

Iconography



- Icon of The Flight into Egypt:
- Reading date: December 29th.
- Gospel reading – Matt 2:13-23
 - When the wise men departed behold, and angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt have I called my son.”
- Icon geography is of the Thebaid, approaching the city of Hermopolis which is present day Cairo in Egypt.
- The little white men in the upper left of the city walls represent the fallen idols, for in the Lausiatic History, in which it is written, “We also saw in Hermopolis the house of idols, wherein all the idols that were in it fell to the floor upon their faces when our Redeemer entered.”



- Presentation
- The Meeting of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple
- Feast date: Feb 2nd
- Gospel reading:
 - At that time, the parents brought the child Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtle doves, or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Symeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, “Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation which you prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.” And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him; and Symeon

blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity and as a widow till she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth, and the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

- On the left, Joseph is holding the sacrifice of two turtle doves.
- Next to Joseph is Anna holding the scroll which is written, “Behold the child.”
- Mary is next facing Symeon presenting Symeon with the Christ child.
- In between Mary and Symeon is the offering table with the Holy Gospel and the censor. The gates are closed before the Passion of our Lord.
- Symeon is holding the Christ child with his hands covered showing that he is holding something holy.



- Peter and Paul supporting the Church
- The Holy, Glorious, and All-famed Chiefs of the Apostles, Peter and Paul.
- Feast day Feb 29th
- Reading:
 - The divinely blessed Peter was from Bethsaida of Galilee. He was the son of Jonas and the brother of Andrew the First-called. He was a fisherman by trade, unlearned and poor, and was called Simon; later he was renamed Peter by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, Who looked at him and said, “Thou art Simon the son of Jonas; thou shalt be called Cephas (which is by interpretation, Peter)” (John 1:42.). On being raised by the Lord to the dignity of an Apostle and becoming inseparable from Him as His zealous disciple, he followed Him from the beginning of His preaching of salvation up until the very Passion, when, in the court of

Caiaphas the high priest, he denied Him thrice because of his fear of the Jews and of the danger at hand. But again after many bitter tears, he received complete forgiveness of his transgression.

Peter was crucified upside down by Nero, leaving two Catholic Epistles to the Church of Christ.

- Paul, the chosen vessel of Christ, the glory of the Church, the Apostle of the Nations and teacher of the whole world, was a Jew by race, of the tribe of Benjamin, having Tarsus as his homeland. He was a Roman citizen, fluent in the Greek language, and expert in knowledge of the Law, a Pharisee, born of a Pharisee and a disciple of Gamaliel, a Pharisee and notable teacher of the Law in Jerusalem, For this cause, from the beginning, Paul was a most fervent zealot for the traditions of the Jews and a great persecutor of the Church of Christ; at that time, his name was Saul (Acts 22:3-4). In his great passion of rage and fury against the disciples of the Lord, he went to Damascus bearing letters of introduction from the high priest. His intention was to bring the disciples of Christ back to Jerusalem in bonds. As he was approaching Damascus, about midday there suddenly shone upon him a light from Heaven Falling on the earth, he heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul, why persecutes thou Me?" And he asked, "Who art Thou, Lord?" and the Lord said, "I am Jesus Whom thou Persecutest; it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." And that heavenly voice and brilliance made him tremble, and was blinded for a time. He was led by the hand into the city, and on account of a divine revelation to the Apostle Ananias was baptized by him, and both his bodily and spiritual eyes were opened to the knowledge of the Sun of Righteousness. Paul wen before nations and kings and the Israelites, and above all, his care for all the churches, his fiery longing for the salvation of all, whereby he became all things to all men, that he might save them all if possible, and because of which, with his heart aflame, he continuously traveled throughout all parts, visiting them all leaving behind fourteen Epistles.



- St Vladimir Metropolitan of Kiev:
- Feast day January 25th.
- Reading:
 - The Holy St Vladimir, Metropolitan of Kiev was the first bishop to be tortured and murdered by the Communists at the time of the Russian revolution. Because of his disapproval of Rasputin, he fell out of favor with the Tsar and was transferred to Kiev. He was not in favor of the Ukrainian congress which was calling for an autonomous Ukraine and for the creation of the Ukrainian Church separate from the Russian archdiocese. However in 1917, a separate Ukrainian church demanded that Metropolitan Vladimir leave Kiev. In 1918 the Bolsheviks broke into his residence, took him out to a deserted place and shot him.

Prior to his execution, St. Vladimir prayed for the forgiveness of his sins and the sins of his executioners.



- Isaiah
- Isaiah the son of Amoz.
- Feast day May 9th.
- Reading:
 - The Prophet Isaiah (Esaias) the son of Amos, was descended from a royal tribe. He prophesied in the days of Ozias (who is also called Azarias), Joatham, Ahaz, and HEzekias, Kings of Judah. About 681 B.C, in the reign of Manasses, the son and successor of the most pious Hezekias, when this Prophet was censuring Manasses' impiety and lawlessness, he wasa sawn asunder with a wooden saw, and thus received a martyr's end. Of all the Prophets, he is called the most eloquent because of the beauty and loftiness of his words. His book of prophecy, divided into sixty-six chapters, is ranked first among the greater Prophets. The Fifth Ode of the Psalter, "Out of the night my spirit waketh at dawn unto Thee, O God..." is taken from his

book. It was this holy Prophet who foretold that a Virgin would conceive in the womb (7:14) that not an ambassador, nor an angel, but the Lord Himself would save fallen man (63:9); that the Messiah would suffer, bearing our sins, His name means “Yah is helper.”



- Zachariah
- Feast day September 5th.
- Reading:
 - According to the opinion of many Fathers of the Church, based on an ancient tradition, this is the Zacharias whom, as our Lord said, the Jews slew between the temple and the altar (Matt. 23:35), first because even after the Virgin Mary gave birth, he continued to refer to her as a virgin and number her among the virgins; second because Zacharias' son John was not found during the slaughter of the Innocents, since the elderly Elizabeth and taken him and carefully hid him while he was yet an infant. When John was not found, his father was slain by Herod's command.



- Abraham:
- Feast day
- Reading:
 - The holy Patriarch Abraham, born a pagan, ten generations after Noah, when the knowledge of God had perished from among men, became the beginning of God's dispensation for the universal renewal and salvation of man, He was called out of his country, the land of the Chaldees, that is, Mesopotamia, to the land of Canaan, and received the promise that through his seed all the nations of the earth should be blessed: through his singular faith in the promises of God, he was justified before the giving of the law and the coming of grace; through his willingness to sacrifice Isaac, he portrayed the love wherewith God loved the world in sacrificing His only-begotten Son, our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ.