

# Ancient Orthodox Church of Jerusalem

## LECTIONARY FOR DECEMBER 2021

**Theme for December:** "The Law of his God is in his heart. None of his steps shall slide." (Psalm 37:31)

**Service Theme:** Trusting in the Creator and Learning His Requirements.  
(Psalm 37:31; 119:1-16; Matthew 5:17-20)

**December 1:** {Holy Memorial Day; Prophet Nahum; Philaret the Merciful of Amnia in Asia Minor; St. Eligius; St. Austremoine; St. Theoclitus; St. Botolph}  
Reading: Micah 6; Luke 15

**December 2:** {St. James the Righteous; Prophet Habakkuk}  
Reading: 1 John 1; Micah 7; Luke 16

**December 3:** {Prophet Zephaniah; Hieromartyr Theodore of Alexandria; St. Birinus of Dorchester}  
Reading: 1 John 2; Luke 17

**December 4:** (Sabbath – Genesis 32:4-36:43; Obadiah 1:1-21) {Barbara and Juliana at Heliapolis in Syria; John Damascene; John of Polybotum}  
Reading: 1 John 3; Nahum 2; Luke 18

**December 5:** {St. Gurias of Kazan; St. Nicetius of Trier}  
Reading: 1 John 4; Nahum 3; Luke 19; Giliana Kudsha, Didache

**December 6:** {St. Nicholas the Wonderworker; St. Theophilus of Antioch}  
Reading: 1 John 5; Luke 20

**December 7:** {St. James the Righteous, St. Simon; St. Paul; Athenodorus of Mesopotamia; St. Bassa of Jerusalem}  
Reading: Luke 21

**December 8:** {Holy Memorial Day; St. Valerius of Trier}  
Reading: Luke 22

**December 9:** {Prophetess Hannah; St Sophronios of Cyprus}  
Reading: Luke 23

**December 10:** {Gemellus of Paphlagonia}  
Reading: Luke 24

**December 11:** (Sabbath – Genesis 37:1-40:23; Zechariah 2:14-4:7) {Mirax of Egypt; Acepisus and Aeithalas at Arbela in Assyria}  
Reading: John 1

**December 12:** {Colman of Glendalough}  
Reading: John 2; Giliana Kudsha, Didache

**December 13:** {Martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius, and Orestes at Sebaste; Virgin-martyr Lucy of Syracuse}  
Reading: John 3

**December 14:** (Asara B'Tevet) {Martyrs Apollonius, Philemon, Arianus, and Theoctychus of Alexandria; St. Folciunus of Tervas}  
Reading: John 4

**December 15:** {Holy Memorial Day; Hermit Pardus of Israel}  
Reading: John 5

**December 16:** {Prophet Haggai; Marinus of Rome}  
Reading: John 6

**December 17:** {Prophet Daniel}  
Reading: John 7

**December 18:** (Sabbath – Genesis 41:1-44:17; 1 Kings 3:15-4:1) {Martyr Eubotius at Cyzicus}  
Reading: John 8

**December 19:** {Martyrs Elias, Probus, and Ares, in Cilicia}  
Reading: John 9; Giliana Kudsha, Didache

**December 20:** {Martyrs Polyeuctus at Caesarea in Cappadocia, and Timothy in Mauretania}  
Reading: John 10

**December 21:** (Winter Solstice) {Martyr Theomistocles of Myra in Lycia}  
Reading: John 11

**December 22:** {Holy Memorial Day; Martyr Anastasia of Rome}  
Reading: John 12

**December 23:** {Martyrs Theodulus, Saturninus, Euporus, Gelasius, Eunician, Zoticus, Pompeius, Agathopus, Basilides, and Evaristus}  
Reading: John 13

**December 24:** {Martyrs Eugenia of Rome, and with her Martyrs Philip her father, Protus, Hyacinth, Basilla, and Claudia}  
Reading: John 14

**December 25:** (Sabbath – Genesis 44:18-47:27; Ezekiel 37:15-28) {Sts. Melchior, Caspar, and Balthasar}  
Reading: John 15

**December 26:** {St. Archelaus of Kaskhara in Mesopotamia}  
Reading: John 16; Giliana Kudsha, Didache

**December 27:** {King David of Israel; St. Joseph Betrothed of Mary}  
Reading: John 17

**December 28:** {Apostle Nicanor}  
Reading: Malachi 1; John 18

**December 29:** {Holy Memorial Day; Holy Innocents at Bethlehem}  
Reading: Malachi 2; John 19

**December 30:** {Martyr Anysia at Thessalonica}  
Reading: Malachi 3; John 20

**December 31:** {Melania the Younger of Rome}  
Reading: Malachi 4; John 21

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## Holidays and Fasts

**All Wednesdays and Fridays:** We fast from dairy on Wednesdays, while we fast from meat on Fridays.

**November 28:** (Evening) First night of Chanukah.

**Asara B'Tevet:** A minor fast commemorating the date when Nebuchadnezzar II took siege of Jerusalem.

### Commemoration of St. James the Righteous

Heavenly Father, Yahweh, who called Thy servant James the Righteous into the headship of the earthly Church, under the mantle of Thine only Begotten Son Yeshua Messiah, help us, O Lord, to preserve and live by the words of the Teacher of Righteousness; through Yeshua Messiah our Lord. Amen.

### Commemoration of St. Simon

Almighty Yahweh, who called Thy servant Simon through Thy Son to be an apostle, and hast built thy Church upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Yeshua Messiah himself being the head cornerstone; grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable unto thee; through the same Yeshua Messiah our Lord. Amen.

### Commemoration of St. Paul

Heavenly Father Yahweh, who, through the preaching of the blessed Apostle Paul, hast caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the gentile world; grant, we beseech thee, that we, having been illuminated by the Apostolic Teaching, may show forth our thankfulness unto thee for the same, by following the Didache which he taught; through Yeshua Messiah our Lord. Amen.

**Holy Memorial Day**

(On this evening we light a single candle for the departed and recite the following prayer)

O loving Creator, we ask that Thou keepst our dearly departed in the shelter of Thy hands. Please bring them closer to Thy Light so they may rise ever higher in Thy presence. Through Thy Son our Lord Yeshua Messiah. Amen.

**Divine Liturgy**

The celebration of the Divine Liturgy is taken from the Didache, chapters 9 and 10. In most cases, Qurbana/Mass may be celebrated on any day, but should be celebrated at least once per week, preferably on Saturday or Sunday. Priests are responsible for celebrating Mass daily, even if in a private situation. The Didache is the preferred liturgy of the Church.