

# Daily Orthodox - December 11th, 2024

Today is Wednesday of the 25th Week after Pentecost.

## Fasting Obligations

- **OCA, GOARCH, Antioch:** Strict fast.

Today, we commemorate...

### 1. **The Venerable Daniel the Stylite, of Constantinople** (489)

“ Daniel was born in the village of Bethara near the city of Samosata in Mesopotamia of Christian parents, Elias and Martha. Through her tearful prayers, his barren mother received him from God, and as an only son he was dedicated to God from early childhood. Daniel embraced the monastic rank at the age of twelve, visited Simeon the Stylite, and was blessed by him. Desirous of solitude, Daniel left the monastery and withdrew to an abandoned pagan temple on the shore of the Black Sea. There he endured countless assaults from demons, but he conquered them all by perseverance, prayer and the sign of the Cross. Afterward he climbed up on a pillar. There he remained until his death, enduring both heat and cold, and attacks from both men and demons. Many disciples gathered around his pillar, and he directed them to eternal life by his example and his words. God rewarded His faithful servant with abundant grace while in this life, and he performed many miracles beneficial to men and prophesied future events. People from all parts crowded beneath his pillar, seeking help and counsel from the saint of God. Emperors and patriarchs as well as ordinary people came to him. Emperor Leo the Great brought his foreign guests, princes and nobles, and showed them St. Daniel on the pillar, saying to them: "Behold, the wonder in my kingdom!" Daniel foretold the day of his own death, instructed his disciples as a father to his sons, and took leave of them. At the time of his

death, his disciples beheld angels, prophets, apostles and martyrs above his pillar. Having lived for eighty years, this holy angelic man entered into rest and took up his habitation in the Kingdom of Christ in the year 489.

## 2. **The Venerable Luke the New Stylite, of Chalcedon** (ca. 970)

“ Luke lived in Constantinople at the time of Emperor Constantine Porphyrogenitus. As a soldier, he participated in the war against the Bulgarians, in which he witnessed the death of many thousands of people, and from that war he emerged alive and unharmed. Seeing the finger of God in his deliverance, Luke scorned the vanity of the world and withdrew to a pillar near Chalcedon. There he lived a life of asceticism for forty-five years, cleansing his soul of all sinful desires and thoughts. Pleasing God, he entered into rest sometime between the years 970 and 980 and took up his habitation in a better life.

## 3. **The Venerable Nikon "the Dry," of the Kiev Caves** (1101)

“ As a monk in the Monastery of the Kiev Caves, he was enslaved by the Tartars. He lived for three years in captivity: shackled, tortured, and mocked. When his kinsmen brought the money to ransom him from his master, he refused, saying: "If the Lord had wanted me to be free, He would not have delivered me into the hands of these lawless men." Once he told his master that Christ would free him in three days. The Tartar thought that this meant that his slave was going to escape, so he severed his tendons below the knees. However, on the third day, Nikon was indeed instantly carried to Kiev by an invisible hand. After a period of time, the Tartar came to Kiev and recognized Nikon, his former slave. He repented and was baptized. The former master became the servant and disciple of his former slave. Nikon was called "the Dry" because of the great austerity of his bodily fasting, and he was a great clairvoyant and miracle-worker. He entered peacefully into rest in the Lord on December 11, 1101.

## 4. **The Holy Martyr Mirax of Egypt** (ca. 640)

“ Mirax was an Egyptian. Deceived by a Moslem Emir, he embraced Islam. He later repented and entered a mosque with a cross. There he declared himself a Christian, calling upon the Moslems to forsake their falsehood and to accept the truth. He was tortured and beheaded in about the year 640.

5. *Monk-martyr Barsabas, abbot, of Ishtar, and ten companions, in Persia (342)*
6. *Martyrs Acepsius and Aeithalas, at Arbela in Assyria (354)*
7. *St. Leontius, monk, of Monemvasia (ca. 1450)*
8. *New Hieromartyr Theophan, bishop of Perm and Solikamsk, and with him two priests and five laymen (1918)*
9. *St. Kuksha, hieroschemamonk, of Odessa (1964)*
10. *Synaxis of the Saints of Georgia*

For more information on today's saints or commemorations not provided, see

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives> (Slavic) and/or <https://www.goarch.org/chapel> (Greek).

## Reflection

*Reflections are added when it includes additional stories from the life of a saint commemorated today.*

“*The Lord preserveth all them that love Him (Psalm 145:20).* The lives of the saints confirm this as clearly as the sun. Certain envious priests complained to Patriarch Anatolius about St. Daniel, slandering him and saying that he was a magician. In essence, they were envious of the exceedingly young ascetic, who surpassed them in all the virtues and attracted many people to himself by his way of life. The patriarch summoned Daniel and examined him regarding his faith and his way of life. When Daniel told him everything, the patriarch rose from his seat, embraced him, praised him, and dismissed him in peace. Several days later, Patriarch Anatolius became ill, summoned Daniel and asked him to pray to God for his recovery. Daniel prayed to God, and the patriarch was immediately restored to health. Since the patriarch wanted to reward Daniel somehow, the young saint begged him to forgive his slanderers as his reward. To this the patriarch replied: "How can I not forgive them when they are authors of so much good, namely, that I now know you and have received healing through you?" Truly, *the Lord preserves all who love Him*, and He turns to their good the evil that men conceive against them.

While St. Nikon the Dry was a slave among the Tartars, his master became sick and was at the point of death. Seeing that he would soon die, he ordered his sons to crucify Nikon at the head of his grave after his death. St. Nikon, discerning the future, saw that his cruel master would be baptized and prayed to God for his restoration to health. Contrary to all expectations, the Tartar recovered. Thus, by prayer, Nikon saved himself from physical death and his master from spiritual death.

## Daily Scriptures

## Slavic and Greek

- **Epistle:** 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

“ <1> Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, <2> not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. <3> Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, <4> who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. <5> Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? <6> And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. <7> For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. <8> And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. <9> The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, <10> and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. <11> And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, <12> that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

- **Gospel:** Mark 8:30-34

“ <30> Then He strictly warned them that they should tell no one about Him. <31> And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <32> He spoke this word openly. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. <33> But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, "Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." <34> When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

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