

**Russian Orthodox Church of the  
Resurrection of Christ**  
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**Nativity Services**  
**Christmas Eve,**  
**Tuesday, Jan. 6, 6:30 PM**  
**Christmas Day**  
**Wednesday, Jan. 7, 10 AM**

## Schedule for the Week of December 7 - 13, 2008

NEW YORK: December 5, 2008

Sunday Dec 7	Afterfeast of Entry of Theotokos Great-Martyr Catherine
Saturday Dec 13	5:30 PM Vigil
Sunday Dec 14	Prophet Nahum 8:30 AM Nocturns, Confessions 9:00 AM Liturgy / Литургия

### His Eminence Metropolitan Hilarion Expresses His Condolences On the Repose of His Holiness Patriarch Alexy II of Moscow and All Russia

It was with heartfelt pain that I learned of the repose of His Holiness Patriarch Alexy II of Moscow and All Russia, and on behalf of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, I express our condolences to the Holy Synod, my brother archpastors, reverend fathers, brethren, sisters and children of the Russian Orthodox Church.

### Причта о Милосердном Самарянине (беседа на Лк.10,25-37)

Христос ставит перед нами вопрос о совершенно новом отношении к жизни и к миру. Законник – человек, который вероятно, жил справедливо, хорошо – задает Ему вопрос: «Кто мой ближний, о котором мне надо заботиться?» Законник думает о себе как о центре жизни и, оглядываясь вокруг, задумывается: «Кто самый мне близкий? Кто мне дорог? О ком мне надо позаботиться?»

А Христос отвечает ему, как часто Он делает, переворачивая мир вверх дном: ближний это не тот, который тебе близок, не тот, который тебе дорог, не тот, кого ты, оглядываясь, заметишь и приблизишь к себе. Это тот, который в тебе нуждается, всякий, кто бы он ни был: встречный, поперечный, знакомый и незнакомый ...

И Он дает пример доброго самарянина, именно чтобы нам показать, что праведные, добродетельные люди проходили мимо человеческой нужды, а человек, считавший себя грешным, который не ставил себя в центр жизни, потому что себя нельзя было таким поставить в центр, сумел посмотреть, увидеть и пожалеть ... (*Мит. Антоний Сурожский*)

### Рождественский пост

В конце осени, за 40 дней до Великого праздника Рождества Христова, Церковь призывает нас к зимнему посту. Этот пост усановлен для того, чтобы нам принести Господу благодарственную жертву за собранные земные плоды и приготовиться к благодатному единению с родившимся Спасителем.



In truth, as St Symeon the New Theologian, says, “The beginning of life is the end, the end, the beginning; and I know not whence I come, where I am, I know not where I will go tomorrow.” Such is the lot of each mortal. And now, in our common funereal prayers, we see the bright image of His Holiness Patriarch Alexy, who was truly a kind and selfless *podvizhnik*, working for the rebirth of the Russian Orthodox Church,

which arose from ruin after so many years of godless persecutions. The newly-reposed Patriarch was a preacher of repentance and the return of the Russian nation to its historic roots, its Holy Russian ideals.

I call upon my brother archpastors, clergymen and flock of the Russian Church Abroad to pray for the soul of His Holiness Patriarch Alexy.

Here are some Russian-language sites:

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in\\_depth/7766625.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_depth/7766625.stm)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/news/28541.htm>

<http://www.iht.com/articles/2008/12/05/europe/05obit-russia.php>

<http://www.rg.ru/2008/12/05/putin-patriarh-anons.html>

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/faith/article5292254.ece>

Video clip

<http://www.russiatoday.com/news/news/34307/video>

<http://librarium.orthodoxy.ru/orthonews.htm>

## ***The Holy Great-Martyr Catherine***

The Holy Great Martyr Catherine was the daughter of Constus, the governor of Alexandrian Egypt during the reign of the emperor Maximian (305-313). Living in the capital, the center of Hellenistic knowledge, and possessed of a rare beauty and intellect, Catherine received an excellent education, studying the works of the greatest philosophers and teachers of antiquity. Young men from the most worthy families of the empire sought the hand of the beautiful Catherine, but she was not interested in any of them. She told her parents that she would enter into marriage only with someone who surpassed her in nobility, wealth, comeliness and wisdom.

Catherine's mother, a secret Christian, sent her to her own spiritual Father, a saintly Elder living in a cave outside the city, for advice. After listening to Catherine, the Elder said that he knew of a Youth who surpassed her in everything. "His countenance is more radiant than the shining of the sun, and all of creation is governed by His wisdom. His riches are given to all the nations of the world, yet they never diminish. His compassion is unequalled." The Elder, of course, was referring to Christ.

This description of the Heavenly Bridegroom produced in the soul of the holy maiden an ardent desire to see Him. "If you do as I tell you," said the monk, "you will gaze upon the countenance of this illustrious man." In parting, the Elder handed Catherine an icon of the Theotokos with the divine Child Jesus on Her arm and told her to pray with faith to the Queen of Heaven, the Mother of the Heavenly Bridegroom, and She would hear Catherine and grant her heart's desire.

At that time the emperor Maximian was in Alexandria for a pagan festival. Therefore, the celebration was especially splendid and crowded. The cries of the sacrificial animals, the smoke and the smell of the sacrifices, the endless blazing of fires, and the bustling crowds at the arenas defiled the city of Alexandria. Human victims also were brought: the confessors of Christ, those who would not deny Him under torture. They were condemned to death in the fire. The saint's love for the Christian martyrs and her fervent desire to ease their sufferings compelled Catherine to speak to the pagan priest and to the emperor Maximian.

Introducing herself, the saint confessed her faith in the One True God and with wisdom exposed the errors of the pagans. The beauty of the maiden captivated the emperor. In order to convince her and to show the superiority of pagan wisdom, the emperor ordered fifty of the most learned philosophers and rhetoricians of the Empire to dispute with her, but the saint got the better of the wise men, so that they came to believe in Christ themselves. St Catherine made the Sign of the Cross over the martyrs, and they bravely accepted death for Christ and were burned alive by order of the emperor.

Maximian tried to entice Catherine with the promise of riches and fame. Receiving an angry refusal, the emperor gave orders to subject the saint to terrible tortures and then throw her in prison.

The Empress Augusta, who had heard much about the saint, wanted to see her. She prevailed upon the military commander Porphyrius to accompany her to the prison with a detachment of soldiers. The empress was impressed by the strong spirit of St Catherine, whose face was radiant with divine grace. The holy martyr explained the Christian teaching to them, and they were converted to Christ.

Maximian again tried to entice the holy martyr, proposing marriage to her, and he was refused. St Catherine firmly confessed her fidelity to the heavenly Bridegroom Christ, and with a prayer to Him she herself lay her head on the block beneath the executioner's sword for beheading.

The relics of St Catherine were taken by the angels to Mount Sinai. In the sixth century,, the venerable head and left hand of the holy martyr were found through a revelation and transferred with honor to a newly-constructed church of the Sinai monastery, built by the holy Emperor Justinian (November 14).

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Как укрепить себя в Церкви?

Руководством духовного отца, постоянной с ним связью; частым прибеганием к таинствам, тщательным к ним приготовлением, посещением богослужения, домашней молитвой, ежедневным чтением Евангелия, чтением книг религиозного содержания, соблюдением праздников и постов церковного года, дружбой и общением с людьми верующими и церковными.

### ***Christmas Flower Donation***

*Please consider a donation for flowers to adorn the church for the Nativity celebration.*

In memory/honor of \_\_\_\_\_

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