

**December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (11<sup>th</sup> of Luke) - Tone 1**

**St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan**

## Scripture Readings

**Ephesians 5:9-19 (Epistle 229)**

for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth, finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

**Luke 17:12-19 (Gospel 85)**

Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner? And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

*"Of the ten cleansed, nine remained unclean in heart; only one returned to give thanks. So too, many believe through miracles, but few give thanks in faith."*

—St. Augustine of Hippo

*"The nine who did not return teach us how easily people forget God after receiving what they asked for. The Samaritan teaches us that true healing—spiritual healing—comes only through thanksgiving and glorifying God."*

—St. Luke of Crimea

*"Of the ten lepers, Thou didst heal them all, O Christ, Yet only one returned to give Thee glory. Wherefore teach us humility and gratitude, That with him we may cry: Glory to Thee, O Savior!"*

—Kontakion of the Sunday of the Ten Lepers

## Many Years!

**anniversaries**

27<sup>th</sup> - Larry Don & Lori Meier

**birthdays**

1<sup>st</sup> - Robert Boyd  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Pete Pyatt  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Marah Robinson  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Meagan Gardner  
6<sup>th</sup> - Jeanie Mikita  
11<sup>th</sup> - Anya (Boyd) Gazii  
12<sup>th</sup> - Mayzie Ann Jackson  
17<sup>th</sup> - Tatiana Boyd  
20<sup>th</sup> - Lexi Ann Guy  
29<sup>th</sup> - Sabrina Lee  
31<sup>st</sup> - Natalie Hlatki

## Calendar

December 10<sup>th</sup> Adult Study  
— Wednesday 6:30p

December 13<sup>th</sup> Vespers  
— Saturday 6:30p

December 14<sup>th</sup> Divine Liturgy  
— Sunday 9:30a

## Wisdom!

*O wretched man that I am!  
Who will deliver me from  
this body of death? I thank  
God—through Jesus Christ  
our Lord! So then, with the  
mind I myself serve the law  
of God, but with the flesh  
the law of sin.*

—St. Paul



## St. Ambrose of Milan

Saint Ambrose (c. 340–397), Bishop of Milan, was born in Trier to a high-ranking Roman Christian family. As an infant, a swarm of bees settled on his mouth, leaving honey on his tongue—a sign, his father said, of future greatness. Educated in Rome, he became a successful lawyer and, around 370, consular governor of Liguria and Aemilia, residing in Milan.

In 374, though still a catechumen, he was acclaimed bishop by the people during a heated Orthodox-Arian dispute following the death of the Arian bishop Auxentius. Accepting baptism and rapid ordination, he was consecrated bishop on December 7, 374. He immediately gave his wealth to the Church and the poor and embraced strict asceticism.

A fearless defender of Orthodoxy, Ambrose opposed Arianism, refused to surrender churches to heretics, and boldly imposed public penance on Emperor Theodosius I for the Thessalonica massacre. His preaching led to the conversion of St. Augustine in 387. He removed the pagan Altar of Victory from the Roman Senate, instructed the Germanic queen Frigigelda in the faith, and worked miracles, including raising a dead boy.

Renowned as a theologian, he wrote major works on the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, the Incarnation, the sacraments, and repentance, as well as the influential "On the Duties of the Clergy." He introduced antiphonal singing to the West (Ambrosian Chant) and composed hymns, including the Te Deum. He reposed on Holy Pascha 397 and was buried in the basilica that bears his name in Milan.

### St. Ambrose on the Virgin Birth

*Why is it hard to believe that Mary gave birth in a way contrary to the law of natural birth and remained a virgin, when contrary to the law of nature the sea looked at Him and fled, and the waters of the Jordan returned to their source (Ps. 113:3). Is it past belief that a virgin gave birth when we read that a rock issued water (Ex. 17:6), and the waves of the sea were made solid as a wall (Ex. 14:22)? Is it past belief that a Man came from a virgin when a rock bubbled forth a flowing stream (Ex. 20:11), iron floated on water (4 Kings 6:6), a Man walked upon the waters (Mt. 14:26)? If the waters bore a Man, could not a virgin give birth to a man? What Man? Him of Whom we read: '...the Lord shall be known to the Egyptians, and the Egyptians shall know the Lord in that day; and they shall offer sacrifices, and shall vow vows to the Lord, and pay them' (Is. 19:20).*

*In the Old Testament a Hebrew virgin (Miriam) led an army through the sea (Ex. 15:21); in the New testament a king's daughter (the Virgin Mary) was chosen to be the heavenly entrance to salvation.*

—St. Ambrose, Synodal Letter 44

### Troparion | Tone 1 (Resurrection)

*When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: "Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!"*

### Troparion | Tone 4 (St. Ambrose)

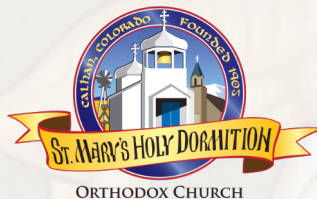
*In truth thou wast revealed to thy flock as a rule of faith, an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence; thy humility exalted thee; and thy poverty enriched thee. O Hierarch Father Ambrose, entreat Christ our God that our souls may be saved!*

### Kontakion | Tone 1 (Resurrection)

*Having risen from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam, Eve now dances with joy at Thy Resurrection. And all the ends of the earth keep festival at Thine Arising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One.*

### Kontakion | Tone 3 (St. Ambrose)

*Thou didst shine forth with divine doctrine, eclipsing the deception of Arius, O shepherd and initiate of the mysteries, Ambrose. Thou didst work miracles through the power of the Spirit, healing various passions; righteous Father, entreat Christ our God to grant us His great mercy.*



## Prayer List

### living

Met. Tikhon, Abp. Benjamin, Bp. Vasily, Fr. Andreas, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Zechariah, Fr. Dennis, Fr. Silouan, Mother Cassiana, Combs Family

Libbie and the Infant Lawrence, Toni Dell, Tyler, David, Victor, Kyla, Tony, Diane, Bourg Family, Betty, Muriel, Child Gerhard & Meryl, Harold, Tammy, Litsa, Lillian, Carl, Christina, Lindy, John, Alicia, Patricia, Danny, Jerry, Roberta, Wendy, Judy, Michael, Jill, Beverly, Infant Dominic, Joseph, Jackie Joan, Trisha, Lee, Carol, Ethan, infant AdaLynn, Nauvlet, Leilah, Austin, Brian, Josh, Mother Magdalena, Kodiak, Miriham, Cheri, infant Gus, April, Madalyn, Makenzie, MaKiya, Hannah, Haylee, Keith, Samantha, Christina, Jake, Jetlyn, Lauren, Bob, Georgianna, Clint, Murl, Carolyn, Millie, child Charlotte, Cathy, Michael.

**Departed:** Gavin

**Those with child:** Mka. Lindsey

**Those who are confined:** Ethen, Basil, Hannah, Theodore

## Commemorations

Saint Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, Venerable Anthony, Abbot of Siya, Novgorod, Venerable Nilus of Stolbensk Lake, Venerable John the Faster of the Kiev Near Caves, Martyr Athenodorus of Mesopotamia, Venerable Paul the Obedient, Saint Philothea of Thrace, Protectress of Romania, Venerable Gregory, founder of Grigoriou Monastery, Mount Athos, "Vladimir" Icon of the Mother of God of Seliger

## Coffee Hour

Join us in the hall, following liturgy today, for a coffee hour potluck and a visit from St. Nicholas! Next week coffee hour will be sponsored by Vickie Tipton! Please consider signing up to sponsor a coffee hour.

December 14 — Vickie Tipton

December 21 — Potluck | Youth Play

December 28 — Available

## Cookbooks

Warm up your kitchen with a taste of St. Mary's! The Rose Marie Ladies' beautiful parish cookbook is now on sale for only \$20. Filled with generations of cherished family recipes, it's the perfect Christmas gift or treat for yourself. Support our parish and bring home the flavors of St. Mary's today!

See Becky for more information!