

(Source: Orthodox Wiki Saints)



Liturgy this week

Monday 15 December

**Hieromartyr Eleutherius, Bishop of Illyria and his mother
Martyr Anthea.**

**Hours and Holy Liturgy, from 8:15am
St Helen't Chapel.**

Christmas services

Wednesday 24 December

Eve of the Nativity of Christ.

**Royal Hours, 9am
St Martin's Church.**

**Vesperal Liturgy of St Basil the Great, 4pm
St Martin's Church.**

Thursday 25 December

**The Nativity According to the Flesh of Our Lord and Saviour
Jesus Christ.**

**Hours and Holy Liturgy, followed by carols, from 9:15am
St Martin's Church**

Orthodox Parish of St Martin & St Helen Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of the British Isles and Ireland Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East

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Sunday 14 December 2025. Issue 7.

Tone 2.

**Sunday of the Forefathers of Christ; Martyrs Thyrsos, Leukios
and Kallinikos of Apollonia; Martyrs Philemon, Apollonios,
Hypatios and Arrianos of Alexandria.**

Epistle Reading

Colossians 3:4-11

Prokeimenon in Tone 8

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

Verse: For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done to us!

Brethren, when Christ, who is our life, appears, then you will also appear with Him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idol worship; for the sake of such things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience; wherein you also once walked, when you lived in these things. But now you also put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, and filthy language out of your mouths. Do not lie to one another, having put off the old man with his works; and having put on the new man, who is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of his Creator, where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, bond, or free; but Christ is all, and in all.

Alleluia.

Verse 1: Moses and Aaron are among His priests.

Verse 2: The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them!

Gospel Reading
Luke (14:16-24)

At that time, Jesus said, "A certain man gave a great banquet and invited many people. At supper time, he sent out his slaves to tell those who were invited, 'Come, for everything is ready now!' But they all began to make excuses. The first told him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please have me excused!' Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen and I must go try them out. Please have me excused!' Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come!' That slave came back and reported these things to his lord. At this, the master of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the city, and bring in the poor, the maimed, the lame, and the blind.' The servant said, 'Lord, it is done as you commanded, and there is still room!' The lord then told the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled! For I tell you that none of those who were invited will taste of my supper.'"



Troparion of the Resurrection. Tone 2.

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead! And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: O Giver of Life! Christ our God! Glory to Thee!

Sunday of the Holy Forefathers
Troparion

By faith didst Thou justify the Forefathers, when through them Thou didst betroth Thyself aforetime to the Church that was from among

the nations. The saints boast in glory that from their seed there is a glorious fruit, even she that bore Thee seedlessly. By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

St Martin the Merciful
Troparion

In signs and in miracles thou wast renowned throughout the land of Gaul. By grace thou art a light for the world, O Martin, Bishop blessed of God. Deeds of mercy and compassion filled thy life with their splendours, teaching and wise counsel were thy riches and treasures, which still thou dost dispense freely to those who honour thee.

St Helen
Troparion

We behold thee, glorious Helen, with thy God-inspired son, in the joys of the kingdom of Heaven, and we magnify Christ, for he hath revealed to us thine honoured festival, giving light more brilliant than the sun. Therefore we cry in faith: O People, exalt Christ above all forever!

Preparation of Christ's Nativity
Kontakion

Today the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth in an ineffable manner to the pre-eternal Word. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when thou hearest, and glorify with the angels and shepherds him who shall appear by his own will as a new Child, the pre-eternal God.



Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

The Sunday of the Holy Forefathers is the Sunday that falls between December 11-17, the second Sunday before the Nativity. The ancestors of Christ according to the flesh are remembered on this Sunday of the Nativity Fast.