

## The 12<sup>th</sup> Day of November

✠ **The commemoration of our Father among the Saints, John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria, the Almsgiver; and the Commemoration of our Venerable Father Nilus the Faster, of Sinai.**

### Vespers

**At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera:**

**3 stichera of St. John, in Tone 4:** *To the melody, “Thou hast given a sign....”*

**T**hou didst emulate the compassion of the merciful Master, /  
O wondrous father John, /  
Thou didst distribute thy bread to the needy in charity, O holy one. /  
Therefore, thy memory abides truly, forever, /  
And those who celebrate it with faith are delivered from trials and afflictions, ///  
O most richly-bless’t hierarch John.

**W**hen He who sees ev’ry secret thing /  
Beheld the purity and rightness of thy mind, /  
And the inspired nature of thy character and way of life /  
He anointed thee with myrrh and elevated thee to a magnificent throne /  
And entrusted thee with the guidance of thy flock ///  
Which thou didst lead to the harbor of divine grace, O holy father John.

**T**he Lord granted thee all the prayers of thy heart, O truly wondrous one, /  
For thou didst keep all His saving commandments. /  
Truly, thou didst love God with thy entire being and thy neighbor as thyself /  
And thou didst give help to those in need, O thou who art bless’t by God, ///  
Therefore, we honor thee today, O holy father John.

**And 3 stichera of St. Nilus, in Tone 8:** *To the melody, “What shall we call thee?....”*

**W**hat shall we call thee, O holy one? /  
A river flowing from the spiritual paradise? /  
A channel carrying to us the many gifts provided by God? /  
A flowing tide filled with the teachings of grace? /  
A vessel of wisdom, divine knowledge and understanding? /  
A fervent instructor and an ardent intercessor? ///  
Pray now that our souls may be saved!

**W**hat name shall we give thee, O ven’rable one? /  
Worker in the grove of immortality? /  
Blessèd gardener of the spiritual paradise? /  
Learnèd student of the laws of God? /

Teacher of the doctrines divine? /  
Or the unmatched example of piety? ///  
Pray now that our souls may be saved!

**H**ow shall we describe thee, O wondrous one? /  
As the one who laid down the guidelines for marital life? /  
Or as the one who taught us the laws of chastity? /  
Teacher of monastics, or the instructor of the laity in the ways of conjugal life? /  
For in thy life thou hast mastered and balanced both, /  
And thy many ascetic accomplishments were pleasing to God. ///  
Pray now that our souls may be saved!

**Glory..., of St. John, in Tone 2: (by Anatalius)**

**J**ohn, the great emulator of Christ,  
The shepherd and luminary of Alexandria, and the wellspring of mercies /  
Overflowed with compassionate kindness to those in need. /  
Come, and let us the poor in spirit, be filled as we imitate his pious tranquility, /  
For with love and compassion he offered hospitality to Christ by welcoming the poor /  
And like Abraham of old, he was counted worthy of blessedness ///  
And intercedes with boldness that our souls be granted great mercy.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion or this Stavrotheotokion in the same Tone: To the melody, "Down from the tree...."**

**B**eholding thee, O Jesus, nailed to the wood of the Cross, /  
She who know not wedlock cried out weeping: /  
"O sweet Child, Thou Unapproachable Light of the All-unoriginate Father, /  
Why hast Thou left me alone, who gave birth to Thee?  
But hasten Thou and glorify Thyself ///  
That they who glorify Thy divine sufferings may receive divine glory!"

*Or the Dogmatic Theotokion in the Tone of the Week if a Resurrection service.*

**The Aposticha from the Octoechos and then:**

**Glory..., of St. Nilus, in Tone 8:**

**We** honor thee as the instructor of a multitude of monastics, /  
O our father Nilus; /  
For truly we have learned to walk aright by following in thy steps. /  
Blessèd art thou, for having labored for Christ, /  
Thou hast destroyed the power of the enemy, /  
O converser with the angels and companion of the righteous, ///

Pray with them to the Lord that He may grant our souls great mercy.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion or this Stavrotheotokion in the same Tone:**

**B**ehold<sup>ing</sup> Thee, O Jesus, nailed to the Cross /  
And accepting suffering of Thine own will, /  
The Virgin, Thy Mother, O Master, cried aloud: /  
“Woe is me, O my sweet Child! /  
How is it that Thou dost endure unjust wounding, /  
O Physician who healeth the infirmities of mankind ///  
And by Thy loving-kindness dost deliver all from corruption?”

**The Troparion of St. John the Almsgiver, in Tone 8:**

**I**n thy patience didst thou gain thy reward, O holy father, /  
Thou didst persevere in ceaseless prayer and didst love and help the poor. ///  
O blessed John the merciful almsgiver, entreat Christ God that He may save  
our souls.

**Glory..., the Troparion of St. Nilus, in the same Tone:**

**T**hine abundant tears made the wilderness sprout and bloom /  
And thy suffering made thy labors fruitful a hundredfold /  
Thou hast become a shining torch over all the world ///  
O our holy father Nilus, pray to Christ God that He may save our souls.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion.**

**Matins**

**One Canon from the Octoechos and two for the Saints**

*— incomplete as of 10/2014*

**After the Third Ode, the Kontakion of St. Nilus, in Tone 8:**

**T**hou didst destroy the passions of thy body, O Nilus, /  
Cutting through them with self-denial and vigilant prayer as with a scythe; /  
And since thou hast boldness before the Lord, set us free from every calamity ///  
That we may cry out, Rejoice, our earthly father, wise in God.

**After the Sixth Ode, the Kontakion of St. John, in Tone 2:**

**T**hou didst distribute thy wealth to the poor, /  
Thereby receiving heavenly riches, O John most-wise, /  
Therefore, we honor thee and celebrate thy holy memory, ///  
As the namesake of almsgiving and charity.