The Sunday Before
the Nativity of Christ

December 18-24

Apolytikion

Second Mode

Great are the achievements of faith! In the fountain of flame, as by the water of rest, the Three Holy Children rejoiced. And the Prophet Daniel proved a shepherd of lions as of sheep. By their
prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.
The Sunday Before
the Nativity of Christ

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Kontakion

Intonation: #4
Second Mode

Allegro \( \frac{\text{-}}{150} \)

\begin{align*}
\text{Un.} & \quad \text{G} \\
\text{Un.} & \quad \text{E} \\
\text{G} & \quad \text{E} \\
\text{Un.} & \quad \text{G} \\
\text{Un.} & \quad \text{E}
\end{align*}

A hand-wrought image ye would not worship, O thrice-blessed ones; but armed by the Unde-pict-a-ble Essence,
ye were glo-ri-fied in your or-deal by fire. Standing
in the midst of the ir-re-sis-ti-ble flame, ye called up-on

www.stanthonymonastery.org/music/Menaion.htm
God: Speed Thou, O Compassionate One, and Hasten, since
Thou art merciful, to come unto our aid; for
Thou art able, if it be Thy will.
The Sunday Before the Nativity of Christ

December 18-24

Kontakion of the Forefeast

Intonation: #4

Allegro \( \frac{1}{4} \) 130

First Mode (soft chromatic)

"The soldiers standing guard"

Εὐφραίνου Βηθλεέμ

O Bethlehem, rejoice; Ephratha, make thou ready; for in her womb the Ewe-lamb doth bear the Great Shepherd, and lo, she now urgently makes haste to give birth to Him. On
holding Him, the righteous God-bearing Fathers

all rejoice, and with the shepherds sing hymns in praise of the Virgin that nursed a child.