

December 17

F. † Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths: Ananias, Azarias, and Misael

They were children of notable Jews. Taken in captivity by the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar, they were brought up at the court of this king, but they were faithful to their God and "were not willing to be defiled by the most unlawful food". For opening and interpreting the dream which was seen by and bothered Nebuchadnezzar, the prophet Daniel was made the ruler of Babylon. Soon after that Nebuchadnezzar put up a statue on the plain of Dura and commanded all to render it divine honor. Refusing to obey this command Ananias, Azarias and Misael were thrown into the blazing furnace, but the Lord kept them safe in the flame and Nebuchadnezzar glorified the true God. During the reign of Belteshazzar the Holy Prophet Daniel interpreted a mysterious inscription which was shown on the wall during a feast and announcing the downfall of the Babylonian kingdom. During the reign of the Persian King Darius, St. Daniel, on the slander of his enemies, was into a pit with lions, but the Lord shut up the mouth of the lions and the prophet remained unharmed. St. Daniel died in Persia. He wrote a book in which he precisely tells the specified time of the coming of the Messiah. The Holy Empress Helena translated the relics of St. Daniel to Constantinople. The Three Holy Youths, by tradition, were beheaded by the sword during the reign of the Persian King Cambyses.

Troparion, tone 2

**Great are the accomplishments of faith,
For the three holy youths rejoiced
In the source of the flames like waters at rest
And the Prophet Daniel appeared,
As a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. //
So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.**

Kontakion (to a prophet), tone 3

**Enlightened by the Spirit,
Your pure heart became the receptacle of the most splendid prophecy:
For you beheld the future as if it was the present,
And cast into the pit, you tamed the lions: //
Therefore, we honor you, O blessed and glorious Prophet Daniel.**

Kontakion for the Three Holy Youths see Dec. 11.

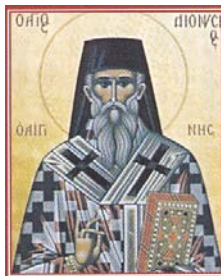
Epistle: Heb. 11:33-40; sel. 330. **Gospel:** Lk. 11:47-54, 12:1; sel.62.

Refer the chapter in the Ustav and Menaion If it happens that the Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths falls on the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers sing the order of services for them together with the Sunday service.

Venerable Daniel the Confessor, named in the schema Stephen

He was the chief of the Niberta Island (in Spain, near Cadiz), but then, having disdained secular vanity, he accepted monasticism in Rome and went to travel to the holy places. He was in Constantinople and Jerusalem where he accepted the schema. He died as a martyr in Egypt in the tenth century, being killed for his faith in Christ by the Saracens.

St. Dionysius, Archbishop of Aegina



Born in Zacynthus, he died in his fatherland in 1624.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp., (Kharkov, 1900) p. 0460a
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